

The Geographic Regions of Texas

Texas is so large that geographers divide it into four regions. Each region has different resources. Those resources help make Texas one of the richest states in the country.

One region of Texas is called the Gulf Coastal Plain. It covers eastern and southern Texas. The climate in this region is warm and wet. Long ago forests covered the Gulf Coastal Plain. Today, much of the land has been cleared for farming and ranching. Farmers grow cotton, vegetables, rice, and fruit. Oil and natural gas are among the important natural resources of this region.

Another region of Texas is the North Central Plains. Here the climate is drier. Grasslands make up a large part of the North Central Plains. Ranchers graze cattle and sheep on the grasslands. Farmers in this region grow cotton. The North Central Plains are rich in resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

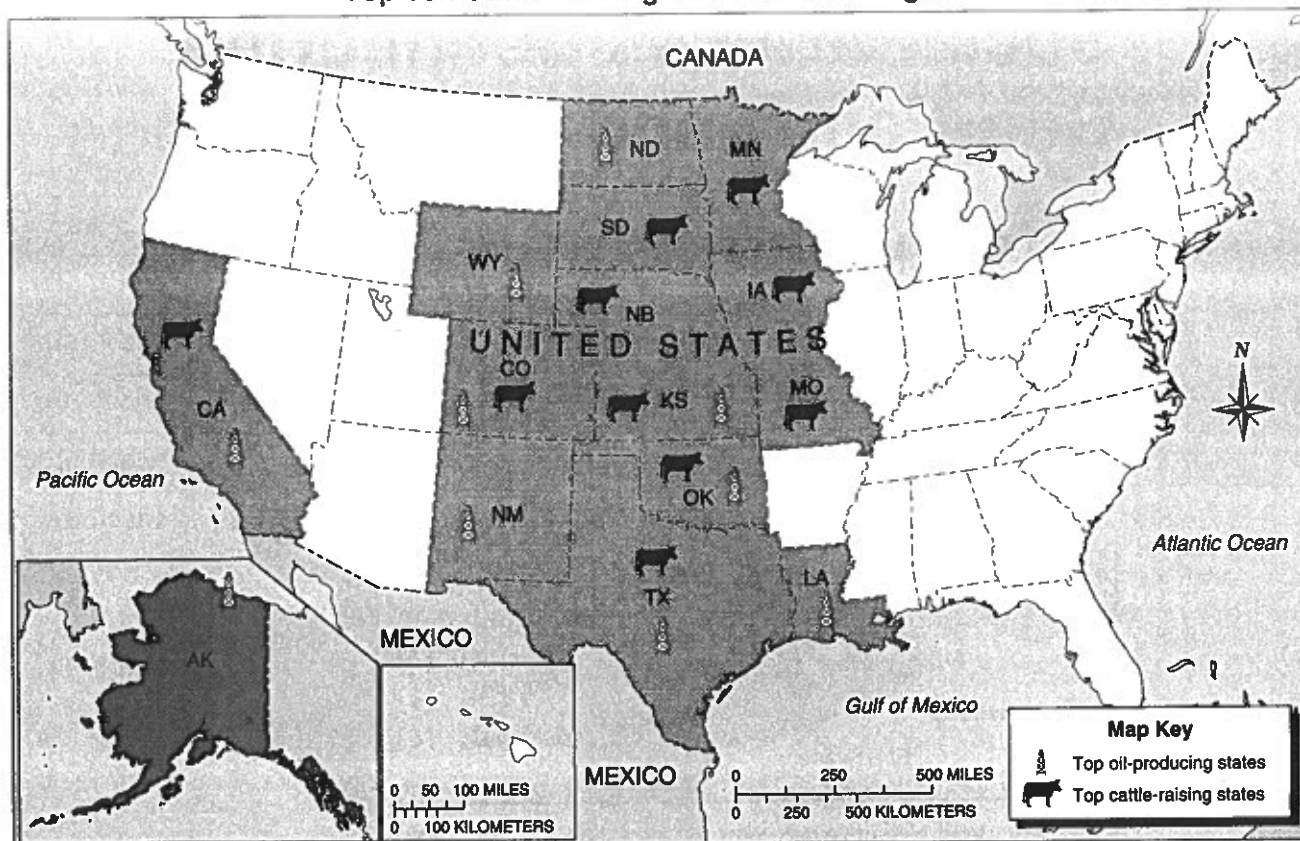
The Great Plains region is colder and drier than the other three regions. Farmers must irrigate their wheat fields. Irrigation also helps supply water to the ranchers of this region. Some of the richest oil fields in Texas lie beneath the Great Plains.

The Basin and Range region is the mountainous area in western Texas. Miners have found resources such as gold, copper, and silver in these mountains. Like the Great Plains, the climate is dry. Ranching and farming are possible only through the use of irrigation.

Circle the number of the best answer.

- 7** The farmers and ranchers of Texas use irrigation
- (1) as a way to find rich oil fields.
 - (2) to help them find gold and silver.
 - (3) as a way to find natural gas deposits.
 - (4) to get water for their crops and animals.
 - (5) to get water from other regions.
- 8** Which of the following explains why Texas is divided into four regions?
- (1) Texas is one of the richest states.
 - (2) Rainfall in Texas varies from place to place.
 - (3) Texas has many resources.
 - (4) Texas is large with varied landforms.
 - (5) Farms and ranches lie throughout Texas.

Top Ten Cattle-Raising and Oil-Producing States



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Energy Information Administration

Write or circle the answer to each question.

- 9 Which map symbol is used to show the top oil-producing states?

- 10 Which symbol on the map is used to show the top cattle-raising states?

- 11 Which of the following cannot be determined from the map?
 - (1) how many southern states are top oil producers
 - (2) how many western states are top cattle raisers
 - (3) how much oil is produced in the top oil-producing states
 - (4) how many states are the top producers of both oil and cattle
 - (5) where the top cattle-raising states are located



Borrow a videotape about the Arctic from your local library. As you watch the video, list the features that make the Arctic region special. Write down at least one new fact about the region that you learn from the video.