

BISON



TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE

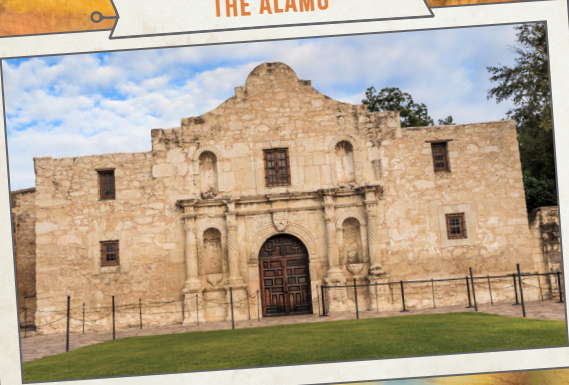


◦ THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL ◦

TEXAS

← STATE STUDY →

THE ALAMO



LUMBER





Course Overview

This Texas State Study consists of 20 engaging lessons designed to foster a true love of learning through activities, visually rich maps and illustrations, and stories of the people and events that have shaped the state. The course is designed to be completed by the student independently, but parents/guardians can choose to be as involved as they would like to be.

Lesson Overview

Most lessons will take 20 to 25 minutes to complete. To keep the student focused and engaged with the material, activities and knowledge checks appear on most pages.

Getting Started

Simply open the course book and begin reading. Each lesson begins with a supply list showing what is needed for that specific lesson. Most lessons require only basic school supplies such as pencils, colored pencils, and highlighters. A complete list of supplies needed for the course can be found on the following page. Students will read each lesson and complete the activities directly in the course book.



Christian Worldview

The Good and the Beautiful curriculum takes a Christian worldview. With input from people with diverse ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds on both our staff and our review panels, this course is built on the common ground and basic biblical principles that apply to all Christians. Rather than focusing on doctrine, the curriculum teaches Christlike character and principles of liberty.



SUPPLIES

Items to Always Have on Hand

- pencils
- highlighters
- colored pencils

Additional Supplies Needed

Lesson 1: none

Lesson 2:

- ruler
- laptop or computer (optional)

Lesson 3: none

Lesson 4:

- laptop or computer (optional)
- internet access (with a parent's permission)

Lesson 5:

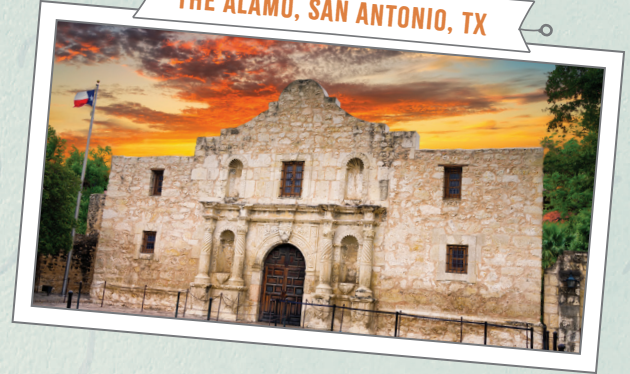
- several personal items such as photos, letters, or trinkets
- small container such as a shoebox or plastic zipper bag
- items for time capsule (newspaper articles, books, photos, drawings, small toys, clothing, etc.)

Lesson 6: laptop or computer (optional)

Lesson 7: none

Lesson 8: none

THE ALAMO, SAN ANTONIO, TX



Lesson 9: dictionary

Lesson 10: none

Lesson 11: none

Lesson 12: none

Lesson 13: none

Lesson 14: none

Lesson 15: preferred coloring supplies (crayons, markers, watercolors, colored pens, colored pencils)

Lesson 16: laptop or computer (optional)

Lesson 17: laptop or computer (optional)

Lesson 18: none

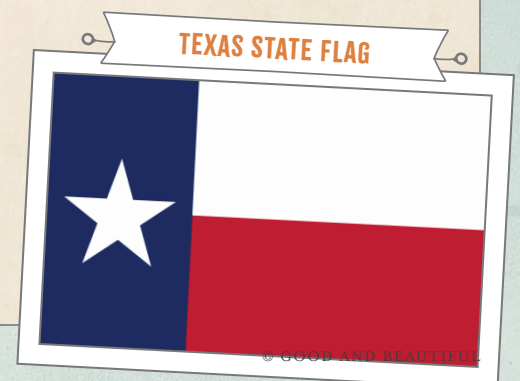
Lesson 19: none

Lesson 20: laptop or computer (optional)



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THE LONE STAR STATE



 **SUPPLIES:** highlighter

Introduction

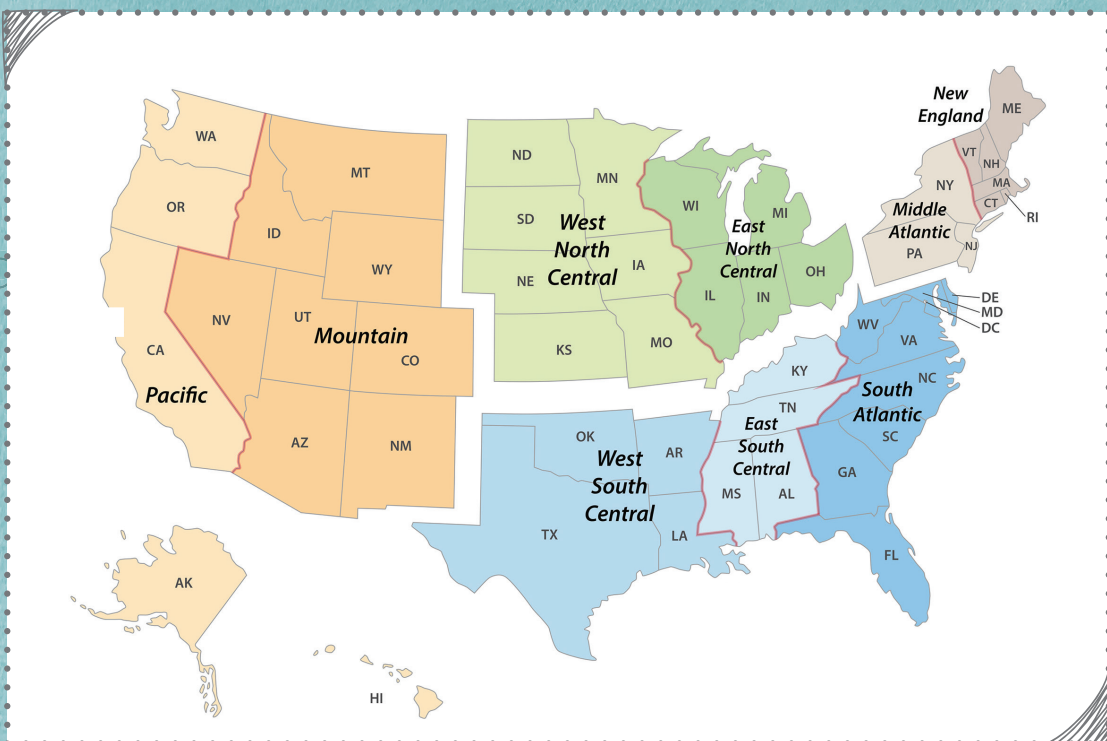
Surrounded by winding rivers and blanketed with rolling plains, piney forests, coastal prairies, and rugged hills, Texas stretches nearly 1,610 kilometers (1,000 miles) along the southern border of the United States. This interestingly shaped state is home to a variety of unique plants and animals, some of which are found only within its borders. We will travel from mountains to sea as we learn about the second-largest state in the United States of America. Let's go!



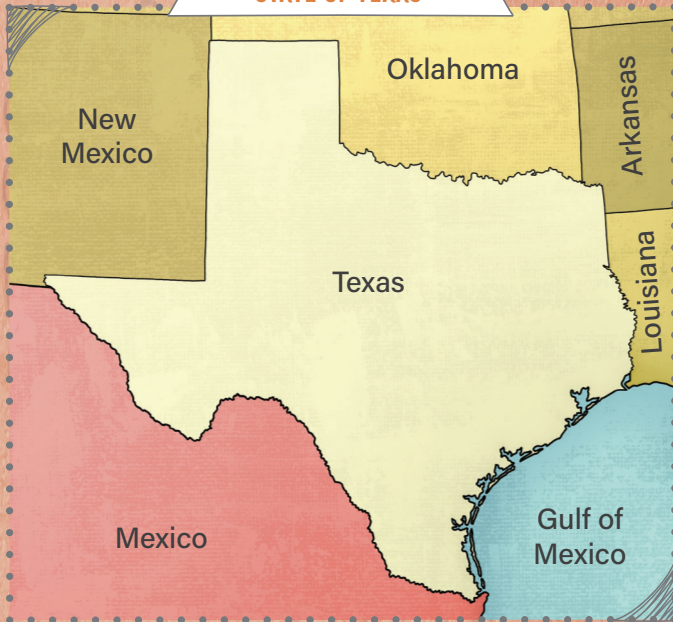
contiguous states [kun-TIG-you-us]

states whose borders touch without another country or ocean between them

In 1845 Texas became the 28th state to join the country, and its state code is TX. It is a contiguous state, which means it touches other US states. However, while Texas has four US states as neighbors, it is still big enough to share borders with a large body of water and even another country!



STATE OF TEXAS



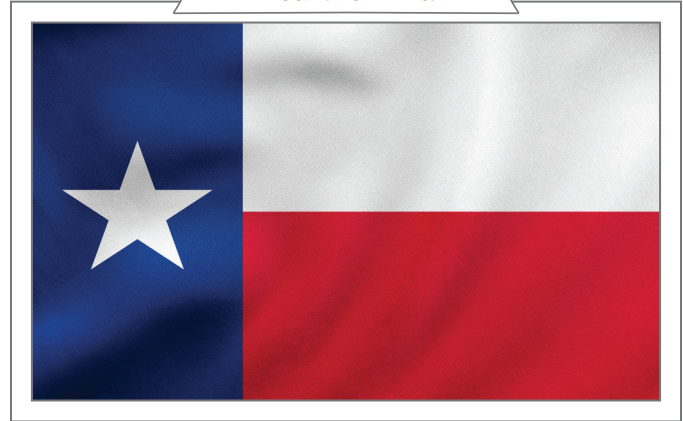
- Write Texas's state code.

- On the map, highlight the borders that Texas shares with other US states.
- Write the state codes of the four states that border Texas.

- Write the name of the country that borders Texas.

- Write the name of the large body of water that borders Texas.

TEXAS STATE FLAG



Texas State Flag

Texas's first flag, flown in 1863, consisted of a lone star. In 1893 the flag's design changed to include stripes, but it kept the same bright star and hasn't changed since. The flag's colors—red, white, and blue—are the same shades as the United States flag, and they stand for the same things as well: red for courage, white for purity and **liberty**, and blue for loyalty. You can see how these ideals are reflected in the pledge to the Texas flag below.

Honor the Texas flag;

*I pledge **allegiance** to thee, Texas,*

one state under God,

one and indivisible.

liberty

freedom; the power to make your own choices

allegiance [uh-LEE-jinse]

loyalty, commitment, and devotion

Texas State Nicknames and Symbols

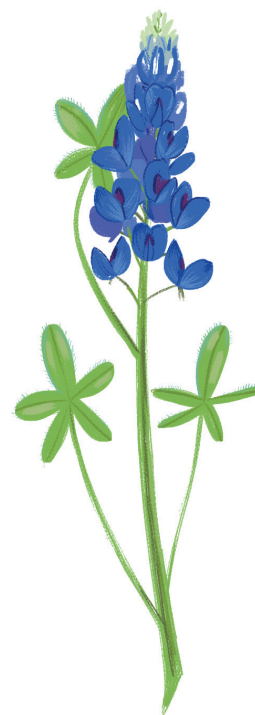
While it is uncertain how Texas got its name, the popular belief is that it comes from **tejas** [TAY-hass], the Native Caddo Nation's word for "friends." This belief may have influenced the state's **motto**, which is "Friendship." Established in 1930, this motto continues to guide the neighborly actions of Texans today.

Though the name "Texas" is a bit of a mystery, there's a well-known origin for Texas's nickname, the Lone Star State. Texas stood as its own country for a time and flew its first flag with the single star on it, symbolizing its independence. This "lone star" also appears on the state's seal, shown below.



A state **seal** is an official image that shows the authority of the state government. It appears on official documents, including driver's licenses, and its use is regulated by law. This means that only officials in the state can allow people to use the seal, which ensures that only approved government documents feature it. The seal you see above has changed over the years, though all versions have included the five-pointed star.

Texas has many state symbols, including plants, animals, and other things that best represent the area. From late February through early May, parts of Texas are blanketed with the state flower, the bluebonnet. Chosen to be Texas's state flower in 1901, this beautiful blue wildflower is planted regularly alongside highways all over the state. Next time you go on a road trip, keep an eye out for this lovely bloom.



Bluebonnet

The bluebonnet is not just beautiful—its nectar makes the perfect snack for the butterflies that **migrate** through Texas every year.

Of the more than 400 species of butterfly that can be found in Texas, the one chosen to be the state butterfly is the monarch butterfly. With wings in varying shades of gold, orange, and red, the monarch butterfly is as brilliantly colored as a Texas sunset.



Monarch Butterfly

motto

a short sentence or phrase that stands for something

seal

an official symbol representing a person, place, or organization (Texas's seal features the "lone star" surrounded by olive and oak branches.)

migrate [MYE-grate]

to move from one place to another based on the seasons

Have you ever seen a Texas longhorn in person? This impressive animal, unsurprisingly known for its incredibly long horns, is the state's official large mammal. In contrast to the longhorn's intimidating size, the cat-sized armadillo is Texas's state small mammal. Though an armadillo's leathery armored shell and long claws make it look just as tough as a longhorn, this animal prefers to scuttle out of trouble instead of fight and uses its claws for digging up insects to eat.

Other state symbols include the state tree, state reptile, and state bird, which are pictured below and to the right.



Pecan tree



Texas longhorn



Armadillo



Horned lizard



Mockingbird



The Pledge of Allegiance



I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



These words likely feel familiar to you. This is the Pledge of Allegiance, a promise of loyalty to our country that is often recited at schools and sports games. Baptist minister Francis Bellamy penned the original pledge in 1892, after which it was the subject of much debate and went through several rewordings.

In 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Flag Code, which included an official version of the pledge for people to recite. President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Congress to add "under God" to the pledge in 1954, and thus the version people say today was finalized.

The Flag Code also included guidelines for how to display and treat the United States flag and state

flags respectfully. Have you ever seen someone take a flag down from a flagpole? If so, you may have noticed that they were careful to not let the flag touch the ground and folded it neatly to store it. A few other ways we show respect for these great symbols of our state and nation are making sure the flag is properly illuminated at night and disposing of a worn-out or damaged flag properly by burning it rather than throwing it away.

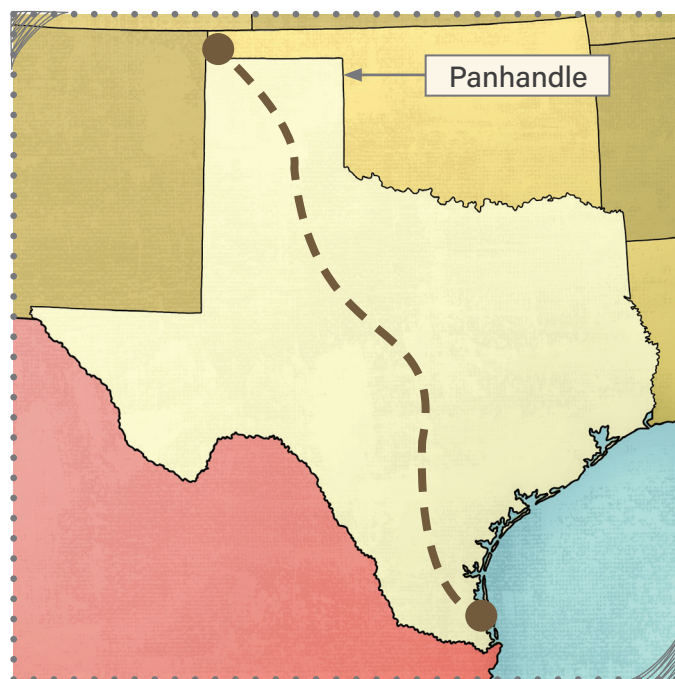
To show devotion to our country, we recite the pledge respectfully by standing, facing the flag, removing any hats, and placing our right hands over our hearts.

Think about the words "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." What does that mean to you?

Texas's Climate

Texas is so large that it does not have just one **climate**. If you were to drive from the northwest tip of the **Panhandle** to the southernmost tip of Texas, you would cross hundreds of miles and probably experience many different kinds of **weather**.

Imagine your road trip through Texas. It starts in warm, grassy plains and then takes you through the **arid**, or dry and desert-like, regions of West Texas. Here, where less than 25 centimeters (10 inches) of rain fall per year, you can really feel the intense heat of the sun. Keep traveling south toward the Gulf Coast, and soon you'll be in a part of Texas that is humid as well as hot, receiving over 152 centimeters (60 inches) of rain each year.



climate [KLY-mut]

weather patterns over a long period of time

weather

the condition of the atmosphere at a given time

arid [AIR-id]

dry and desert-like

FUN FACT:

A **panhandle** is a narrow piece of land that stretches out from the main body of a state. Think about the root words that make up the compound word: pan and handle. Now look at the image of Texas above. Why do you think we call this part of Texas the Panhandle?

There are eight other US states that have panhandles, including Florida and Texas's neighbor, Oklahoma!

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Texas was -30.6°C (-23°F), and the highest was 48.9°C (120°F). In general, Texas experiences long, hot summers and dry, mild winters with very little snowfall each year. Unfortunately, this is not the state for people who love to build snowmen! Spring and fall bring rain in the form of short but heavy thunderstorms.

- Write the correct season that describes each picture. WORD BANK: winter spring/fall summer





ANCIENT PEOPLE OF TEXAS

✨ **SUPPLIES:** colored pencils, highlighter, laptop or computer (optional)

Long before highways, skyscrapers, and busy cities like Houston and Dallas, the lands of Texas were home to some amazing people. When we talk about the first people to live in an area, we often use the term **Indigenous** [in-DI-jin-uhs], or Native. There are Indigenous people on every continent in the world except Antarctica. The first people on the North American continent were here so long ago that it wasn't even called America yet.

"INDIAN ENCAMPMENT, COMANCHE (OR KIOWA)
DRESSING SKINS, RED RIVER" BY GEORGE CATLIN



Can you imagine how different the land must have looked so long ago? Or how differently people must have lived? These ancient people were brave and resilient. They developed ways of living that were perfect for survival in the challenging landscapes of the area.

Take a close look at this photo of downtown Austin, Texas. It is full of modern conveniences that the Indigenous people would not have had. Notice the bridge spanning the river—a structure that makes crossing water a quick and easy experience. Native Americans would have needed to carefully plan their river crossings, perhaps using canoes, swimming, or finding shallow areas to wade through.



- Write a short list of the modern conveniences you spot in the photo and think about how differently the land would have been used by Native Americans.

Names are powerful. Just like your name tells people who you are and what family you come from, Native Americans have names that represent their unique cultures and communities.

It is believed that when the explorer Christopher Columbus first arrived in the Americas in 1492, he mistakenly thought he had reached the East Indies. This error led him to call the native people "Indians." Today, we often use the clearer terms American Indians, Native Americans, or Indigenous Americans when speaking of these first people and their descendants who continue to live across North America.

As the first Native Americans spread across the continent, they formed small close-knit family groups called nations. Each nation was unique, with shared languages, beliefs, and traditions. Over time hundreds of different nations developed, each with its own culture and way of life. We use the names of these nations to identify the groups whenever possible.



The First Americans

Archaeologists have spent many years piecing together the story of the first people who lived on this land. Through careful digging and the study of old artifacts, these scientists have discovered that Indigenous people had been living here long before other explorers arrived.

When Christopher Columbus's ship crossed the ocean and landed in the Americas, he truly believed he had discovered a new land that had not been settled. He turned out to be very wrong. Vikings had made similar voyages across the ocean hundreds of years before Columbus was born.



Native American Nations in Texas

When European explorers found the land that is now Texas, there were many Native American nations spread out across it. These people were collectively known by explorers as the Coahuiltecans [ko-wa-WEEL-tih-kanz], but each nation had a unique culture with varying languages, politics, diets, and more. Let's look at two categories, which separate the nations based on how they got their food: 1) hunting and gathering and 2) farming and trading.

Hunting and Gathering

Imagine not having a permanent home with a grocery store nearby. Instead, you have a tent that you carry around from place to place as you look for things to eat. This is called a **nomadic** [no-MAD-ick] lifestyle, and before Europeans came to America, this was how many Native Americans lived. Most groups moved in order to hunt bison, their main source of food. They would also gather food from plants, such as wild nuts and berries, as they traveled. Let's take a closer look at three nations who were hunters and gatherers.

Tonkawa

The Tonkawas [tahn-KAH-wuz] hunted bison all along the coast of Texas. Bison were very important to many Native American nations. Not only would they eat the meat, but they would also fashion tools out of the animals' bones and clothes out of their hides.

As they traveled, searching for bison and other food, the Tonkawas built temporary homes on the banks of rivers and streams. You may have heard of teepees before. These cone-shaped huts were typical homes for many Native Americans, including the Tonkawas. Each evening, teepees were built quickly out of branches and animal hides, and each morning, they were taken apart or abandoned before the Tonkawas moved on to continue hunting.



The pictographs found in Big Bend National Park are an example of the types of evidence archaeologists study. These colorful rock paintings were created by Indigenous people from long ago. Most pictographs show scenes of hunting, daily life, or important ceremonies. What do you think the ones in this photo tell us about the Indigenous people? If you were to leave behind a pictograph of something important to you, what would it be? Use the space provided to create your own pictograph.





THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

SUPPLIES: colored pencils, highlighter, dictionary

Texas's nickname is the Lone Star State, but how did it earn this title? In 1836 Texas declared its independence from Mexico. At the time, the state was bigger than it is today but much smaller than Mexico and the United States.

Plus, its population was still trying to grow. The Texans who declared their independence knew they would have a hard time becoming their own nation. However, they were determined to shine brightly and bravely even if they had to stand alone. It was this idea that inspired the "Lone Star," a symbol that would appear on Texas's first flag, created in 1836.

Take a look at the three flags below, which were all designed to proudly represent the Republic of Texas. The first flag was designed by a man named Lorenzo de Zavala [sah-VAH-luh] in 1836. While it was proposed as Texas's first official flag, historical records show that the second flag was chosen instead, and it flew over Texas from 1836 to 1839. Finally, it was replaced by the third flag, which is the same flag used to represent Texas as a state today.



Compare the three flags above, and then answer the questions below:

- Which color is present in all three flags?
- We learned in Lesson 1 that the blue color in the Texas flag stands for loyalty. Now that you've learned a little more about Texas history, why do you think loyalty was an important symbol to add to the flag?

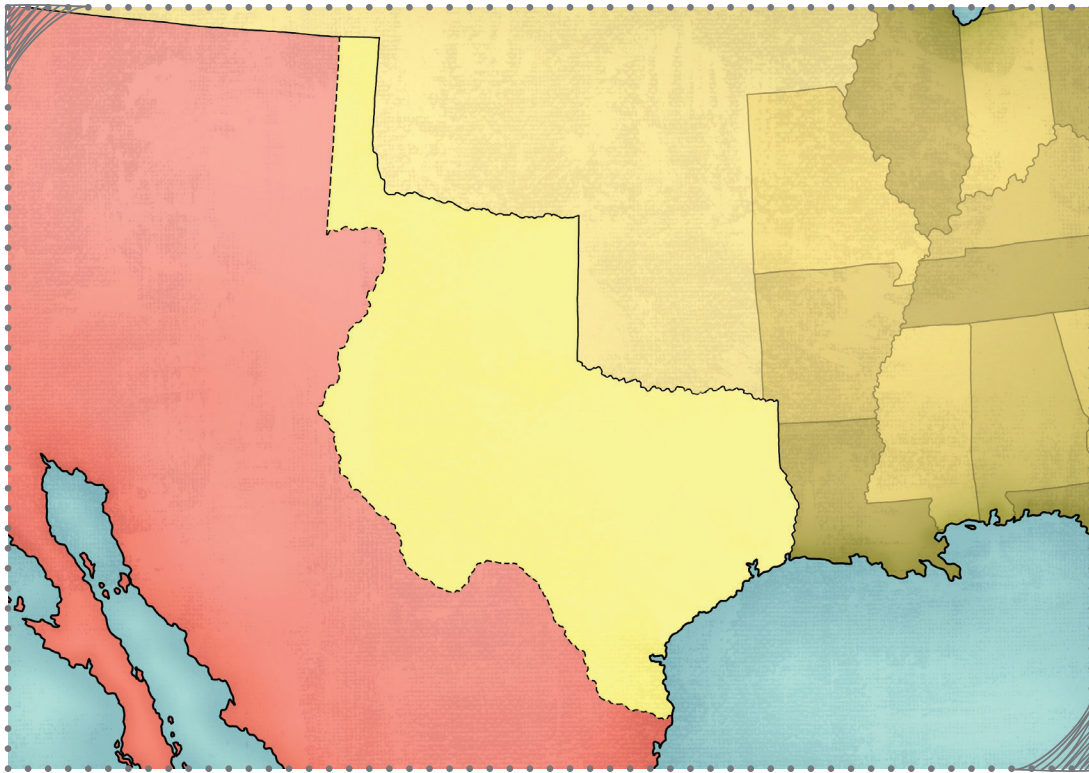
The Texas Revolution

In Lesson 8 we briefly discussed how the Tejanos and Anglo-American Texans disagreed with the Mexican government about certain things, such as slavery. Tension continued to build between Texas and Mexico for quite some time. As more and more people moved to Texas, the Mexican government began to worry.

Texas as an Independent Republic

Just as Mexico struggled when it became a new country, Texas had many troubles to overcome after its successful revolution. The Republic of Texas was in debt from day one, and even though agriculture and other industries were growing, its financial worries never went away. At the same time, the Native American nations still living in Texas fought against the new republic as fiercely as they had

fought against the Spanish, French, and Mexican people who tried settling there before. Texas never got a break from fighting, especially with the Mexican government refusing to acknowledge the treaties that had ended the Texas Revolution. There would be many more battles and skirmishes from 1836 to 1845.

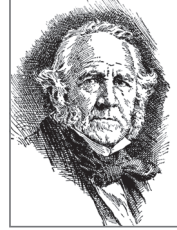


- The map shows what Texas looked like as a republic. How is it similar to the shape of Texas today? How is it different?
- Similar:
- Different:

Despite these troubles Texas gained a distinct identity during its nine years as an independent republic. Many things strongly associated with Texas today, such as cowboys and Rangers, came about during this time. Modern Western movies set in the Wild West of America were inspired by this time in Texas. They show the grand adventures of cowboys and other frontiersmen, and most have epic scenes of horses racing across desert plains and outlaws having gunfights in small towns. Texas was part of the Wild West, and it is the setting of many Western films.

SAM HOUSTON (1793–1863)

In addition to leading Texas to victory during the Texas Revolution, Sam Houston was honored to become the first president of the Republic of Texas. He worked tirelessly to bring peace to the land and its people.



THE TEXAS RANGERS

At a glance you might think a Texas Ranger is a regular cowboy because he rides a horse and wears a cowboy hat. However, the Rangers were lawmen, or a type of police. Originally established by Stephen F. Austin in 1823, the Rangers were formed to protect Texans from Native American attacks.

During the Texas Revolution, they fought as soldiers. When the Republic of Texas was formed, the Texas Rangers returned to their original duty of protecting frontiersmen as they settled in new parts of the land to build new farms, ranches, and towns.





Activity

SECRET CODE ACTIVITY

Use the secret code to find the phrases about the Republic of Texas. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

1 = A	14 = N
2 = B	15 = O
3 = C	16 = P
4 = D	17 = Q
5 = E	18 = R
6 = F	19 = S
7 = G	20 = T
8 = H	21 = U
9 = I	22 = V
10 = J	23 = W
11 = K	24 = X
12 = L	25 = Y
13 = M	26 = Z

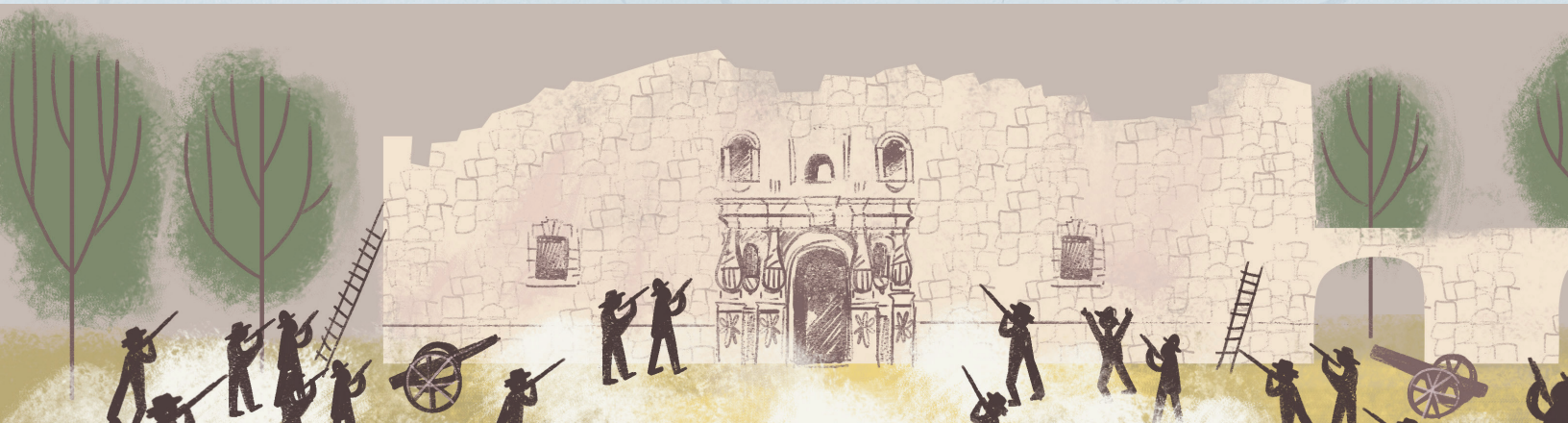
18 5 13 5 13 2 5 18

20 8 5

1 12 1 13 15 !

3 15 13 5 1 14 4

20 1 11 5 9 20 !



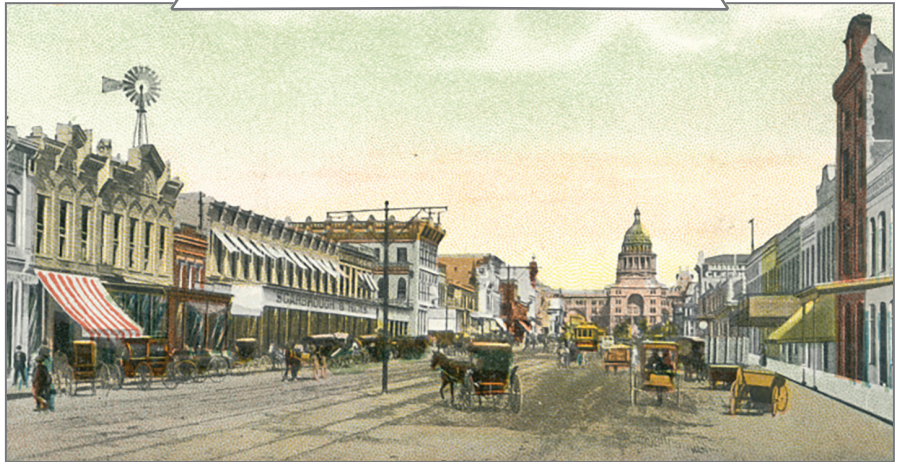


TEXAS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

SUPPLIES: colored pencils

As Texas entered the 1900s, the state was growing fast. New railroads, cattle drives, and the oil that bubbled underground all attracted newcomers. Things were looking bright for the new century, but Texas was met with great challenges right away. Let's explore how the state faced these challenges and came out stronger on the other side.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, CONGRESS AVENUE,
LOOKING TOWARD THE CAPITOL



Galveston Hurricane

The Great Galveston Hurricane struck on September 8, 1900. The wind howled, waves crashed over the land, and water flooded the entire city. Six thousand people were killed, and the storm almost destroyed every building in Galveston. It is considered the deadliest natural disaster in United States history. But the people of Galveston didn't give up; they knew they had to rebuild, and part of that process included constructing a 17-foot wall called a seawall, designed to block large waves. Since then, that seawall has endured and protected Galveston from many hurricanes and flood waves.



- Circle the things that brought new settlers to Texas.

railroads cattle drives oil
deserts new houses hurricanes

WILD WEATHER

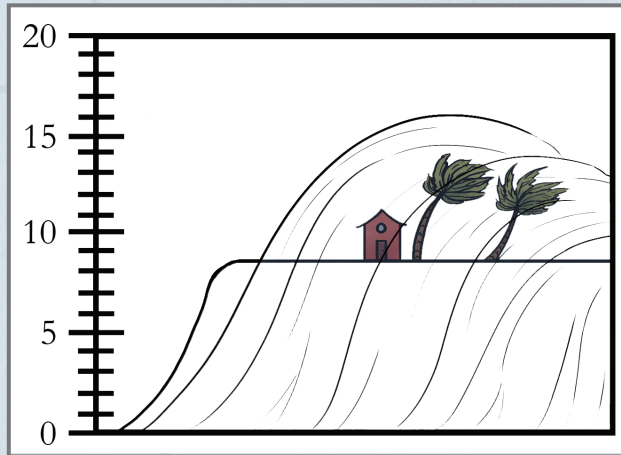
What is a hurricane? It is a cyclone formed in the tropics, with winds of 119 kilometers (74 miles) per hour or greater, that are usually accompanied by rain, thunder, and lightning.



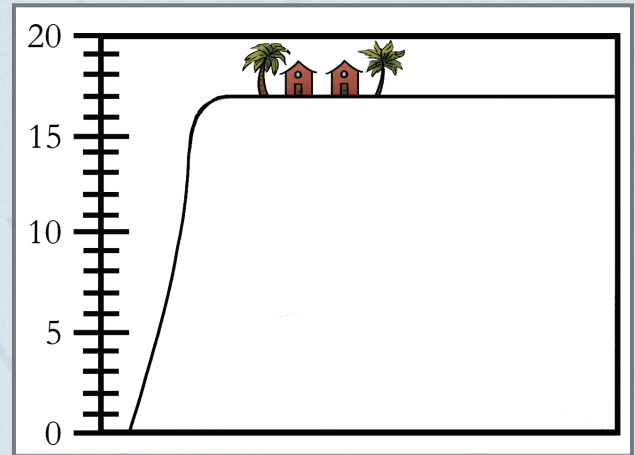


STORM SURGES AND THE GALVESTON SEAWALL

As you see in the chart below, the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 would be labeled a Category Four based on the storm surge of 15 feet. The winds would have been 131 to 155 miles per hour (mph) and the damage and flooding very extensive.



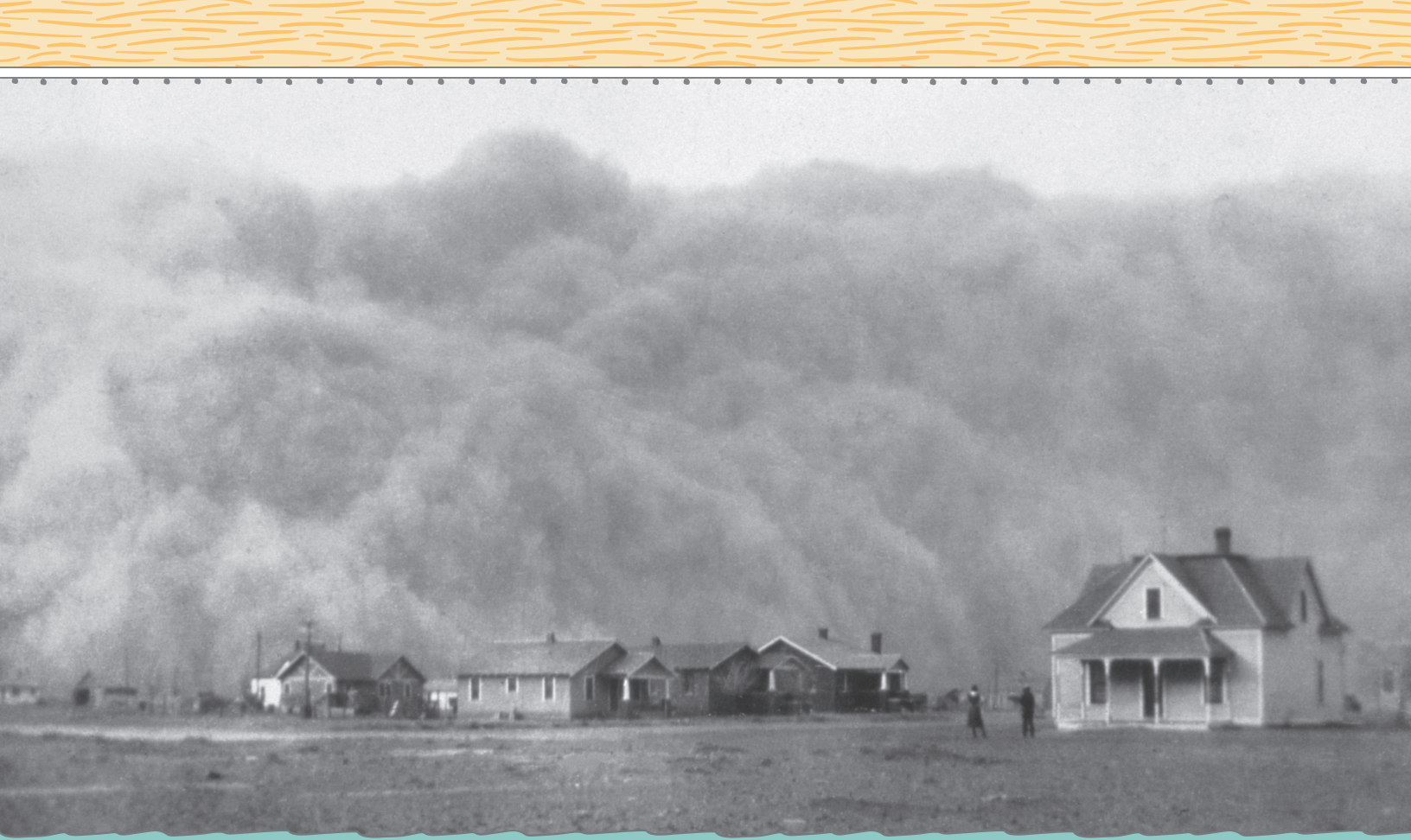
1. The highest elevation on Galveston in 1900 was 8.7 feet. Color the island above brown.
2. The storm surge during the hurricane was 15.7 feet. Use a blue colored pencil and trace the wave on the chart above.



1. The seawall was built to raise the elevation of the island to 17 feet. Color the island above brown.
2. Draw a horizontal line at 15.7 feet, where the storm surge would hit in a similar hurricane. Do you think the wall was a good idea? **Yes / No**

Hurricane Categories

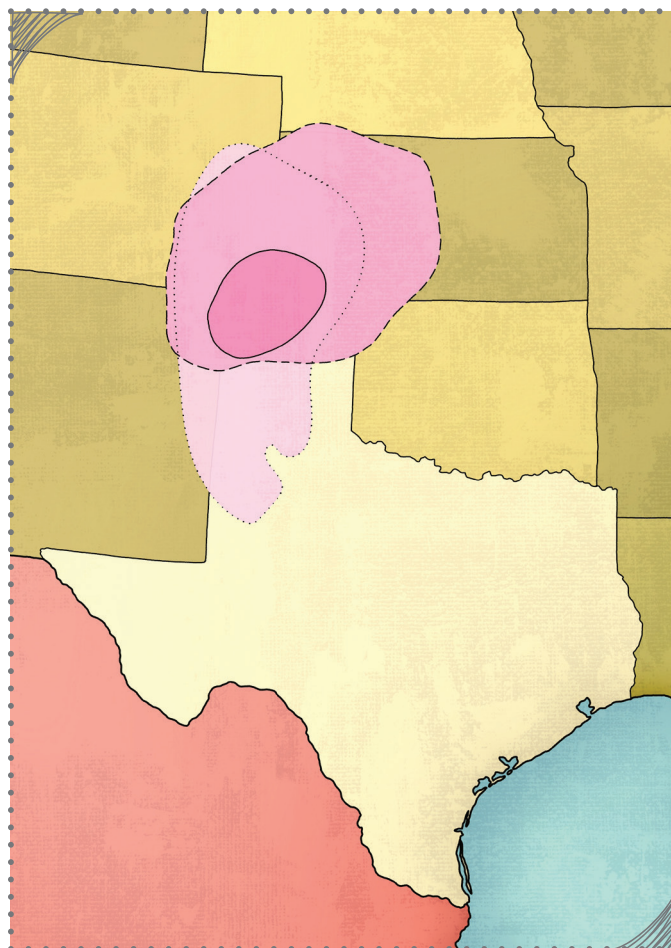
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Wind Speed (in mph)	74-95	96-110	111-130	131-155	Over 155
Storm Surge (in feet)	4-5	6-8	9-12	13-18	Over 18
Damage	Minimal: No real structural damage; some flooding	Moderate: Material damage to buildings; small craft break moorings	Extensive: Structural damage to small houses; inland flooding	Extreme: Major structural damage and heavy flooding; evacuation necessary	Catastrophic: Massive damage to buildings; small structures blown over or away



Dust Bowl in Texas

In the midst of the Great Depression, severe dust storms and droughts hit the Great Plains area in the 1930s. These storms affected the Western and Panhandle regions of Texas. This time became known as the Dust Bowl, and it was one of the worst human-made ecological disasters in history. Prior to this, in the 1920s, farmers in West Texas dug up the natural grass across wide areas of land to plant crops. When a bad drought (a long period without rain) came, there was nothing to hold the dirt down anymore. The wind picked up the dry dirt and created huge dust storms, sometimes thousands of feet high.

These storms looked like giant walls of dirt and could last for days. People had to shovel dirt out of their yards and even their homes. Cars and tractors broke down because they were filled with dirt and sand. Some storms were so bad people couldn't see anything in front of them, even in the middle of the day. The dust was especially hard on babies and





TEXAS STATE GOVERNMENT

 **SUPPLIES:** laptop or computer (optional)

Soccer, football, basketball, and baseball all have teams made up of individuals with different jobs. If each player does their job well, then the team will succeed. Governments work a lot like sports teams. It takes many people with different jobs and positions to make them a success. In this lesson you will learn about the Texas state government. Who is in charge? What are the different branches? How does it compare to other governments?

The Texas Constitution

Much like a rule book for a game, the **Texas Constitution** is a set of rules written by Texans for Texans in 1876. It explains how the government works, who's in charge, and how everyone's rights are protected. The constitution Texas created is based on an idea called **limited government**. This creates boundaries for the government, which can only operate and do its job as written in the constitution. It also protects the rights of the citizens of Texas.

The Texas Constitution begins with a short but profound preamble: "Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God, the people of the State of Texas, do ordain and establish this constitution." The preamble is followed by the Bill of Rights, which guards the rights of the citizens. This comes from the idea of every citizen having individual rights, which is a major component of limited government. There are many other ideas reflected in the Texas Constitution, and they all have helped shape Texas into the state it is today.

Texans also wanted to implement **republicanism**, which is a style of government that gives the people the right to vote for representatives who will make

laws on their behalf. Like you learned in the last lesson, states believed that having checks and balances would keep any one branch of government from becoming too powerful. So state governments decided to separate powers by creating the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Texans very intentionally made sure that citizens' voices would matter and every vote would count; this idea is called **popular sovereignty**.

Circle the correct answer for each question.

Who wrote the Texas Constitution?

Texans or **people from other states**

What kind of power does limited government give the government?

some power or **unrestricted power**

What is the Texas Bill of Rights about?

government powers or **individual rights**

Where does power come from in popular sovereignty?

the government or **the people**

What does republicanism involve?

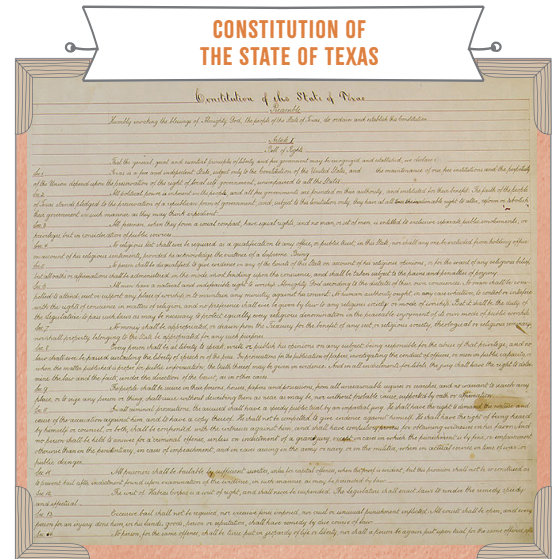
voting for laws directly or **voting for representatives**

Amendments

Texans can update the constitution if they see a need for change. This is called making an amendment. For an amendment to pass, two-thirds of the House and Senate must agree that a change is needed. Voters then decide to say yes or no to the change through an election. If most of the voters say yes, then the amendment becomes part of the constitution. There have been over 500 amendments to the Texas Constitution since it was first written. With each change Texas goes through, more guidelines have been added.

From the Texas Revolution to Now

During the Texas Revolution in 1836, Texans wrote their first constitution. They were fighting for independence at the time, meaning that first version was more about freedom from Mexico and forming their new country, the Republic of Texas. The constitution in place today was written in 1876 after Texas had joined the United States. It focuses more on balancing responsibility, protecting rights, giving people a voice, and preventing the government from having too much power.



Texas vs. United States: Let's Compare!

We have already learned that a constitution is like a rule book. So let's look at it like this: The US Constitution is like the rule book for an entire sport, covering all the universally important guidelines. The Texas Constitution, in the meantime, is like a rule book for a specific team, where the coach makes specific rules for the players. Look at the table below to see the differences between the Texas and US Constitutions.

	Texas Constitution	US Constitution
Amendments	Easy to amend and has over 500 amendments	Amendments are rare and need approval from multiple states; only 27 amendments
Bill of Rights	Found as Article 1 in the Texas Constitution with the same freedoms as the US plus a few extras such as the right to protect your home	Listed as the first 10 amendments with freedoms like free speech and freedom of religion
Government Setup	Three branches, limits of power, and they only meet every two years	Three branches, more flexibility, and Congress meets regularly
Focus	State issues like schools, roads, and local laws	National issues like the army, trade, and foreign policy
Length	Long and detailed, more than 80,000 words	Short and broad, about 4,500 words