

# WELCOME!



On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *Regions of Texas*, one of eight lessons in our *Texas Geography Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

## THE FORMAT

Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write, activities to create, or vocabulary words to define. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

## THE VOCABULARY

Our lessons feature words in bold type. We have included a Glossary to help students pronounce and define the words. Unlike a dictionary, the definitions in the Glossary are concise and written in context. Remember, we're teachers! Students will be exposed to these vocabulary words in the comprehension activities. They will also be tested on the vocabulary words at the end of the lesson.

Students will be responsible for filling out and studying their vocabulary cards. You may want to have students bring in a small box for storing their vocabulary cards. We don't have to tell you that incorporating these words into your Reading and Spelling programs will save time and make the words more meaningful for students.

## THE LESSON PLAN

Before reading *Regions of Texas*, students will:

- complete Vocabulary Cards for *balconies, barren, basin, elevations, erosion, escarpment, faulting, harvested, irrigation, lagoons, mimic, mohair, panhandle, petroleum, populated, prairie, reservoir, salt marshes, sand bars, sorghum, terrains, tumbleweeds*.

After reading *Regions of Texas*, (TEKS: GEOGRAPHY 6A, 7A, 7B, 7C, 8D 9A, 9B; ECONOMICS 13A, 13B, 13 C, 13D, 13E, 14B) students will:

- answer *Regions of Texas* Reading Comprehension Questions & complete Language Skills Activity. (TEKS: GEOGRAPHY 6A, 7B; SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 22B, 22C, 23A, 23E)
- label and describe each of Texas's three regions on a Texas map. (TEKS: GEOGRAPHY 6A, 7B; SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 22B, 22C, 23A, 23E)
- take a Vocabulary Quiz for *Regions of Texas*. (TEKS: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 23A)

NOTE: The answers to all activities and quizzes are at the end of the lesson.

## OUR OTHER TEXAS GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

*The Northeast Region, the Middle West Region, the Southeast Region, the Southwest Region, the West Region, Texas's Water Resources, Texas's Points of Interest.*

# VOCABULARY CARD



word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# VOCABULARY CARD



word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# VOCABULARY CARD



word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

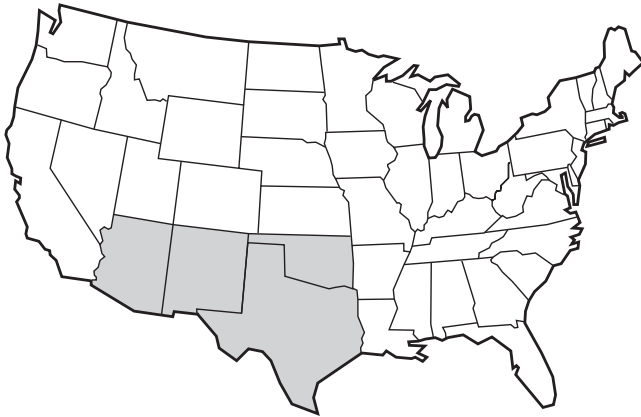




# REGIONS OF TEXAS



Texas, the second largest and second most **populated** state, is one of four states located in the Southwest region of the United States. You have already read that Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are the other states that make up the Southwest Region.

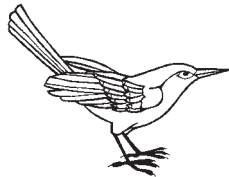


Texas is so big that the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia could all fit inside of its boundaries at the same time.

Like the rest of the United States, Texas is divided into regions. The four major land regions of Texas include the Coastal Plains, the Central Plains, the Great Plains, and the Basin and Range regions.

You will soon learn that each region has its own unique features and characteristics, making it an important piece of the great state of Texas.

## FAST FACTS



- The northern mockingbird is Texas's state bird. This noisy songbird can be found throughout Texas, but the largest population lives in the Central Plains region.
- Mockingbirds are so talented, they can **mimic** the songs of 50 other birds. They also "mock" or imitate other sounds they hear such as rusty hinges, whistling, sirens, and barking dogs.

## THE COASTAL PLAINS REGION

The Coastal Plains region in the eastern part of Texas covers about one-third of the state. This region has a variety of climates and **terrains**. The Coastal Plains region borders the Gulf

of Mexico. The area closest to the Gulf waters is made up of **salt marshes, sand bars, lagoons**, and islands. Padre Island, the largest sand bar, is a popular place for tourists and visitors. The coastal

area has warm summers and mild winters. Many species of birds and insects make their homes in this wet, warm climate. The same warm, moist weather that allows a long growing season throughout the entire region also causes hurricanes and other types of storms.

The Rio Grande River, one of the main rivers of Texas, borders the southernmost part of the Coastal Plains region. The Rio Grande Valley is one of the most fertile areas in Texas. North of the Rio Grande Valley is the Middle Nueces (noo•AY•sis) Valley. The weather here is a little drier than along the coast. The rich

soil of the Rio Grande and Nueces valleys allows farmers to grow vegetables, fruits, grains, and cotton.

The western edge of the Coastal Plains region is mostly **prairie** with few trees. Large herds of cattle graze here. The northeastern part of this region, often called the Piney Woods, is heavily forested with oak, pine, sweet gum, and other trees. The Piney Woods is home to lumber and paper companies. All four of Texas's national forests are found in the Piney Woods area.

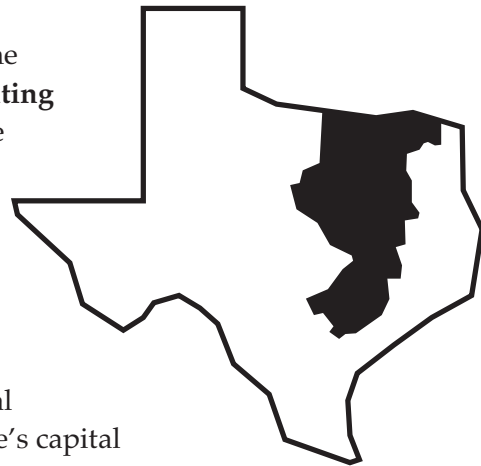
## THE CENTRAL PLAINS REGION

The Central Plains region lies west of the Coastal Plains. This region is sometimes called the Interior Plains. The landscape of the Central

Plains region is a mix of prairies and low rolling hills with some areas of rugged cliffs, peaks, and valleys. The Balcones (bal•COH•nays) **Escarpment**, formed by **faulting** and **erosion**, marks the southern boundary between the Central and Coastal Plains regions. It received the Spanish name Balcones because Spanish explorers thought it looked like **balconies**. This group of cliffs and hills stretches from the Rio Grande River to the Colorado River.

Several important Texas cities are close to the dividing line between the Coastal Plains and the Central Plains regions. They include Dallas, Waco, and the state's capital city of Austin.

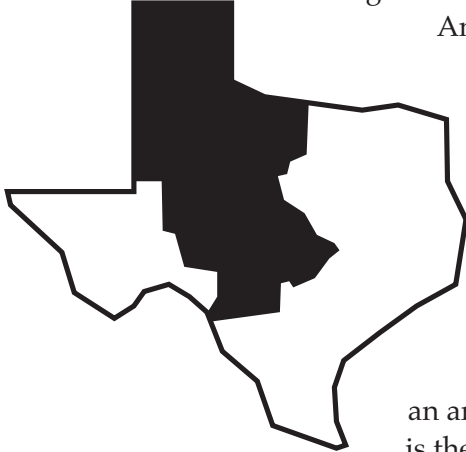
The higher **elevations** and drier climate of the Central Plains region support an economy that includes oil wells, cattle ranches, farms, and forests.



## THE GREAT PLAINS REGION

The Great Plains region lies to the north and west of the Central Plains region. This area stretches westward to the border of New Mexico and northward into the Texas **Panhandle**.

The terrain of the Panhandle is mostly flatland, but changes to higher elevations as we move eastward.



Another escarpment, known as the Cap Rock Escarpment, borders the eastern edge of the Great Plains region. The Cap Rock Escarpment is 200 miles long with cliffs that reach almost 1,000 feet high.

Though the Great Plains region is drier and more **barren** than the other regions, farmers have located water underground. With the help of **irrigation**, wheat, cotton, and **sorghum** are grown and **harvested** in the Great Plains region.

The southern part of the Great Plains region lies above an area called the Permian (PER•mee•on) **Basin**. This basin is the state's largest natural **reservoir** (REH•zeh•vwar) for **petroleum** and natural gas. Oil wells are used to pump the oil from the ground. Trains, trucks, and ships take Texas's oil all over the world.

Many people raise sheep and goats in the Great Plains region. The Great Plains city of San Angelo (AN•juh•low) is called the "Wool and **Mohair** Capital." Texas's Angora goats provide about half of the world's mohair. This fact gives a whole new meaning to "wild and wooly" West.

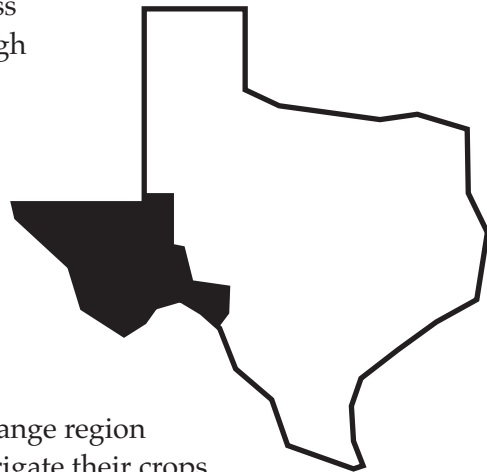
## THE BASIN AND RANGE REGION

The Basin and Range region, also known as the Trans-Pecos region, is located in the southwestern part of Texas. Trans-Pecos means "across the Pecos River." The mountain ranges here rise as high as 8,000 feet.

The Davis, Chisos (CHEE•sos), and Guadalupe (gwah•duh•LUH•pay) mountains stretch from north to south. These mountains are part of the Rocky Mountains.

The climate in the Basin and Range region is hot and dry. High winds often kick up large dust storms causing **tumbleweeds** to roll wildly across the land like runaway marbles.

Farmers use the flat sections of the Basin and Range region for raising cattle. They use the Rio Grande River to irrigate their crops. Cactus, shrubs, rattlesnakes, and horned lizards are at home in this barren region.





## REGIONS OF TEXAS



Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Texas is part of which region of the United States?</p> <p>A West</p> <p>B Southeast</p> <p>C Southwest</p> <p>D Great Plains</p> <p>2 Texas is divided into which four land regions?</p> <p>F The Desert, Mountains, Rivers, and Basin.</p> <p>G The Coastal Plains, Central Plains, Great Plains, and Basin and Range.</p> <p>H The Rio Grande Valley, Interior Plains, Gulf Coast, and Great Plains.</p> <p>J The Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Central.</p> <p>3 Which of these statements about the Great Plains region is <u>false</u>?</p> <p>A The Great Plains Region borders the state of New Mexico.</p> <p>B The Texas Panhandle is not located in the Great Plains region.</p> <p>C Part of this region lies above the Permian Basin.</p> <p>D The Great Plains are west and north of the Central Plains.</p> <p>4 After reading about the <u>Balcones Escarpment</u> in the Great Plains region, you learn that –</p> <p>F it is very near Padre Island</p> <p>G it is a reservoir for petroleum and natural gas</p> <p>H it was built by Spanish explorers</p> <p>J it was formed by faulting and erosion</p> | <p>5 What type of climate is found in the Coastal Plains region of Texas?</p> <p>A Snow and ice all year long.</p> <p>B Hot and dry in the summer; cold and wet in the winter.</p> <p>C Warm summers and mild winters.</p> <p>D Cool and wet in the summer; warm and dry in the winter.</p> <p>6 In which region of Texas will you find the largest population of mockingbirds?</p> <p>F The Central Plains region.</p> <p>G The Great Plains region.</p> <p>H The Coastal Plains region.</p> <p>J The Basin and Range region.</p> <p>7 Part of the Rocky Mountains can be found in the –</p> <p>A Great Plains region</p> <p>B Basin and Range region</p> <p>C Central Plains region</p> <p>D Coastal Plains region</p> |
|--|--|

READING

### Answers

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) |                   |



# REGIONS OF TEXAS



**Directions:** Read the introduction and the passage that follows. Then read each question and darken the circle for the correct answer.

*Jeremy is in the fourth grade. He wrote this report about Texas's regions for his social studies class. He wants you to help him revise and edit the report. Read Jeremy's report and think about the changes he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## The Four Regions of Texas

(1) Texas has four major land region. (2) They include the Coastal Plains, the Central Plains, the Great Plains, and the Basin and Range region. (3) Did you know that each region has its own special features. (4) The Coastal Plains region, for example, has a warm, wet climate. (5) The climate of the Basin and Range region, on the other hand, is hot and dry. (6) The Central Plains region has a mix of prairies, rolling hills in its landscape with rugged cliffs. (7) Oklahoma's regions are a lot like Texas's regions. (8) In comparison, the Great Plains region is mostly flat with just a few cliffs.

1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?

- A. Change **Texas** to **Texas's**
- B. Change **region** to **regions**
- C. Change **Texas** to **texas**
- D. Make no change.

2. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?

- F. Change **region** to **Region**
- G. Change **know** to **no**
- H. Change the period to a question mark
- J. Make no change.

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?

- A. Change **example** to **exampl**
- B. Change **for** to **four**
- C. Change **climate** to **climates**
- D. Make no change.

4. What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 6?

- F. The Central Plains region has a landscape with a mix of prairies, rolling hills, and rugged cliffs.
- G. The Central Plains region has a mix of prairies, rolling hills. Its landscape has rugged cliffs too.
- H. The Central Plains region has a mix of prairies and rolling hills and rugged cliffs in its landscape.
- J. No revision is needed.

5. Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this report?

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 7
- D. Sentence 8

## Answers

- |   |                 |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 4 | (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 2 | (F) (G) (H) (J) | 5 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |   |                 |

LANGUAGE

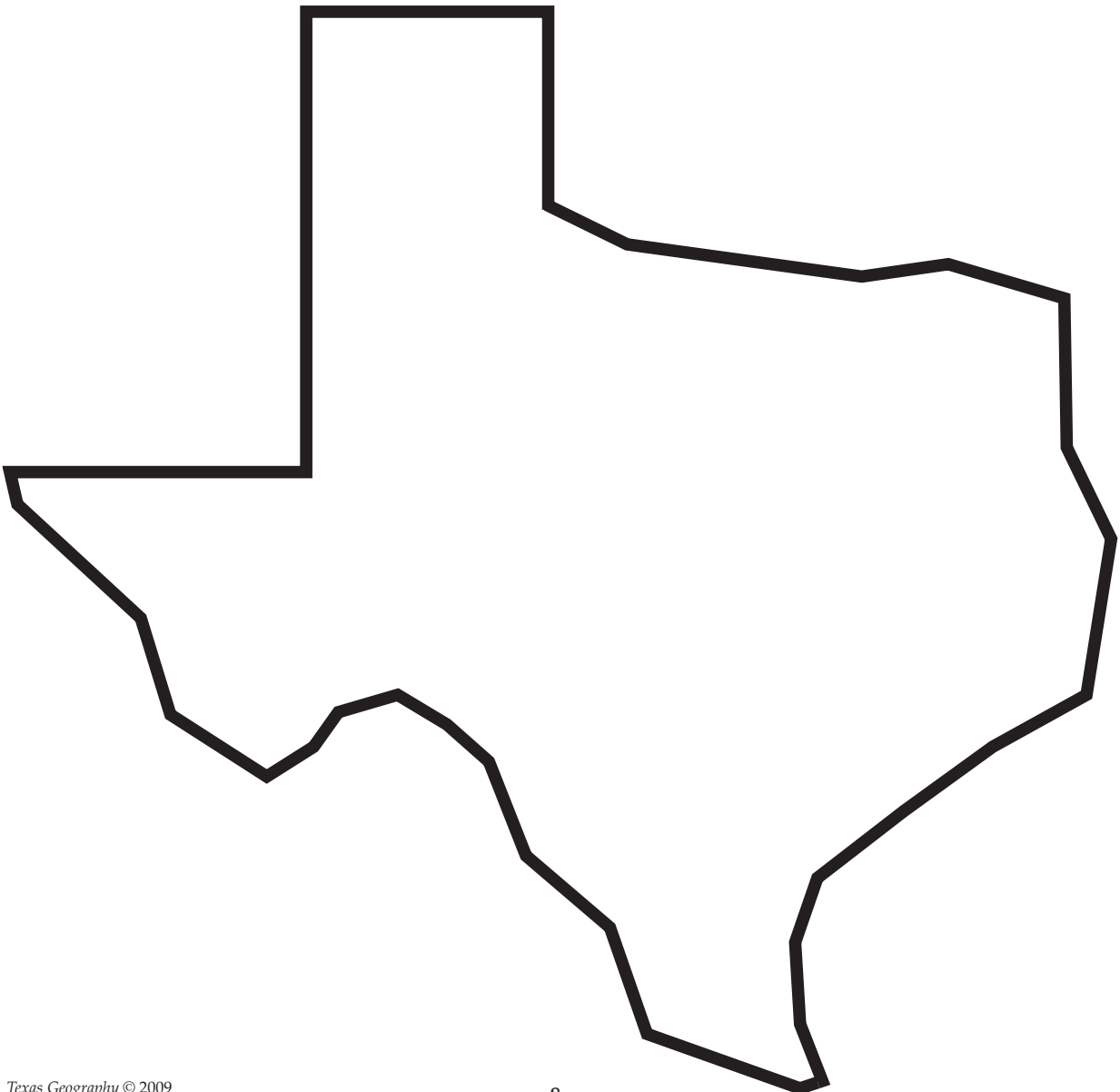
## MAPPING: TEXAS'S REGIONS



In this activity, you will label Texas's four regions and list two interesting facts about each region.

### PART I

- DIRECTIONS:**
1. On the map below, draw in the boundaries for Texas's Coastal Plains, Central Plains, Great Plains, and Basin and Range regions.
  2. Label each region. Spelling counts!
  3. Use coloring pencils to lightly color in each region. Use a different color for each region.



# MAPPING: TEXAS'S REGIONS

## PART II

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the information from Texas's Regions to name each of the four regions pictured below. Then use the lines provided to list two interesting facts about each region. Remember to write your facts using complete sentences. Use the back of this paper if you need more space.

1.



Two interesting facts:

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Name of Region

2.



Two interesting facts:

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Name of Region

3.



Two interesting facts:

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Name of Region

4.



Two interesting facts:

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Name of Region

# VOCABULARY QUIZ

## REGIONS OF TEXAS

**DIRECTIONS:** Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ tumbleweeds

2. \_\_\_\_\_ populated

3. \_\_\_\_\_ petroleum

4. \_\_\_\_\_ mimic

5. \_\_\_\_\_ reservoir

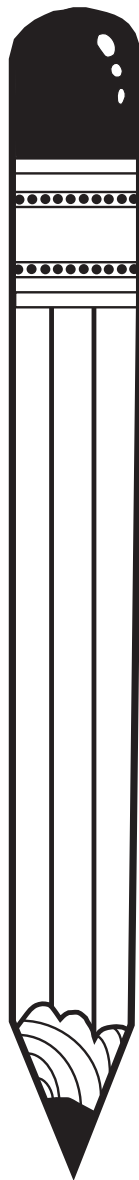
6. \_\_\_\_\_ terrains

7. \_\_\_\_\_ harvested

8. \_\_\_\_\_ salt marshes

9. \_\_\_\_\_ sorghum

10. \_\_\_\_\_ sand bars



A. material made from the long silky hair of Angora goats.

B. copy the voice or actions of others.

C. watering crops by digging a ditch that leads from a body of water to a farm.

D. a narrow piece of land that sticks out.

E. destruction by wind and rain.

F. a wide area of flat, treeless grassland.

G. plants that break away from their roots and are carried away by the wind.

H. a steep slope; a long cliff.

I. a grass grown for feeding animals; the juice is used to make syrup.

J. shallow bodies of water.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ irrigation

12. \_\_\_\_\_ lagoons

13. \_\_\_\_\_ barren

14. \_\_\_\_\_ basin

15. \_\_\_\_\_ panhandle

16. \_\_\_\_\_ escarpment

17. \_\_\_\_\_ mohair

18. \_\_\_\_\_ prairie

19. \_\_\_\_\_ faulting

20. \_\_\_\_\_ elevations

21. \_\_\_\_\_ erosion

22. \_\_\_\_\_ balconies



K. cracking in Earth's crust.

L. the features on the surface of a piece of land.

M. land that is unable to produce crops.

N. a flammable liquid that is found underground and is usually made into gasoline.

O. picked crops.

P. platforms that come from the wall of a building, usually surrounded by a railing for safety.

Q. the number of people or animals living in a place.

R. heights to which things are raised.

S. an area of land that sinks in.

T. areas of land overflowed by salt water.

U. mounds of sand built up by flowing water in a river or along the coast.

V. a large storage area for resources that include water, petroleum, and natural gas.

# GLOSSARY



**bal•co•nies** platforms that come from the wall of a building, usually surrounded by a railing for safety.

**bar•ren** land that is unable to produce crops.

**ba•sin** an area of land that sinks in.

**el•e•va•tions** the height to which something is raised.

**e•ro•sion** wearing away the land by wind and water.

**es•carp•ment** a steep slope; a long cliff.

**fault•ing** cracking in the Earth's crust.

**har•vest•ed** picked crops.

**ir•ri•ga•tion** watering crops by digging a ditch that leads from a body of water to a farm.

**la•goons** shallow bodies of water.

**mi•mic** copy the voice or actions of others.

**mo•hair** material made from the long silky hair of Angora goats.

**pan•han•dle** a narrow piece of land that sticks out.

**pe•tro•le•um** a flammable liquid that is found underground and is usually made into gasoline.

**pop•u•la•ted** the number of people or animals living in a place.

**prai•rie** a wide area of flat, treeless grassland.

**res•er•voir** a large storage area for resources that include water, petroleum, and natural gas.

**salt mar•shes** areas of land overflowed by salt water.

**sand bars** mounds of sand built up by flowing water in a river or along the coast.

**sor•ghum** a grass grown for feeding animals; the juice is used to make syrup.

**ter•rains** the features on the surface of a piece of land.

**tum•ble•weeds** plants that break away from their roots and are carried away by the wind.

# ANSWERS



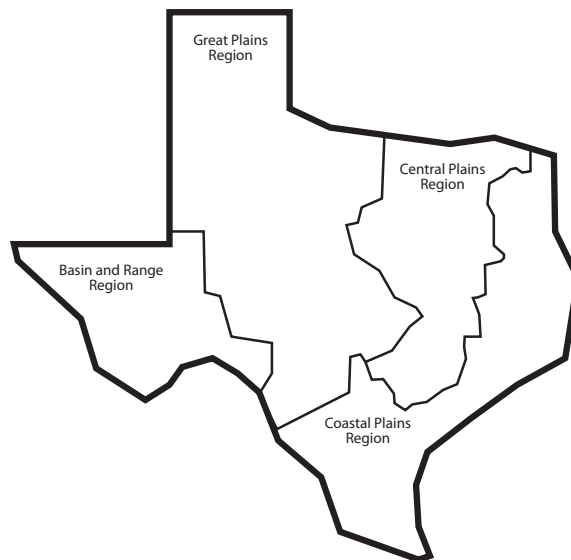
## ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Reading	Language
1. C	1. B
2. G	2. H
3. B	3. D
4. J	4. F
5. C	5. C
6. F	
7. B	

## ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. G	8. T	15. D
2. Q	9. I	16. H
3. N	10. U	17. A
4. B	11. C	18. F
5. V	12. J	19. K
6. L	13. M	20. R
7. O	14. S	21. E
		22. P

## ANSWERS TO REGIONS IN TEXAS MAP



## ANSWERS TO REGIONS IN TEXAS MAP PART II

1. Basin and Range Region; two interesting facts will vary
2. Central Plains Region; two interesting facts will vary
3. Coastal Plains Region; two interesting facts will vary
4. Great Plains Region; two interesting facts will vary