

LESSON 24

Cities and Towns in Texas

- *Population*

Post–2000 Patterns

Fastest Growing/Declining Counties

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 8, 9, 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17,

19, 20, 21, 22, 23

8 - 10, 12, 23, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 2, 4

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will individually select one county from “Fastest Growing Counties” and one from “Fastest Declining Counties.” They will conduct research and compare their chosen counties to determine reasons for the growth and the decline. Each student will create a visual to illustrate their research. This visual might be a poster, PowerPoint presentation, or other as determined by the teacher.
2. Students will work in small groups to assume the role of a county’s economic development board. They will choose one of the counties listed in “Fastest Declining Counties.” As they conduct research and prepare for the board meeting, students should establish goals for population growth and economic diversity for their chosen county. Students should address retail, entertainment, medical, and education concerns as well as attracting and retaining younger residents. After the groups’ board meetings, they will report their findings to the class.

3. Metropolitan Statistical Areas

The teacher will assign to each student one of the twenty-five **Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)** to research. In some larger classes, two students (working independently) will research the same MSA, or a few may work in pairs. All MSAs should be assigned. Using the Texas Almanac, as well as other resources, students will find the following information about their assigned MSA:

- Population estimate for the MSA
- Did the population increase or decrease according to the chart? By what percent?
- In what area of the state is this MSA located?
- Physical features
- Economy
- History
- Minerals
- Agriculture
- Education
- What might have contributed most to the increase or decrease of the MSA?

Students will present their findings to the class. This may include an oral presentation accompanied by PowerPoint or a poster. After presenting this information, students will compare their facts with others and will decide which MSA is most similar to theirs and which one is most different.



4. Visiting a New City or Town

Using a large map of Texas, each student will choose one city or town in Texas they would like to visit but have not visited in the past. Students must determine in which county the town/city is located and will look for significant facts in the Almanac and in other resources such as the online Handbook of Texas (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online>). Items students should address in their research include: retail, entertainment, medical, and education concerns. Emphasis may be given to recreational opportunities and special events of interest to students. Finally, each student will make a brochure (or other visual) to recommend visiting their chosen town/city to other students. Time should be allowed for students to exchange and read brochures from other class members.

5. My Hometown

Each student will create a documentary about his/her hometown. Students should begin their research by consulting the Almanac to find important facts. Additionally, they will look for other pertinent sources of information such as the local library, any published documents, and oral interviews with hometown residents. This information should include history, population, retail, medical facilities, entertainment, educational opportunities, special events, and other information of interest to the students. Students should also take pictures of various places in their hometown which are personally important. For example, these pictures should include their home, school buildings, religious institutions, favorite recreational establishments, and any other items chosen by the individual students. After gathering all pertinent information, students will compose an essay about their hometown and include pictures. This presentation can be in a scrapbook format, a video, or if available in an electronic format and saved to CD.

6. How Towns Grew

Using information from “Ten Largest Cities,” students will locate information about each of the ten most populous cities in Texas. Students should use the graph, below, or make five columns on a sheet of paper and label the columns: city, population, date founded, named for, and reason established (see below). Using information from the online Handbook of Texas (<http://www.tshaonline.org>), students will determine the date each city was founded, for whom or what the city was named, and the reason it was established. If online computers are not available to students, the teacher may wish to print copies of city information from the online Handbook of Texas.

CITY	POPULATION	DATE FOUNDED	NAMED FOR	REASON ESTABLISHED



LESSON 24 — Cities and Towns in Texas

7. Name the largest town/city in each of these counties. Use the alphabetic listing of counties to find the county. Read the information to determine which town/city in that county has the largest population. Write the name in the blank.

_____	Angelina	_____	Jim Hogg
_____	Bexar	_____	McLennan
_____	Borden	_____	Motley
_____	Coke	_____	Nueces
_____	Crockett	_____	Smith
_____	Dallas	_____	Tarrant
_____	Dimmit	_____	Travis
_____	Erath	_____	Webb
_____	Harris	_____	Young
_____	Houston	_____	Zavala

8. We borrowed names for some of the towns in Texas. See if you can guess the Texas town being described. If you need help, look in the county information (county name is in parentheses).

Travel to cities with out-of-state names.

_____	Capital of Georgia (Cass)
_____	Another word for bison (Leon)
_____	Motor city, automobile capital (Red River)
_____	Mile-high city, home of Broncos football team (Yoakum)
_____	Ice cream bar with polar bear mascot (Dawson)
_____	Snow-covered in Spanish (Collin)
_____	Home of the blues and Graceland (Hall)
_____	Popular beach in southern Florida (Roberts)
_____	Home of Harvard University (Bowie)
_____	Capital of New Mexico (Galveston)

Want to visit places with foreign-sounding names?

_____	Home of the Parthenon (Henderson)
_____	Our neighbors to the north (Hemphill)
_____	Most populous country (Jefferson)
_____	Capital of Ireland (Erath)
_____	Home of the pyramids (Wharton)
_____	A Thanksgiving food (Hall)
_____	Capital of France (Lamar)

