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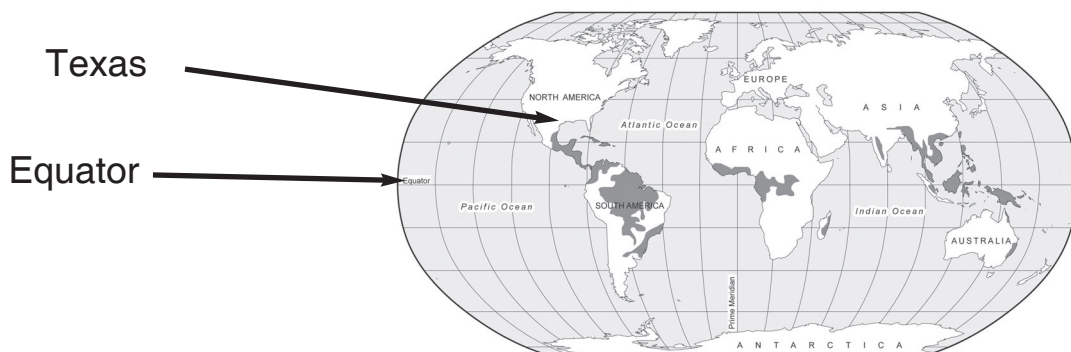
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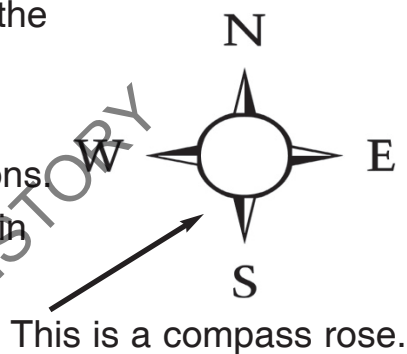
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS TEXAS?

Texas is located north of the Equator on the continent of North America.



The Equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into two parts.

Maps have a "compass rose" to show directions. North, East, South, and West are the four main directions.

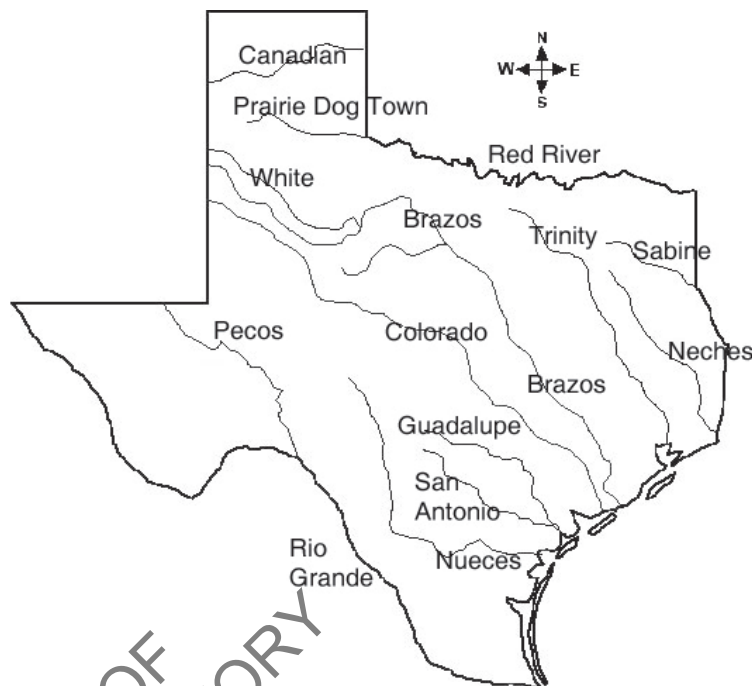


The Game: Draw a compass rose.



NATURAL LINES

The rectangular part of Texas is called the Texas Panhandle. The Red River begins in the Texas Panhandle and flows east. The Red River is the natural line or boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. It is the boundary between Texas and Arkansas too.



The Sabine River is the natural boundary between Texas and Louisiana. The Gulf of Mexico is the natural boundary on the southeast. The Rio Grande is the natural boundary between Texas and Mexico on the southwest. Mountains form a natural boundary between western Texas and New Mexico.

FYI: Rio Grande means big river.

The Game: Answer the questions.

1. What is the rectangular part of Texas called?

2. What are the names of the two rivers that form natural borders between Texas and other states?

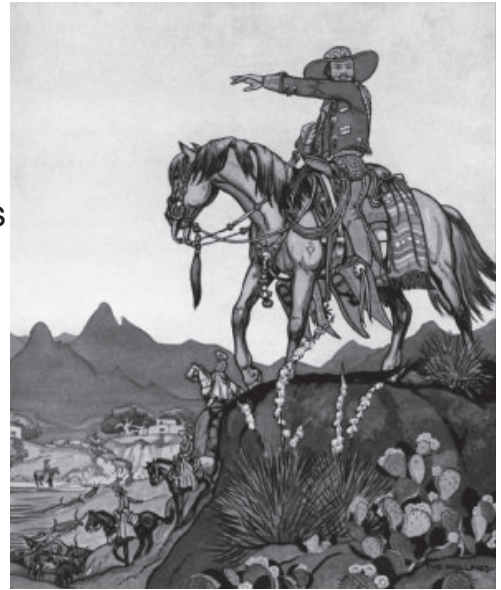
3. What is the name of the river between Texas and Mexico?



Do you live close to the Gulf of Mexico?

EMPRESARIOS

Stephen F. Austin was a famous land agent or empresario. He is called the Father of Texas. He led many families to their new homes in Texas. Mexico gave empresarios a lot of Texas land as payment. They could sell the land to the families and make money. It was good for the settlers too because land was very cheap in Texas.



Green DeWitt was a very successful land agent. He brought families from Missouri and other places to the part of Texas that became the town of Gonzales.

Martín de León led families from Mexico. His wife, Patricia de la Garza de León, gave a lot of money to set up the city of Victoria. Martín de León was a successful empresario because he was friends with the Native Americans. He gave parties and fed them beef. They called him Capitán Vacas Muchas (Captain Plenty of Cows).

The Game: Write a good sentence telling three reasons why you think Martín de León was a good empresario.

SPINDLETOP

Anthony Lucas had an idea of where to drill to find oil. A lot of people did not believe him. Experts had tried to find big oil fields in Texas. They did not have any luck.

Lucas got some land in East Texas near the Gulf of Mexico. The land was on a small hill called Spindletop. Sometimes oil would seep out of the ground. Lucas knew there was a lot more oil underground.



Other people had tried to drill for oil there, but Lucas got it right on January 10, 1901. When he drilled 1,139 feet underground, oil shot into the air! Wells like Spindletop are called gushers. Great pressure pushes the oil or gas high into the air. Millions of gallons of oil went shooting into the air at Spindletop!

New businesses were started right away. These companies began drilling for oil all over Texas. This gave many people jobs. The economy of Texas grew fast! New towns sprang up. Many people got very rich over the next hundred years from the oil in Texas. Cotton was not the most important thing in Texas anymore. The most important thing was oil!

The Game: List five changes that happened because of Spindletop.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

THE CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS

The Constitution of Texas is the set of written laws that tell the rights of Texans, the powers of the government, and the way to make changes to the Constitution. Texans follow the Constitution of Texas and the Constitution of the United States.



The Constitution of Texas that we have today was accepted in 1876. Texas had other constitutions that were written long ago. They were good when they were written, but as times changed, better constitutions were written. Our state constitution is like the U.S. Constitution.

Constitutions explain the "rules of the game." Government is by the people. We vote for who we want to represent us. Sometimes we vote directly for things.

The Constitution of Texas explains the separation of powers in Texas. There are three branches of government in Texas and in the United States. The branches of government are the legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch has some power in the government. One branch does not have all of the power. Separation of powers keeps any one branch from having too much power. A way to make changes is by adding amendments to the Constitution.

The Game: Match the words with the idea.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. voting | something the law says you can have or do |
| 2. right | the way people take part in government |
| 3. Constitution of Texas | legislative, executive, and judicial |
| 4. separation of powers | a way to make changes to the Constitution |
| 5. amendment | keeps one branch from having too much power |
| 6. branches of government | written laws that tell "the rules of the game" |