

The Four Regions of Texas

Grade: 4 **Subject:** Social Studies (Texas studies) **Time:** ~45 min core + ~15 min extension **Work mode:** Independent · pencil only Social Studies

Start Here

This is a **paper reading activity** about Texas. You will read four short region profiles, look at a map, and answer with a **pencil**. You do **not** need a computer or a book — **everything you need is in this packet**. Work by yourself. Write in full sentences when a question asks you to explain. If a question is hard, skip it, keep going, and come back. You may read the passages quietly aloud to yourself.

Start Find It on the Map 5 min

Warm up before you read. A **region** is a part of a place where the land and weather are much the same.

1 Look at the map in the Build section (Figure 1). Find the region marked **Mountains and Basins**. Write which corner of Texas it is in (for example, *far west* or *far east*).

2 People use the land around them to live and work. Name **one way** the land or weather might change how people work. (Guess in your own words.)

Build Read the Region Profiles 10 min

Mountains and Basins (written for this packet)

The Mountains and Basins region is in the **far west** corner of Texas. It has the tallest mountains in the state and wide, dry valleys called basins between them. It is the driest part of Texas and gets very little rain. Because water is hard to find, few people live here. Some people raise cattle on huge ranches, and there is some farming where water can be brought in. Texas's highest peak, Guadalupe Peak, is in this region.

Type: original region summary · Region: Mountains and Basins (far west)

Great Plains (written for this packet)

The Great Plains region covers the **northwest and west-central** part of Texas. Much of it is high, flat, open land, including the very flat top part called the High Plains, or Llano Estacado. The weather is dry, and there is lots of grass. This region is known for large cattle ranches and for growing crops like cotton and wheat. Wind and oil are also important, so you will see wind turbines and oil wells here.

Type: original region summary · Region: Great Plains (northwest)

North Central Plains (written for this packet)

The North Central Plains region sits in the **north-central** part of Texas, between the Great Plains to the west and the Coastal Plains to the east. It has rolling hills, prairies, and some woods. It gets more rain than the regions

farther west. People here raise cattle, grow crops, and drill for oil and gas. The large city of Fort Worth grew up in this region as a center for cattle and railroads.

Type: original region summary · Region: North Central Plains (north-central)

Coastal Plains (written for this packet)

The Coastal Plains region covers the **south and east** part of Texas, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the largest region and where the most people live. The land is low and flat, and it gets the most rain, so the soil is good for farming. Along the warm coast there are busy ports, fishing, and oil found both on land and offshore. Many of Texas's biggest cities, like Houston and San Antonio, are in this region.

Type: original region summary · Region: Coastal Plains (south and east)

Word Bank

region

a part of a place where the land and weather are much the same.

geography

the land, water, and weather of a place.

landform

a natural shape of the land, like a mountain, hill, or plain.

climate

the usual weather of a place over time.

plain

a large area of flat or gently rolling land.

basin

a low, dry valley between mountains or hills.

ranching

raising cattle or other animals on a large area of land.

port

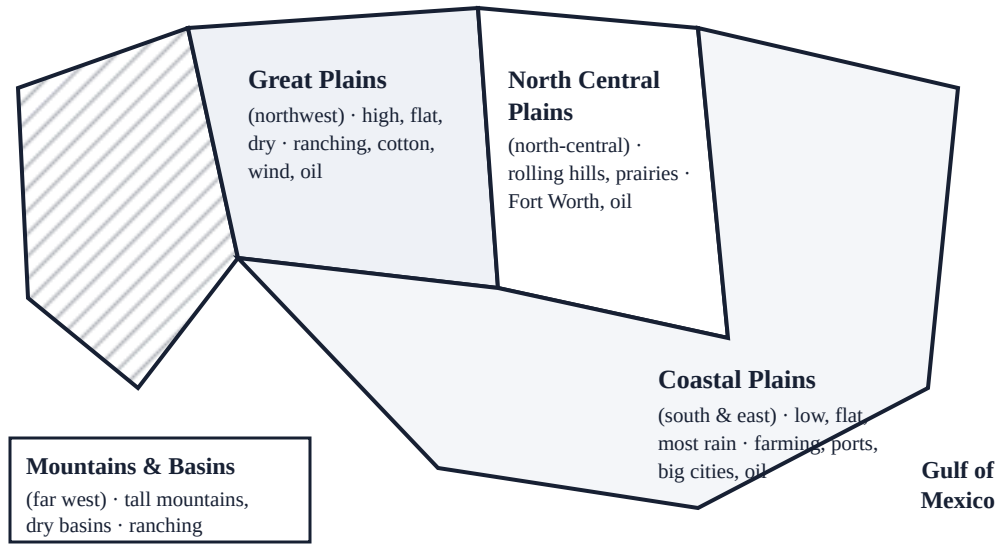
a place by the water where ships load and unload goods.

fact

something you can check and show is true.

opinion

what a person feels or likes; not proven true.



Not to scale — a simple drawing to show west-to-east order of the regions

Figure 1. A simple map of the four natural regions of Texas, from the Mountains and Basins in the far west, across the Great Plains and North Central Plains, to the Coastal Plains in the south and east by the Gulf of Mexico. The map is black on white with a pattern for the far-west region, so it reads clearly in grayscale. It is not to scale.

Table 1 — Comparing the regions (written for this packet)

Region	Where in Texas	Land & climate	Common work
Mountains and Basins	Far west	Tall mountains, dry basins; driest	Ranching; some farming with added water
Great Plains	Northwest	High, flat, dry; grassy	Cattle ranching; cotton and wheat; wind and oil
North Central Plains	North-central	Rolling hills, prairies; more rain	Ranching, crops, oil and gas; city of Fort Worth
Coastal Plains	South and east	Low, flat; most rain; warm coast	Farming, ports, fishing, oil; big cities

Type: original comparison table · Use it with the map to answer the questions.

Apply Read the Map & Table 20 min

3Map reading. Using Figure 1, which region is **farthest west**? Which region touches the **Gulf of Mexico**?

Farthest west: _____

Touches the Gulf: _____

4Table reading. Use Table 1 to fill in the blanks.

- a) The region with the tallest mountains is the _____ region.
b) The region that gets the most rain is the _____ region.
c) The region where the city of Fort Worth grew up is the _____ region.

5Compare. Pick **two** regions. Use the profiles and Table 1.

Write your two regions here: _____ and _____

One way the two regions are alike:

Two ways the two regions are different:

6Cause and effect. Pick **one** region. Explain how its **geography** (its land, weather, or water) affects **how people work** there. Write 2–3 sentences.

Sentence starter: "In the _____ region, the _____ means that people _____."

7Fact or opinion? Write **F** for a fact you can check in the packet, or **O** for an opinion (what someone feels or likes).

- _____ a) The Mountains and Basins region is the driest part of Texas.
_____ b) The Coastal Plains is the best region in Texas.
_____ c) The Great Plains region is known for large cattle ranches.
_____ d) Mountains are prettier than plains.

8Check the claim. A student says: "*The land and weather are the same in all four regions of Texas.*" Does the packet support this?

- Yes — the packet says all four regions have the same land and weather.
- No — the packet shows dry mountains in the far west, dry flat plains, rolling hills, and a rainy low coast in the south and east.
- The packet does not talk about land or weather at all.

Explain your choice using one detail from a profile or Table 1:

Explain Claim–Evidence–Reasoning 10 min

Question 9. Pick two regions. How is the work people do different in those two regions, and why? Write a **claim** naming your two regions and how the work is different, give **two pieces of evidence** from the profiles, map, or Table 1, then explain your **reasoning** (how geography helps cause the difference).

Sentence stems you may use: "In _____ people mostly _____, but in _____ people mostly _____." · "One piece of evidence is... (from a profile / the map / Table 1)." · "A second piece of evidence is..." · "This happens because the land and weather are..."

Claim

Evidence (two pieces)

Reasoning

Close ACE Wrap-Up 5 min

Articulate

In your own words, tell a friend what a **region** is.

Connect

Name one place in this packet (the map, a profile, or Table 1) that shows the land changing how people work.

Extend

Which Texas region do **you** live in or live closest to? Name one way the land or weather there changes how people work or play.

Continue Early Finisher optional • ~15 min

If you finish early (no new materials needed):

Which region fits the job? On the back of this page, match each worker to the region that fits best, and tell **why** using the packet: (1) a **rancher** who raises cattle on very dry, high, flat grassland, (2) a **dock worker** who loads ships at a busy port near warm ocean water, (3) a **mountain guide** who leads hikers up the tallest peak in Texas. For each one, name the region and give one reason from a profile, the map, or Table 1.

Turn in: Hand in this whole packet with your name, class, and date filled in. Make sure questions 1–9 and the ACE box are answered. The early-finisher matching is optional, but turn it in too if you did it.

G04_SOC_TexasRegions_01 — The Four Regions of Texas Student Packet