

# Chapter Summary

## Regions of Texas

### Lesson 1: Mountains and Basins

- The Mountains and Basins region is located in West Texas and has a hot, dry climate.
- The eastern ranges of the Rocky Mountains extend into this region and give the state its highest elevations.
- Desert plants such as cacti and creosote bush, which do not require much water, grow here. Cougars, deer, and bears live in the mountains in this region, while snakes and roadrunners live in the desert.
- The Pecos River and the Rio Grande serve as natural landmarks in this region. The Rio Grande provides water for agriculture and other industries.
- The Rio Grande also provides an important natural border with Mexico.
- El Paso is a large city on the Rio Grande near the western border of the state. It has strong business ties to Mexico.
- The Pecos River does not provide enough water for farming and it is too salty for drinking, so there is a small population of people living nearby.
- Although there is not a large supply of water in this area, there are many other natural resources. Loving County produces petroleum, natural gas, clay, copper, and sulfur.

### Lesson 2: Great Plains

- The Great Plains area of Texas reaches from the upper north corner of the state to the Rio Grande. It is a part of the North American Great Plains region which stretches from Canada to Texas and known as the “breadbasket of the world.”
- Once home to large herds of bison, the Great Plains were used by European settlers to graze sheep and cattle and to plant crops.
- Because the Great Plains is a dry region, farmers use underground water sources to irrigate crops.
- The High Plains are in the northernmost tip of the state and extend south. Some elevations in this area reach 4,000 feet (1,219 m) above sea level.
- The Canadian River and the Red River have created canyons or valleys in this area. The Red River created the Palo Duro Canyon, which is known for its hardwood trees.
- The North Plains and the South Plains are the two areas that make up the High Plains. The North Plains produces petroleum, wheat, and cattle while the South Plains is known for cotton production.

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- The Edwards Plateau, in the southern Great Plains region, is a large area of flat lands and gently rolling hills. The Blackland Prairie meets the plateau's eastern border at the Balcones Escarpment.
- The plateau is best suited for grazing livestock. The area is also known for angora goats, whose hair is sold as mohair and used to make sweaters and fabrics.
- The Llano Basin is an area of low elevation and is crossed by two main rivers, the Llano and Colorado.
- This area relies on tourism, hunting, and livestock production.

### Lesson 3: North Central Plains

- The North Central Plains is an interior region of rolling plains between the Caprock and Balcones Escarpments.
- Although cattle ranching dominates the economy, a variety of crops are grown in this region because there is more rainfall than on the Great Plains.
- The Rolling Plains is the largest section of the North Central Plains. Thunderstorms occur year-round, and tornadoes are most common in the spring.
- The landscape includes hills, mesas, and buttes. Cattle, sheep, and goats graze in the western section while cotton, wheat, peaches, and pecans are grown farther east.
- East of the Rolling Plains is the Grand Prairie, flanked on either side by the Western and Eastern Cross Timbers.
- Oak, hickory, pecan, and elm trees grow in the Cross Timbers. This area also produces cotton, corn, vegetables, and the Spanish peanut.
- The land of the Grand Prairie is dry, and few trees grow there. Livestock, ranching, and crop farming drive the economy.
- Fort Worth is the largest city in the North Central Plains. It is part of the 20-county area called the Metroplex, a major manufacturing and trade center.

### Lesson 4: Coastal Plains

- The Coastal Plains are east of the North Central Plains. It is an area of low elevation and has a hot, humid climate that is prone to tropical storms.
- The region is rich in natural resources such as lumber and petroleum. It also has a strong agricultural industry.
- A waterway called the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway allows Texas to trade with cities along the southeastern coast and with other countries.

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- Dallas, one of the largest cities in Texas, is on the Blackland Prairie. It is home to financial, insurance, electronics, and technology industries.
- Austin, the capital of Texas, is the center of state government and home to several high-technology firms.
- The Post Oak Belt has no large cities but is rich in timber. This area also produces corn, grains, cotton, peanuts, hay, and watermelon.
- Lumber and oil are the biggest industries in the Piney Woods, though a long growing season also makes farming an important part of the economy.
- Cattle ranching is a major industry in the Gulf Coast Plain. Many petrochemical industries are also found here.
- Houston is the largest city in Texas and is found on the Gulf Coast. Houston has a diverse economy that includes science and technology, banking, and oil. It is also home to the Johnson Space Center.
- The drier climate of the South Texas Plain produces vegetation such as prickly pear cactus and mesquite. A long growing season makes cattle ranching, farming, and related industries possible.