

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Regions of Texas



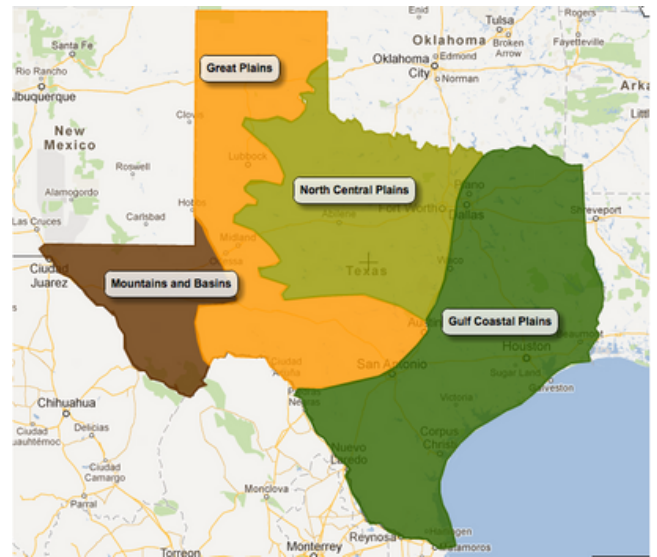
## Region Descriptions:

- The Coastal Plains
  - Occupies about 1/3 of the entire state
  - Hot, humid climate
  - Hilly, with forests
- The North Central Plains
  - A region of grasslands and some deep canyons
  - Hot, humid summers and mild winters
  - Rainfall averages 20-30 inches
- Great Plains
  - Region is a large plateau with rivers and canyons
  - Climate consists of mild summers and cold winters
  - Region covers central Texas, west-central Texas and most of the Texas Panhandle
- Mountains and Basins
  - Only region with mountains
  - Desert grasslands, valleys and sand hills are found here
  - Annual rainfall is less than 12 inches a year

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# Regions of Texas Sources

This is a map showing the four regions of Texas. Texas has a very diverse landscape. This means that each region has different characteristics from the others. In Texas, you can see a little bit of everything from mountains and deserts to prairies and canyons. There are also many rivers and lakes. Texas occupies about 7 percent of the total water and land area of the United States. It is the second largest state after Alaska!



<https://sites.google.com/site/naturaltexasanditspeople/physical-regions-of-texas>

This is a photograph of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway which is found in the Coastal Plain region of Texas. The Coastal Plain is the largest region in Texas and covers almost 40 percent of the state's total area. Most of the state's largest cities are located here too. There are many long barrier beaches, such as Padre Island. Barrier beaches are long, narrow strips of beach that are separated from the mainland by lagoons. A lagoon is a shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by a barrier, like an island or reef.



<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Texas/277309/306485-toc>

This photograph was taken at the McFaddin Wildlife Refuge located in the coastal region of Texas. It contains the largest freshwater marsh in Texas. The Coastal Plains region is mostly flat with many streams and rivers that flow into marshes like the one shown here. There is a lot of rain in this region too. Anywhere from 20 to 58 inches of rain might fall in a year.



<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/photos/TEXAS%20POINT.JPG>

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# Regions of Texas Sources

This is a picture of sand dunes on Padre Island in the Texas Coastal region. Closer to the ocean, there are sand dunes and sea grasses. There are many beaches in the Coastal Region that are popular vacation spots. Many of the streams and rivers in Texas flow into the waters of the coastal region, such as the Gulf of Mexico.



<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/texas/stories-in-texas/south-padre-island/>

This is a photograph of the area known as Cross Timbers that is part of the North Central Plains region of Texas. Settlers heading west gave the name "Cross Timbers" to this region because of the heavily forested areas they saw. The forests were so dense that people had a difficult time crossing through them. Other parts of the region have rolling hills with small oak trees, brush and scattered grasses.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/Jack\\_County.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/Jack_County.JPG)

This is a photograph of an area known as the Rolling Plains that is located in the North Central Plains region. This area is made up of gently rolling hills with streams and rivers. The soil is good, so a lot of the land is used for farming. Many different types of trees and flowers grow here too.



[https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/images-conservation/RollingPlains\\_9574.png](https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/images-conservation/RollingPlains_9574.png)



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# Regions of Texas Sources

This is a photograph of the Caprock Escarpment. This rock formation marks a boundary between the western end of the North Central Plains region and the Great Plains region of Texas. An escarpment is a steep rock cliff. The Caprock Escarpment stretches for 200 miles. In some places, it is as high as 1000 feet above sea level. The escarpment is made of a special rock called caliche. This rock is so hard that it water or wind cannot wear it down.



<https://www.britannica.com/place/Caprock-Escarpment>

This photograph was taken in the area known as the Hill Country in the Great Plains region of Texas. This region is located to the west of the North Central Plains northwest of the Gulf Coastal Plains, and east of the Mountain and Basin Region. The area known as the Texas Panhandle is located in the Great Plains region. It is called the Panhandle because it is shaped like a square handle of a pan. The Hill Country was named for its many hills. There are lots of trees in this part of the region.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dd/Texas\\_Hill\\_Country\\_Near\\_I-10%2C\\_2004.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dd/Texas_Hill_Country_Near_I-10%2C_2004.jpg)

This is another photograph of the Great Plains region. As you can see, the land here is flat with few trees. The land is mostly used for farming and ranching. The climate here is mostly dry with rainfall averaging less than 20 inches a year. Windmills are used to power irrigation systems that bring water in for crops and livestock.



[http://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap/Unit\\_2\\_Westward/Texas\\_cows\\_windmill.JPG](http://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap/Unit_2_Westward/Texas_cows_windmill.JPG)

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# Regions of Texas Sources

This photograph shows the Llano Estacado, an area found in the Great Plains region of Texas. The name comes from the Spanish and means “stockaded plains.” The Spanish were describing the long, steep slopes that are found here that look like giant walls. The Llano Estacado is one of the largest mesas in North America. A mesa is a large flat-topped ridge or hill that stands above a plain. The mesa is bordered by escarpments as seen in the photograph. The escarpments here are anywhere from 3,000 feet to over 5,000 feet high.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/aa/Northwest\\_Escarpment\\_Llano\\_Estacado\\_2003.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/aa/Northwest_Escarpment_Llano_Estacado_2003.jpg)

This is a photograph of the Big Bend area that is part of the Mountains and Basin region of Texas. There are many different kinds of geographic features here including sand hills, plateaus, desert valleys and grasslands, and mountains. Overall, this region is largely made up of mountains that are separated by basins, or closed valleys. Not much rain falls here—less than 12 inches a year! Big Bend has more than one million acres of public lands. This includes national parks such as the Big Bend National Park. The Mc Donald Observatory, where scientists study the stars and planets is also located in Big Bend.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/47/Big\\_Bend\\_Rio\\_Grande.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/47/Big_Bend_Rio_Grande.jpg)

This is a photograph of the Rio Grande River. The Rio Grande is one of the important rivers in Texas. The river is also a natural boundary between Texas and Mexico. A natural boundary is a geographic feature such as a river or canyon that acts as a border between places. It is not man-made.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/Rio\\_Grande\\_in\\_Big\\_Bend\\_NP.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/Rio_Grande_in_Big_Bend_NP.jpg)

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# Steps to Create a Map

## Step 1: Learn about Regions in Texas

Review the Handout: The Regions of Texas and Handout: Regions of Texas Sources. Study closely the different regions and their characteristics. This will help in planning your map.

## Step 2: Choose a Region in Texas

You will now choose a region of Texas where you would like to bury your treasure. You will need to create a map of your region that includes characteristics of that region. This will include landforms and water resources.

- Remember that a landform is a feature found on the surface. Examples of landforms include mountains, hills, plateaus, and plains. Other landforms include canyons, valleys, and basins. Water resources include rivers, streams, and lakes.

- **The region I choose to make a map of is:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **The characteristics of the region I chose include are:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 3: Decide Where to Bury your Treasure

Next, you need to decide where you will bury your treasure. You can bury your treasure anywhere within the region you chose. For example, "I will bury my treasure between the bend in the river and the mountain." Describe where you will bury your treasure below.

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#### **Step 4: Create a Map Key**

You will now create a key for your map. Your key needs to include the following:

- Minimum of 4 symbols (each symbol should be a drawing or sketch)
- An explanation about what each symbol means (e.g., a black triangle = a mountain)
- A compass drawing, showing which way is North on your map

Create your key in the box below:

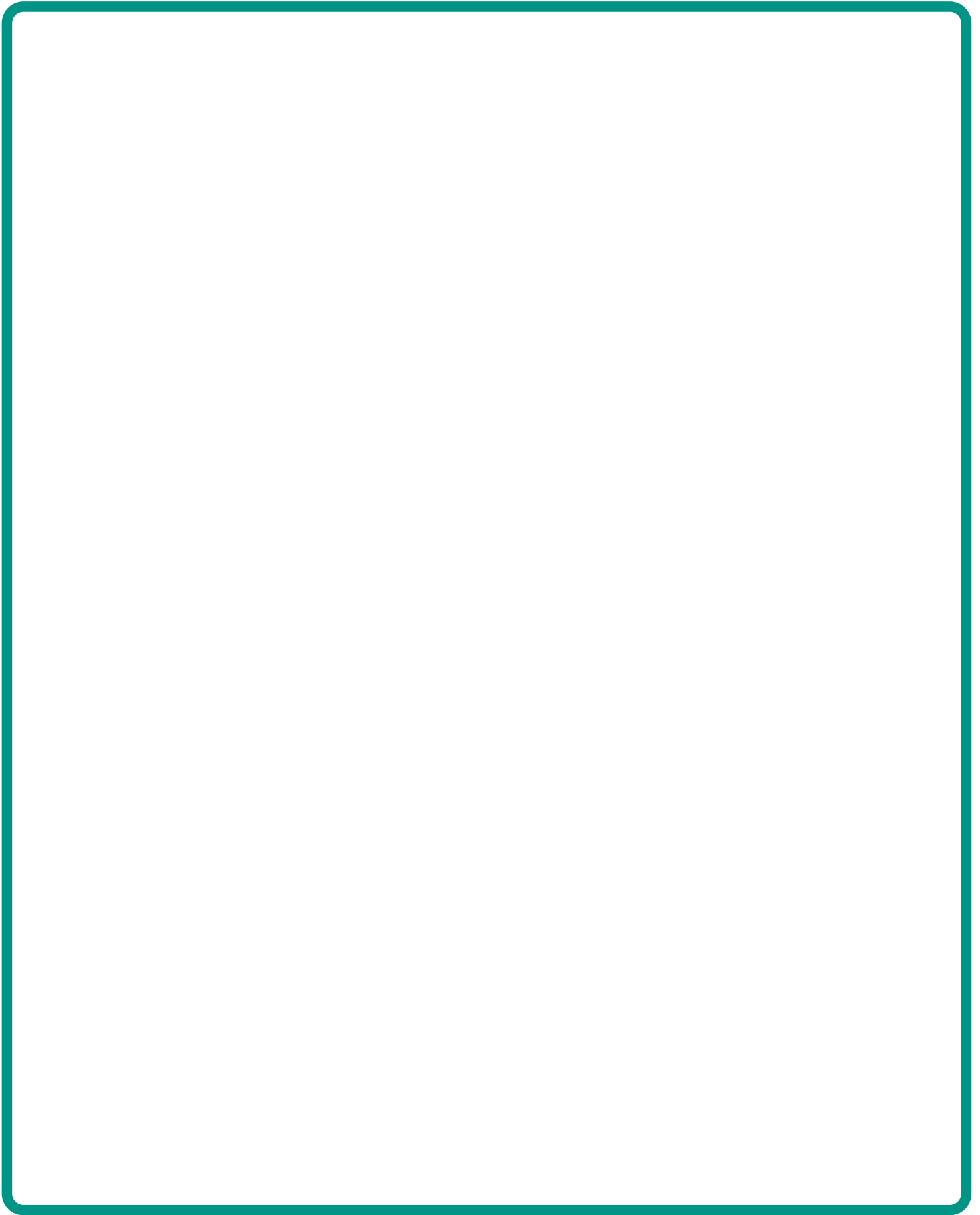


#### **Step 5: Draw Out Map**

Use the space on the next page or another piece to draw your map. Be sure to use the symbols from your key to show where landmarks are.

- Note: Do not label the names of your landmarks, that will give away what region you mapped out! It is ok to show where a mountain is, but not ok to label the mountain name. When you are done, cut out your key and glue it somewhere on your map or on the back.
- Note: Don't forget to leave a space for your compass drawing somewhere on your map.

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# Looking for Treasure

Switch maps, keys, and clues with your partner. Follow the steps to look for your partner's buried treasure!

## Step 1: Identify the Region

Look at the map and read through the clues. Decide which region of Kansas you are looking at. Write your guess below:

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Have your partner check your guess. If you were right, move on to step 2. If you were wrong, try again.

## Step 2: Find the Buried Treasure

Read through the clues again. Decide where you think the buried treasure is located. Write your guess below:

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Have your partner check your guess. If you were right, wait for the rest of the class to finish. If you were wrong, try again.

