School Atlas of Texas

by

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ABOUT THE ATLAS AND LEARNING MATERIALS

The School Atlas of Texas, the first effort of its kind, is aimed at filling an important educational need for the school children of Texas, particularly at the seventh-grade level, by providing a wealth of geographical and historical information about our wonderful state in the form of colorful maps. In order to provide further information and teaching materials, including a set of classroom outline maps that can be used with the atlas, the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University (SWT) invites you to visit its Web site at www.geo.swt.edu and download these materials free of charge. Also, within the SWT Geography Department is its Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education that likewise has many educational materials that may be useful to both students and teachers. We hope you and your students will enjoy and value the School Atlas of Texas. Please let us hear from you about how to make the next edition even better!

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Texas is the second largest state, behind Alaska, in the country, and it contains over 100,000 square miles more space than the third largest state, California. From the northwest panhandle to just south of Brownsville, Texas is over 800 miles long. The above example illustrates how Texas relates in size to other states and countries in the world. Texas covers much of the eastern portion of the United States and a sizable area of Europe.

MAJOR CITIES

Data Source: SWT Department of Geography
GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE:
Ages are given in millions of years (MY) before the present

1. IGNEOUS ROCK (undifferentiated)
2. PRECAMBRIAN TIME: 544-4500? (4.5? billion years)

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
PRECIPITATION

Annual

January

July

Data Source: National Climatic Data Center
CLIMATE

FIRST AND LAST FROSTS

Average Date of First Freeze

1. Before November 1
2. November 1 to Nov. 16
3. Nov. 16 to December 1
4. December 1 to Dec. 16
5. After December 16

Average Date of Last Freeze

1. After April 15
2. March 31 to April 15
3. March 16 to March 31
4. March 1 to March 16
5. February 14 to March 1
6. January 30 to February 14
7. Before January 30

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Average Length of Growing Season (Number of days)

1. < 185
2. 185 - 200
3. 200 - 215
4. 215 - 230
5. 230 - 245
6. 245 - 260
7. 260 - 275
8. 275 - 290

Measured as the average number of days between last and first frosts

Average Annual Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)

1. 56°
2. 56° - 58°
3. 58° - 60°
4. 60° - 62°
5. 62° - 64°
6. 64° - 66°
7. 66° - 68°
8. 68° - 70°
9. 70° - 72°
10. 72° - 74°
11. > 74°

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
RESERVOIRS AND DRAINAGE BASINS

1. Canadian River Basin
2. Red River Basin
3. Sulphur River Basin
4. Cypress Creek Basin
5. San Antonio-Nueces Coastal Basin
6. Nueces River Basin
7. Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin
8. Trinity River Basin
9. Trinity-San Jacinto Coastal Basin
10. San Jacinto River Basin
11. Brazos River Basin
12. San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin
13. Brazos-Colorado Coastal Basin
14. Colorado River Basin
15. Colorado-Lavaca Coastal Basin
16. Lavaca River Basin
17. Lavaca-Guadalupe Coastal Basin
18. Guadalupe River Basin
19. San Antonio River Basin
20. Sabine River Basin
21. Neches River Basin
22. Neches-Trinity Coastal Basin
23. Rio Grande River Basin

Data Source: Texas Water Development Board
PHYSICAL

NATURAL REGIONS

1 Coastal Plains
2 Great Plains
3 Mountains and Basins
4 North Central Plains


ECOLOGICAL REGIONS

1 Llano Uplift
2 Edwards Plateau
3 High Plains
4 Rolling Plains
5 Trans-Pecos
6 Piney Woods
7 Oakwood & Prairies
8 Blackland Prairies
9 South Texas Brush Country
10 Coastal Sand Plain
11 Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes

Data Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
EARTHQUAKES

Tectonic processes involve the bending or fracturing of rock masses in response to the movements of crustal plates. When the movement of the crust occurs along a fracture plane, the fracture is called a fault. An earthquake is a shaking generated by a sudden movement in the Earth's crust along a fault.

The Richter scale represents the magnitude of an earthquake based on seismograph records that record the amount of energy released during an earthquake. Every increase of one number on the scale means that the ground motion is 10 times greater. For instance, a magnitude of 2 is 10 times greater than a magnitude of one.

This map depicts all earthquakes recorded from January 1973 to February 2000 within a radius of 900 km. The largest earthquake ever recorded in Texas occurred on August 6, 1931 in the basin and range country west of Fort Davis. This quake had a recorded magnitude of 6.4.

Data Source: USGS National Earthquake Information Center; Text adapted from a variety of sources
NATIVE ANIMALS

SELECTED MAMMALS

Eastern Red Bat
River Otter
Ord's Kangaroo Rat

Ringtail
Ocelot
Black-tailed Jackrabbit

SELECTED REPTILES

American Alligator
Texas Horned Lizard
Diamondback Rattlesnake

Texas Coral Snake
Texas Tortoise
Great Plains Skink

NOTE: Distribution based on known county records.

Data Source: Mammals of Texas Online, 1994; Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas, 2000
EXOTIC ANIMALS

Axis Deer were introduced to Texas from India.

NOTE: Distribution based on known county records.

Data Source: Mammals of Texas Online, 1994; The Fire Ant Spatial Information Management System
ENDANGERED BIRDS AND MAMMALS

NOTE: Distribution is based on known county records. It is possible that minor inaccuracies exist, given the migratory nature of certain species.

Data Sources: Environmental Protection Agency 2000; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 2000
ENDANGERED REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, AND FISH

Data Source: Environmental Protection Agency 2000; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 2000

NOTE: Distribution is based on known county records.
ENDANGERED PLANTS AND CACTI

1. Manthis Spiderling
2. Texas Prairie Dawn Flower
3. Large Fruited Sand-Verbena
4. Slender Rush Pea
5. South Texas Ambrosia
6. White Bladderpod
7. Terlingua Creek Cats-Eye
8. Texas Ayenia
9. Texas Poppy-Mallow
10. Texas Snowbells
11. Texas Trailing Phlox
12. Zapata Bladderpod
13. Little Aguja Pondweed
14. Texas Wild Rice
15. Navasota Ladies' Tresses
16. Ashy Dogweed
17. Johnston's Frankenia
18. Walker's Manioc

NOTE: Distribution is based on known county records.

Data Sources: Environmental Protection Agency 2000; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 2000
PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

A view of Palo Duro Canyon State Park, located south of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle. Photo by Byron Augustin

Data Sources: U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; The National Park Service; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
1. The Alamo, San Antonio
2. Spanish Governor's Palace, San Antonio
3. El Fuerte del Cibala, Cestohowa
4. Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, Houston County
5. Spanish American War Fort, Sabine Pass
6. El Fortín de San José, Presidio
7. Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, Montell
8. Alamito, Marfa
9. La Salle Shipwreck, Matagorda Bay
10. Parida Cave, Amistad National Recreation Area
11. Panther Cave, Amistad National Recreation Area
12. Hueco Tanks, Hueco Tanks State Historical Park
13. Paint Rock, Paint Rock
14. Fate Bell Shelter, Seminole Canyon State Natural Area
15. Tule Canyon, Briscoe
16. Cascade Cavern, Boerne
17. Prade Ranch, Real County
18. Tinaja de los Palmas, near Sierra Blanca
19. Lobo Valley Petroglyph Site, Culberson County
20. Caddoan Mounds, Caddoan Mounds State Historical Park
21. Various Sites, Big Bend National Park
22. Various Sites, Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Photo used with permission from The Rock Art Foundation
Data Sources: Handbook of Texas Online; Texas Historical Commission; The National Park Service
NATIVE CULTURES, 1500 A.D.

LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION

- Uto-Aztecan
- Athapascan
- Caddoan
- Coahuiltecan
- Tunican

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
SPANISH MISSIONS, PRESIDIOS, AND ROADS

1. Presidio Nuestra Sra. del Pilar, 1683
2. Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe, 1659
3. San Antonio do Senecu, 1682
4. Corpus Christi de la Isleta, 1682
5. Nuestra Sra. del Socorro, 1682
6. Presidio San Elizario, 1772
7. La Junta, 1684
8. San Saba after 1772
9. San Vicente
10. San Francisco Solano, 1700
11. Presidio del Río Grande, 1703
12. San Bernardo, 1702
13. San Juan Bautista, 1699
14. Santa Rosa
15. Dolores
16. Monclova
17. Monterrey
18. Cerralvo, by 1583
19. Laredo, 1755
20. Nuestra Sra. de Dolores, 1750

21. Revilla, 1750
22. Mier, 1753
23. Camargo, 1749
24. Reynosa, 1749
25. San Luis de las Amarillas, 1757-1768
26. San Saba, 1757-1758
27. Candelaria, 1762-1766
28. San Lorenzo, 1762-1769
29. San Antonio de Valero (Alamo), 1718-1793
30. San Antonio de Bexar, 1718
31. San Francisco Xavier de Naxer, 1722-1726
32. San Jose, 1720-1794
33. Concepcion, 1731-1794
34. San Juan Capistrano, 1731-1794
35. San Francisco de la Espada, 1731-1794
36. Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe, 1755-1757
37. San Xavier, 1757-1758
38. San Francisco Xavier, 1751-1755
39. Nuestra Sra. de la Candelaria, 1749-1755
40. San Xavier, 1746-1755
41. San Ildefonso, 1749-1755
42. Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, 1722-1726 (Bahía)
43. Nuestra Sra. de Loreto, 1722-1726
44. Location of (42) and (43), 1726-1749
45. Location of (42) and (43) after 1749
46. Nuestra Sra. del Rosario de los Cujanes, 1754-1831
47. Refugio, 1790-1791
48. Refugio after 1791
49. Nuestra Sra. de la Luz, 1756-1771
50. San Agustín, 1756-1771
51. San Francisco, 1690-1693
52. Nuestra Sra. de María, 1691-1693
53. San Francisco, 1716-1730
54. San Jose, 1716-1730
55. Concepción, 1716-1730
56. Nuestra Sra. de los Dolores, 1716
57. Guadalupe, 1716-1773
58. Dolores, 1716
59. San Miguel, 1716-1773
60. Nuestra Sra. de Pilar, 1721-1773

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
MAJOR MEXICAN LAND GRANTS, 1824-1832

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
Historically, Texans have been of varied cultures and ethnicities, from Norwegian to Native American. Europeans immigrated to Texas because they were told farmland was cheap and plentiful. In Texas they found new lives with religious and economic freedom. Often, entire communities of Europeans immigrated because their relatives and friends were already established in Texas. Movements of this kind are called chain migrations. Chain migration has left cultural imprints on the landscape of Texas, which is evident in the pockets of German, Czech, and Swedish communities located throughout the state.

South Texas is alive with Spanish and Mexican cultures, as the state once belonged to both countries. For many Texans, the Spanish language is used as fluently as English. African Americans make up many communities in East Texas. After emancipation, many African Americans decided to remain near the plantations on which they were enslaved to form thriving communities of their own.

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976. Data Source: Handbook of Texas Online
1. SPANISH TEXAS

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, Spain controlled its territory north of the Rio Grande by building missions and presidios. These were supposed to counter the influence of American settlers who came for the wide-open lands of Texas. Because the Louisiana Territory, purchased by the United States in 1803, was interpreted by many in the U.S. to include all lands crossed by rivers flowing into the Mississippi River, much of the land that Spain claimed as its own was claimed by the settlers, as well.

The Adams-Onis treaty of 1819, that set the Spanish border at the Sabine River, resolved an 1806 boundary dispute between Spain and the United States. It also resulted in the establishment of the Neutral Ground between the Sabine River on the west and the Calcasieu River (present-day Louisiana) on the east. However, the arrival of settlers from America continued to be a problem for Spain. Texas was a part of New Spain until the revolution established Mexican independence in 1821.

2. MEXICAN TEXAS

After the Mexican Revolution ended in 1821, all of the territory that had been controlled by Spain became a part of Mexico. During the 1820s and early 1830s, the Mexican government issued land grants to empresarios to encourage colonization of the lands north of the Rio Grande. The most successful of these empresarios was Stephen F. Austin, an Anglo-American settler, who brought a number of colonists to the territory.

However, the growing number of American settlers created conflict when Mexico began to try to assert more control over the territory. To better govern Texas, in 1824 the Mexican government combined the territory of Texas with the Mexican state of Coahuila to form a single state called Coahuila y Texas. This angered the Anglo-American settlers a great deal, and was a contributing factor to the feelings of unrest and discontent that eventually led to the Texas revolution in 1836.

Data Source: Compiled from various sources
3. IMPERIAL TEXAS

The Republic of Texas was established in 1836, after the army of free Texas fought to a decisive victory over Mexican General Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto. The Republic was immediately recognized by the United States, and a government similar to that of the U.S. was installed with General Sam Houston as the first president. The Republic of Texas was characterized by legalized slavery and by large amounts of land that were open for settlement by farmers and plantation owners from the Deep South. Facing financial difficulties, the government of the Texas Republic voted to approve annexation by the United States in 1845. At this time, Texas laid claim to all lands as far west as the Rio Grande and to all lands as far north as the Arkansas River, and to a piece of old Mexico that extended to the 42nd parallel in present day Colorado and Wyoming. The Compromise of 1850 resolved this claim in which the United States government exerted its authority over the newly admitted state.

4. CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT

The last bit of territory lost by Texas was Greer County. When Texas entered the Union, it claimed all the territories up to the Red River, including Greer County. In 1896, the United States government sued Texas for rights to Greer County, claiming that it was north of the South Fork of the Red River and was therefore in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) instead of Texas. The Supreme Court found in favor of the United States, and Greer County, Texas is now Greer County, Oklahoma.

Despite the gradual diminishment of its land claims, Texas was the largest of the United States until the state of Alaska was admitted to the Union. With the development of the cattle industry in the 19th century and the oil industry in the 20th century, Texas' population steadily rose to its current total of over 20 million people.

Data Source: Compiled from various sources
RAILROAD DEVELOPMENT IN THE 19TH CENTURY

1860 Railroads

1870 and 1880 Railroads

1890 and 1900 Railroads

Data Source: Adapted from Texas Railroads: A Record of Construction and Abandonment, 1981
African-American soldiers who fought in the Indian Wars from 1866 to 1892 were called Buffalo Soldiers by Native Americans. Buffalo Soldiers played an important role in shaping the American West as part of the 9th and 10th U.S. Calvary and the 24th and 25th U.S. Infantry Regiments for duty against the Indian Nations. Many Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at frontier forts from Texas to North Dakota. First Sergeant Emanuel Stance of the 9th Calvary, stationed in Fort McKavett, Texas, was the first African American to receive a Medal of Honor in the Indian Wars.

Data Source: State Parks and Historical Sites, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
VOTES AGAINST SECESSION, 1861

Percent

1 0-9
2 10-19
3 20-29
4 30-49
5 50-69
6 Over 70

No returns

Major City

Data Source: Adapted from Atlas of Texas, 1976
POPULATION DENSITY BY COUNTY: PAST

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau
POPULATION DENSITY BY COUNTY:
PRESENT AND FUTURE

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau
UNEMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Average Percentage Rate

- 1.3 - 2.9%
- 3.0 - 4.4%
- 4.5 - 6.5%
- 6.6 - 10.2%
- 10.3 - 15.5%
- 15.6 - 27.6%

Unemployment, 2000

Income, 1999

Average Per Capita

- $8,000 - $15,000
- $15,001 - $20,000
- $20,001 - $25,000
- $25,001 - $30,000
- $30,001 - $35,000
- $35,001 - $47,000

Data Source: Texas Workforce Network, 2000; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1999

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTES

1956
Counts won
- Blue: Stevenson (Democrat)
- Red: Eisenhower (Republican)

1968
Counts won
- Blue: Humphrey (Democrat)
- Red: Nixon (Republican)

1980
Counts won
- Blue: Carter (Democrat)
- Red: Reagan (Republican)

1996
Counts won
- Blue: Clinton (Democrat)
- Red: Dole (Republican)

RADIO STATIONS, 2000

AM Radio Stations

FM Radio Stations

AM and FM Radio Stations

Data Source: Texas Radio Directory, 2000
MAJOR GROUPS OF PEOPLE

Anglos

Percent
0 - 19
20 - 49
50 - 74
75 - 100

Hispanics

Percent
0 - 19
20 - 49
50 - 74
75 - 100

African Americans

Percent
0 - 19
20 - 49
50 - 74
75 - 100

Composite

≥ 20 percent
- Anglos only
- Hispanics only
- Anglos and Hispanics
- Anglos and African Americans
- Anglos, Hispanics and African Americans

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau
IRRIGATED ACREAGE

Data Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997
AGRICULTURAL REGIONS

Agricultural Activity
1. Commercial Grain Farming: Wheat
2. Commercial Grain Farming: Rice
3. Commercial Grain Farming: Grain Sorghum
4. Commercial Grain Farming: Corn
5. Commercial Cotton Farming
6. Woodland
7. Market Gardening: Citrus
8. Market Gardening: Vegetables
9. Market Gardening: Peanuts
10. Livestock Ranching: Cattle
11. Livestock Ranching: Sheep
12. Livestock Ranching: Goats
13. Lifestock Fattening
14. Dairying
15. Poultry-raising

No Appreciable Agriculture

1997 MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS SOLD

- Other grains 4%
- Oats 0.2%
- Sorghum for grain 9%
- Soybeans 2%
- Wheat 8%
- Corn for grain 13%
- Other crops 0%
- 34% Cotton and cottonseed
- 5% Hay, silage and field seeds
- 6% Vegetables, sweet corn and melons
- 2% Fruits, nuts and berries
- 11% Nursery and greenhouse crops

Data Source: Adapted from Texas, A Geography, by Terry G. Jordan, 155
CROP PRODUCTION, 1999

Data Source: Texas Agricultural Statistics Service
CHANGES IN COTTON PRODUCTION THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

Anglo settlers began cultivating cotton in Texas in 1821. Production was heaviest in east and central Texas because the soil was fertile, but farming techniques soon spread cotton west. By the mid-1900's, cotton farmers blanketed the state as innovations in irrigation and fertilization made poor quality soils more productive. By 1998, Texas cotton production had declined in all areas except the High Plains because of factors such as an increased use of synthetic fibers, less demand from foreign countries, soil depletion, and fewer farms.

Source: Handbook of Texas Outline
Data Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service
COWBOYS TODAY:
SELECTED RODEOS AND DUDE RANCHES

1. Abilene/West Texas Fair & Rodeo (September)
2. Abilene/Western Heritage Class (May)
3. Austin/Brent Thurman Memorial Bull Riding (May)
4. Austin/Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo (June)
5. Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo (June)
6. Crockett Lions Club Pro Rodeo (May)
7. Crosby Fair and Rodeo (May)
8. El Paso/Southwestern International Livestock Show and Rodeo (February)
9. Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo (Jan. - Feb.)
10. Houston/Cypress Fairbank Rodeo (June-July)
11. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (Feb. - March)
12. Katy ISD Rodeo (March)
13. Los Fresnos PRCA Rodeo (February)
14. Mesquite Championship Rodeo (April - Sept.)
15. Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo
16. Pecos/West of the Pecos Rodeo (May)
17. San Antonio/Far West Rodeo
18. San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo (Feb.)
19. Stephenville PRCA Rodeo (May)
20. Waco/Heart O’ Texas Rodeo (October)

Data Source: DudeRanches.com; About.com, Rodeo with Janet Ratzloff
MAJOR ROADS

IH-10
IH-20
IH-27
IH-35
IH-37
IH-40
IH-45
IH-610

Data Source: Texas Natural Resources Information System
OIL AND GAS

PRODUCTION, 1999

Barrels
- 0
- 249 - 1,140,000
- 1,140,001 - 3,720,000
- 3,720,001 - 7,990,000
- 7,990,001 - 16,710,000
- 16,710,001 - 34,110,000

Cubic Feet (millions)
- 0
- 1 - 11,340,000
- 11,340,001 - 32,340,000
- 32,340,001 - 67,450,000
- 67,450,001 - 138,490,000
- 138,490,001 - 324,160,000

PERCENT EMPLOYMENT, 1998

All Sectors
1 Services 43%
2 Government 6%
3 Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing 1%
4 Natural Resource Mining 2%
5 Construction 5%
6 Manufacturing 11%
7 Transportation & Public Utilities 6%
8 Wholesale and Retail Trade 21%
9 Finance, Insurance and Real Estate 5%

Natural Resource Mining
1 Oil and Gas Extraction 72%
2 Coal Mining 2%
3 Misc. Nonmetallic Minerals 2%
4 Stone/Sand/Gravel 1%
5 Natural Gas Liquids 1%
6 Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas 22%

Data Source: Texas Railroad Commission
ENERGY MINING

1. Little Bull Creek Mine
2. Monticello Mine
3. Monticello Winfield Mine
4. South Hallsville Mine
5. Darco Mine
6. Martin Lake Mine
7. Oak Hill Mine
8. Big Brown Mine
9. Jewette Mine
10. Calvert Mine
11. Gibbons Creek Mine
12. Sandow Mine
13. Powell Bend Mine
14. San Miguel Mine
15. Eagle Pass Mine
16. Rachal Mine
17. Treviño Mine
18. Palafox Mine
19. Panna Maria Project

Data Source: Texas Railroad Commission

Dragline at Gibbons Creek; Lignite Strip Mine.
Photo by Byron Augustin
LIST OF CREDITS

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Augustin, Byron D. Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University


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http://www.neic.cr.usgs.gov/

U.S. Census Bureau
http://www.census.gov/

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.gov/

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
http://www.fws.gov/

USDA Forest Service
http://www.fs.fed.us/

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