

LESSON 19

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Weather in Texas

- *Weather*
- *Significant and Destructive Weather*
- *Texas Temperature, Freeze, Growing Season and Precipitation Records by County*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 9, 20, 21, 22, 23

7 - 9, 10, 20, 21, 22, 23

8 - 27, 29, 30

STAAR

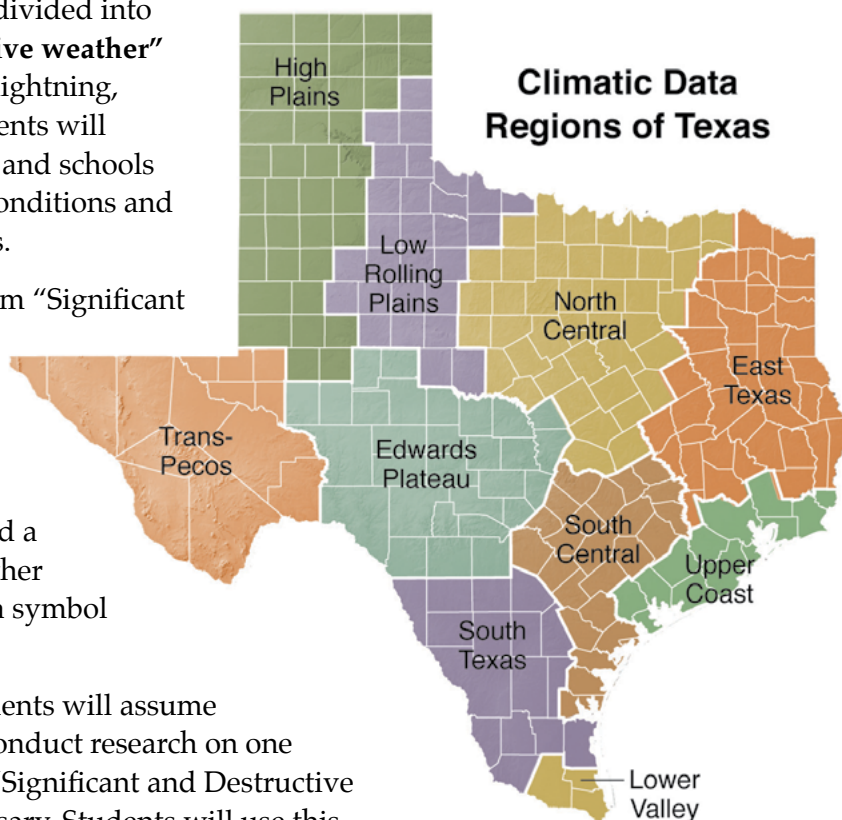
4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 4

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. DOCUMENTARY OR POWERPOINT:** Using the “Weather” section of the Texas Almanac, students will create and produce a **documentary and/or PowerPoint** on weather conditions and events of the most recent year available. Students will include maps, graphics, written content, and human interest anecdotes.
- 2. TORNADO BAR GRAPH:** Using the “Significant and Destructive Weather” and “Texas Is Tornado Capital” sections, students will calculate the **number of tornadoes** for each of the last four complete decades (i.e., 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s) and chart this on a **bar graph** (use Graph Grid in Appendix).
- 3. SAFETY REPORT:** The class will be divided into groups and each assigned a “**destructive weather condition**” (tornado, hurricane, flood, lightning, snowstorm, hail, thunderstorm). Students will research safety precautions for homes and schools regarding these destructive weather conditions and report to the entire class on their plans.
- 4. MINI-BOOK:** Using information from “Significant and Destructive Weather,” students will select seven types of destructive weather and create a **Miniature Book** (see Appendix) titled “**Texas Destructive Weather.**” The book should include an illustrated cover and a page for each type of destructive weather with a definition, an illustration, and a symbol for each.
- 5. STORM CHASER RESEARCH:** Students will assume the role of a **storm chaser**. They will conduct research on one Texas storm, using information from “Significant and Destructive Weather” and other research, as necessary. Students will use this information to answer the questions on the **Student Activity Sheet**.



LESSON 19 – Weather in Texas

6. CLIMATIC DATA CHART: Students will create a **chart of 10 counties** — their own and one county from each of the other Climatic Data Regions of Texas — using the map of “Climatic Data Regions of Texas,” the table “Texas Temperature, Freeze, Growing Season and Precipitation Records by County,” and a Texas Counties Map (see Appendix). Categories on the chart will be:

- **highest record temperature**
- **lowest record temperature**
- **length of growing season**
- **annual precipitation**

Upon completion of the chart, students will answer these questions based on their findings.

a. Which climatic region of Texas has the highest temperature? _____

b. Which climatic region of Texas has the lowest temperature? _____

c. Which climatic region of Texas has the longest growing season? _____

d. Which climatic region of Texas has the greatest precipitation? _____

e. What inferences can be drawn from a comparison of this data? _____

Sacred Heart Church stands amid the ruins of the Great Galveston Storm of Sept. 8–9, 1900. The hurricane is the worst natural disaster in U.S. history in terms of human life.

Loss of life at Galveston has been estimated at 6,000 to 8,000 people, but the exact number has never been determined. Texas Almanac file photo.



Storm Chaser Research

Assume the role of a storm chaser and conduct research on one Texas storm, using information from “Significant and Destructive Weather” in the Texas Almanac or on the website at <http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/significant-weather-events-texas-history>, and other research, as necessary. Use this information to answer these questions.

- a. When was the storm? _____
- b. What type of storm was it? _____
- c. What was the location of the storm? _____

- d. How long did the storm last? _____

- e. What was the number of fatalities, if any? _____

- f. How many people were injured by the storm? _____

- g. How much property damage was caused by the storm? _____

- h. If the storm area was declared a disaster area by the federal government, explain why. _____

A twister touches down north of Jarrell in Williamson County on May 27, 1997. It was one of several tornadoes, including an F-5, that ripped through four Central Texas counties, killing 27 people.

Climatic Data Regions of the Lone Star State

