# TEKS Cluster: Natural Texas and its People: Geography and Native Texans

**7.8** **Geography.** The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of Texas.

Connected Knowledge and Skills 7.1, 7.2, 7.9

**Natural Texas: Physical Geography (Using Geographic Tools to Compare Regions)**

❖ 7.8(B)* locate and compare places of importance in Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics such as major cities, waterways, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest   *Spiral Standard*
*Supporting Spiral Standard: 7.8(A)*

**Natural Texas: Human Geography (Using Physical Geography to Compare American Indian Cultures)**

❖ 7.9(A)* identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications   *Spiral Standard*

   7.1(A) identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, and explain the purpose of dividing the past into eras, including Natural Texas and its People …   *Spiral Standard*

   7.2(A) compare the cultures of American Indians in Texas prior to European colonization such as Gulf, Plains, Puebloan, and Southeastern

## Student Expectations

❖ 7.8(B)* locate and compare places of importance in Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics such as major cities, waterways, natural and historic landmarks, political and cultural regions, and local points of interest  *Spiral Standard* (R)

*Connected Spiral Standards*

- locate and compare the Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains, and Coastal Plains regions 7.8(A)

## Academic Vocabulary

| Vocabulary | | Terms |
|---|---|---|
| aquifer | human characteristics | |
| basin | major eras | |
| canyon | physical characteristics | |
| defining characteristics | places | |
| escarpment | regions | |

## Stimulus

| Speech/Journal/ Diary | Letter/ Newspaper Article | Government Document | Secondary Source Text |
|---|---|---|---|
| Photograph/ Painting | Political Cartoon/ Advert./Other | Map | Chart/Table |
| Graph | Graphic Organizer | Bulleted List of Facts | Timeline |

## Content Builder

- The four geographic regions of Texas are: the Coastal Plains, the North Central Plains, the Great Plains, and the Mountains and Basins.
- Texas regions are unique with distinct physical and human characteristics.
- Both physical and human factors have contributed to settlement, population distribution, and economic activities in Texas. Adaptation and modification of the environment has played a large role in the development of Texas.
- Most major cities in Texas began along the numerous rivers found throughout the state.
- The Coastal Plains:
  - are in south and southeast Texas with the Gulf of Mexico and Rio Grande as its borders
  - consist of plains, hills, and the Balcones Escarpment
  - have a mild climate with plentiful rainfall
  - contain most of the major cities; all rivers flow through this region
  - include fishing, tourism, agriculture, technology, and oil and gas as its major industries
- The North Central Plains:
  - are in north and central Texas and border on the Red River and Oklahoma
  - consist of prairies, forests, and plains
  - have hot summers and cold winters; can experience violent thunderstorms
  - include ranching, agriculture, and oil and gas as its major industries
- The Great Plains:
  - are in far north and northwest Texas and border on Oklahoma and New Mexico
  - consist of plains, plateaus, escarpments, canyons, basins, and aquifers
  - have hot summers and cold winters; can be very dry and windy with violent sand storms
  - include ranching, agriculture, and oil and gas as its major industries
- The Mountains and Basins:
  - are in west Texas and border the Rio Grande and New Mexico
  - consist of deserts, mountains, and basins
  - have hot summers and cold winters with little rainfall
  - include ranching, agriculture (in Rio Grande Valley with irrigation), and oil and gas as its major industries

## Instructional Implications

When you teach Physical Geography, remember to:

- Review basic map, chart, and graph skills with students.
- Using physical maps of Texas, have students predict how certain landforms and bodies of water will impact settlement patterns, influence adaptations to the environment, and influence economic activities.
- Use a variety of maps, charts, graphs, and photographs to compare and contrast major cities, rivers, economic activities, climate, vegetation, population density, and geographic features.
- Read first-hand accounts of how people have modified and/or adapted to their environment, such as extreme weather events, building windmills and dams, creating irrigation systems, and using adobe in west Texas.

## Learning from Mistakes

Students may make the following mistakes:

- Not understanding that the geography and climate varies throughout the state
- Not understanding how the geography influences the economy in the state
- Not understanding the difference in the physical features found in the state
- Not understanding how people adapt to and modify their environment

## Student Expectations

❖ 7.9(A)*   identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications   *Spiral Standard* (R)

7.1(A)   identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, and explain the purpose of dividing the past into eras, including Natural Texas and its People …   *Spiral Standard* (R)

7.2(A)   compare the cultures of American Indians in Texas prior to European colonization such as Gulf, Plains, Puebloan, and Southeastern (S)

## Academic Vocabulary

| Vocabulary | Terms | |
|---|---|---|
| adobe | Apache | Kiowa |
| culture(s) | Caddo | Plains |
| modify | Coalhuiltecan | Puebloan |
| nomad/nomadic | Comanche | Southeastern |
| shaman | Gulf | Tigua |
| tribe | Jumano | Wichita |
|  | Karanakawa | |

## Stimulus

| Speech/Journal/ Diary | Letter/ Newspaper Article | Government Document | Secondary Source Text |
|---|---|---|---|
| Photograph/ Painting | Political Cartoon/ Advert./Other | Map | Chart/Table |
| Graph | Graphic Organizer | Bulleted List of Facts | Timeline |

## Content Builder

- American Indians were in Texas for hundreds, possibly thousands of years before the Europeans arrived.
- American Indians in Texas developed very different cultures according to their environment.
- Shamans (people thought to have access to good/evil spirits) were important leaders in several American Indian tribes across varying regions.
- American Indians in Texas are divided into four culture groups.
  - Gulf:
    ◦ nomadic hunters/gatherers
    ◦ Karankawa in the Southeast and barrier islands used dugout canoes to fish, hunt, and travel back and forth to mainland
    ◦ Coalhuiltecan in the South survived on small animals and even insects
  - Plains:
    ◦ nomadic hunters of buffalo and fierce warriors
    ◦ Comanche followed buffalo herds, used every part of the buffalo and lived in tepees
    ◦ Apache sometimes lived for extended periods along rivers and farmed
    ◦ Kiowa were considered by many to be the fiercest Plains tribe
  - Puebloan:
    ◦ permanent village dwellers and built homes of adobe
    ◦ Jumano and Tigua were farmers, hunters, and traders
    ◦ known for their beautiful pottery
  - Southeastern:
    ◦ permanent village dwellers in dome-shaped huts
    ◦ Caddo and Wichita tribes were farmers, hunters, and gatherers with highly organized systems of government; women held important positions within tribes

## Instructional Implications

When you teach Human Geography/American Indian Cultures, remember to:
- Use various maps to locate different American Indians in Texas.
- Use primary and secondary source documents to compare and contrast the culture groups found in early Texas.
- Explain how geography affected how each tribe lived.

## Learning from Mistakes

Students may make the following mistakes:
- Not understanding that American Indians in Texas had very different cultures
- Not knowing that American Indians did not have guns and horses until contact with Europeans occurred