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The Four Natural Resources and the Economy of Texas

This is a photograph of a herd of bison at Caprock Canyons State Park in Texas. One of the very first businesses American settlers started in Texas was bison hunting. There was a lot of demand for bison robes that were thick and warm, which meant bison hunters could make a lot of money. Before 1870, it was estimated that between 30 and 60 million buffalo roamed throughout Texas. By 1878, buffalo had been nearly wiped out.



https://tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/parkinfo/bison/media/images/2011_0907_CaprockBisonRelease_0419_ByEarIN_600x400.jpg

This is a photograph of some bison that live on a Texas ranch. Today, bison are big business in Texas. Many ranchers raise bison. This is because there is a lot of demand for bison meat to grocery stores and restaurants. Many of the bison ranches are located in the Great Plains region of Texas where there are grasslands.



<https://news.fnal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/fermilab-bison.jpg>

This is a photograph of a Texas Longhorn cow. They are easy to spot because of their very long horns. Raising cattle is an important industry in Texas, especially in the Great and Central Plains of the state. This is because these regions have grasslands that cattle need to eat. Texas produces about 20 percent of the nation's beef cattle! Cattle are also the biggest source of money for the agricultural industry in Texas. This means that raising and selling cattle makes the most money for the state's farm economy.



<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/at102>

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This is a photograph of a cowboy looking over a herd of cattle in Texas. Today, there are many different kinds of cattle raised in the state. In fact, Texas has the most cattle and beef farms in the United States. Over 130 million acres of Texas land is used to raise cattle. Texas is also the top cattle-producing state in America.



<https://www.resilience.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/food-tank-replenish-excerpt-e1508784410399-770x461.jpg>

This is a color photograph of African American farm workers picking cotton near Houston, Texas in 1913. Cotton has been a part of Texas history for a long time. It was first grown by Spanish missionaries. By 1821, American planters were growing cotton and were using slave labor to plant and harvest it. Soon, Texas became one of the leading cotton producers in the country. The cotton was used to make fabric for clothing, curtains and other household goods. It was even used to make what was called “gun cotton” used in explosive devices!



<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/what-was-the-2nd-middle-passage/attachment/800px-cottonpickhoustonwhere1/>

This is a picture of a cotton plant. Cotton is the most valuable crop grown in Texas. Almost 9 percent of the total profit made from Texas farm products comes from cotton. Texas is also the nation’s top cotton producer. This means that Texas grows more cotton than other state! Texas even made cotton their official state fabric in 1997. Most of the cotton is grown in the Central Plains region of the state.



<https://www.agweb.com/article/texas-cotton-harvest-underway-strong-crop-quality-NAA-ashley-davenport>

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This is a photograph of one of the many forests in Texas. The wood from forest trees is used to produce lumber. Approximately, 38 percent of the land, or 63 million acres in Texas is covered in forests. That is a lot of trees!



<https://www.timbertown.com/a-look-at-the-texas-lumber-industry/>

The timber industry in Texas is over 185 years old. Much of the lumber that is produced comes from the East Texas Piney Woods. The area 12.1 million acres of forestland. Most of that land produces the state's lumber. Most of that lumber comes from pine trees. The lumber is used in building construction, wood flooring, furniture and paper pulp.



<https://texasalmanac.com/topics/business/forest-resources>

This is a photograph of oil machinery pumping oil out of the ground in Texas. Today, almost 30 percent of the country's oil comes from Texas. Texas is also the nation's top oil-producing state. Today, the Permian Basin, located in the Mountains and Basin region is the center of oil production in Texas. The oil industry has produced almost two million jobs in Texas and has brought billions of dollars for the state's economy.



<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Texas-oil-production-strong-despite-recent-price-13556768.php>

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The Economy of Texas Source Sheet

This is a products map of Texas. There are many natural resources that help to the economy of Texas to grow. The resources also provide jobs for many people in many industries. This map shows the different products and where they come from. What natural resources are found where you live?



<https://kpalm1970.weebly.com/tx-maps.html>

This is a photograph of a Ruby Red grapefruit that comes from Texas. The citrus industry is located in the lower Rio Grande Valley area of the state. More than 9 million cartons of grapefruit and oranges are grown here every year. Another 5 million cartons of fruit that is used to produce fruit juice is also grown.



<https://www.crockettfarms.com/assets/img/backgrounds/grapefruit-min.png>

Name: _____

The Economy of Texas Source Sheet

This is a photograph of an oyster boat heading back to shore with the day's catch. Commercial fishing is a big industry in Texas. Commercial fisherman caught over 75 million pounds of seafood in Texas. Most of the seafood caught is shrimp. Fisherman also catch carps, oysters, and fish such as grouper and snapper. In addition to fishing, people work in seafood processing and packaging that prepares the seafood for distribution to grocery stores and restaurants.



<https://texasalmanac.com/topics/business/commercial-fishing-texas>

This is a photograph of a rice field in Texas. Rice growing began in 1685, and soon became a profitable crop of Texas farmers. Today, rice is grown mostly near the Colorado River. This is because rice needs a lot of water to grow. Texas ranks fifth in the overall production of rice in the United States. Texas rice farmers grow about 7 percent of the country's entire rice supply.



<https://www.ricefarming.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/TAMU-beaumont-trials-2015-1.jpg>

This is a photograph of a wheat field in Texas. Wheat farming began in Texas around 1833 and continues to be an important crop for the economy of Texas. Most all of the wheat grown is used in the production of commercial bakery flour. Other wheat is grown to be used as feed for livestock.



<https://agriflifelife.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/0605cropweather-Robert-HR-1.jpg>

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The Economy of Texas Source Sheet

This photograph was taken at a sheep ranch in Texas. Sheep have been an important part of the agricultural history of the state. The raising of sheep started with the Spanish missions. Today, Texas leads in the production of sheep in the United States. Originally, sheep were used for both their wool and meat. However, Texas ranchers today raise sheep mostly for their wool, which is used in the making of clothing, blankets, carpeting and even inside stereo speakers.



<http://www.sheep101.info/Images/Texasrangesheep.JPG>

This is a photograph of a natural gas well in Texas. Almost one-fourth of the country's natural gas is produced in Texas, making the state the leading producer of natural gas. Like oil, natural gas is found underground and is pumped up through wells. Natural gas is used for many things, including heating, generating electricity and transportation fuel. It is also used in the making of plastics, medicines and fertilizers. Most of the natural gas is produced in the area around the Gulf of Mexico.



<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/the-first-export-of-natural-gas-from-the-lower-48-is-about-to-go-out-heres-why-it-matters/>

This photograph shows an aeronautics technician working on a piece of machinery that will be used in aircraft. Both airplanes and spacecraft construction are big business in Texas. The state is home to several major airlines whose headquarters are based at Texas airports. NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center is an important center for American operations to space. Texas is home to 15 military bases that serve different branches of nation's military.



<https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2017/08/18/aerospace-manufacturing-in-texas-ranks-in-top-10.html>

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Steps to Make a Youtube Episode

Step 1: Learn about the natural resources of Texas

- Read the information on the handout called “The Economy of Texas Source Sheet.” Then, answer the questions below.
- How do each of the 4 main natural resources of Texas positively impact the Texas economy?
 - Cattle and Bison
 - Cotton
 - Timber
 - Oil
- How does the location of Texas impact each of the four main natural resources?

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Closing

The closing of your video should wrap up what you have taught your viewers. You can also tell viewers what they will see in upcoming vlog or invite viewers to write in with questions. Write 2 or 3 sentences that you can use for the closing of your video below:

Step 3: Record Your Video!

Use your script, a tablet or smart phone, and the tips on the handout: Tips for Recoding a Video to create your Youtube Episode!

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How to Record a Youtube Video Like a Professional

Have Good Eye Contact

Make sure that you are looking at the camera. You should make eye contact and not look down at your notes the whole time.



Speak Loudly

Make sure you talk loudly so the camera's microphone can record your voice. If you talk too quietly, people won't be able to hear you.



Speak Clearly

When people are nervous, they might talk faster than they normally would. Make sure you talk slowly enough so people can understand you. If you're not sure if you're speaking clearly enough, ask a friend to listen to you practice.



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Providing Professional Feedback

Person you are providing feedback for:

What was your favorite part about the video?

Did the vlog hold your attention? Why or why not?

What do you think the main point of the video is? Is the message clear?

Do you have any other recommendations?