# **LESSON 24**

### TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

### Cities and Towns in Texas

- Population
- Post-2000 Patterns
- Fastest Growing and 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

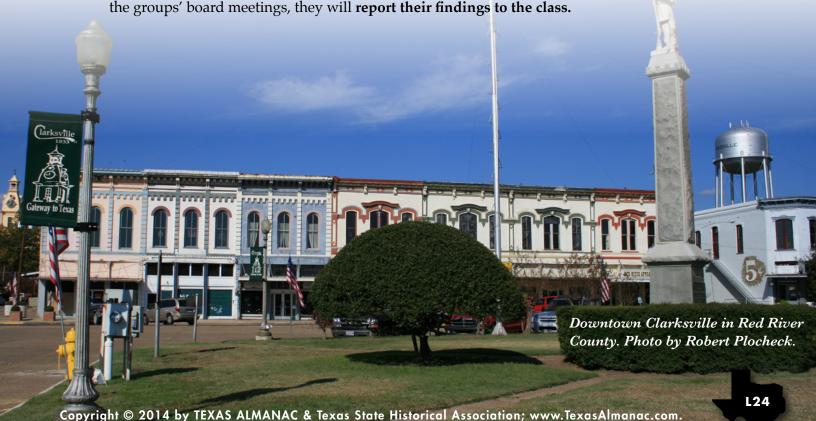
8 - Social Studies - 2, 4

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

**1. GROWING & DECLINING COUNTIES:** Using "Counties of Significant Population Change" in the "Population" section of the Texas Almanac, each student will select one county from "Fastest Growing" and one from "Fastest Declining." They will conduct research and compare their chosen counties to determine reasons for the growth and the decline.

Students will **create a visual** to illustrate their research, which can be a poster, PowerPoint presentation, or other method, as determined by the teacher.

**2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** 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" (either "by Percent Loss" or "by Most Persons Lost"). As they conduct research and prepare for the board meeting, students should establish goals for population growth and economic diversity for their chosen county. They should address **retail**, **entertainment**, **medical**, **and education concerns**, as well as attracting and retaining younger residents. After



#### **LESSON 24** – Cities and Towns in Texas

- 3. METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS: The teacher will assign to each student one of the 25 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 write information about their assigned MSA indicated on the Student Activity Sheet.
  Students will present their findings to the class. This may include an oral presentation accompanied by a 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. MY HOMETOWN: Each student will create a documentary about his or her hometown. Students will begin their research by consulting the Texas Almanac and finding their town in the Almanac's Searchable Town Database: http://www.texasalmanac.com/texas-towns/search. Each town page in the Almanac's Database inlcudes additional links.
  Students should also look for other sources of information, such as the local library, published documents, and oral interviews with hometown residents. This information should include history, population, retail, medical facilities, entertainment, education, special events, and other information of interest to students.
  Students will take pictures of places in their hometown that are personally important; such as their home, school, religious institutions, and favorite recreational destinations. After gathering all information, students will compose an essay about their hometown and include the pictures. This presentation can be in a scrapbook, a video, or in an electronic format and saved to a CD.
- 5. HOW TOWNS GREW: Using the list of "Ten Largest Cities" (found in the Texas Almanac's "State Profile" section), students will find information about each city in the list and record their information in the table on the Student Activity Sheet.
  Students can gather information using the Texas Almanac's Searchable Town Database:
  http://www.texasalmanac.com/texas-towns/search and the Handbook of Texas Online:
  http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook. If computers are not available to students, the teacher can print copies of city information from these sources.
- 6. VISITING A NEW CITY OR TOWN: Using a large map of Texas, each student will choose one city or town they would like to visit but have not yet visited. The Texas Almanac, the Almanac's Searchable Town Database (http://www.texasalmanac.com/texas-towns/search), and resources such as the Handbook of Texas Online (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook) can be used. Students will find the county in which the city or town is located and other significant facts, such as retail, wages, entertainment, medical facilities, education, recreation, and special events. Each student will make a brochure (or other visual) to recommend visiting their chosen city or town to other students. NOTE: Allow time for students to exchange and read brochures from other class members.
- **7. LARGEST TOWN OR CITY:** Name the largest town or city in each of the counties listed on the Student Activity Sheet. Use the alphabetical listing of counties and write the name of the largest town in the blank.
- **8. OUT OF STATE AND FOREIGN-SOUNDING NAMES:** We borrowed names for some of the towns in Texas. See if you can **guess the Texas town** being described on the **Student Activity Sheet.** If you need help, look in the county information (county name is in parentheses).

# My Metropolitan Statistical Area

Write the name of your Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the blank, above. Using the Texas Almanac, as well as other resources, find the information about your MSA and record it in the blanks, below.
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?

## **How Towns Grew**

Using the list of "Ten Largest Cities" (the Texas Almanac's "State Profile" section), find information about each city in the list and record their information in the table. You can use the Almanac's Searchable Town Database and the Handbook of Texas Online to gather information:

http://www.texasalmanac.com/texas-towns/search

http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook

If computers are not available, your teacher can print city information from these sources.

NO.	CITY	POPULATION	DATE FOUNDED	NAMED FOR	REASON ESTABLISHED
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

## Largest Town or City

Name the largest town or city in each of these counties. Use the alphabetical listing of counties and write the name of the largest town in the blank.

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

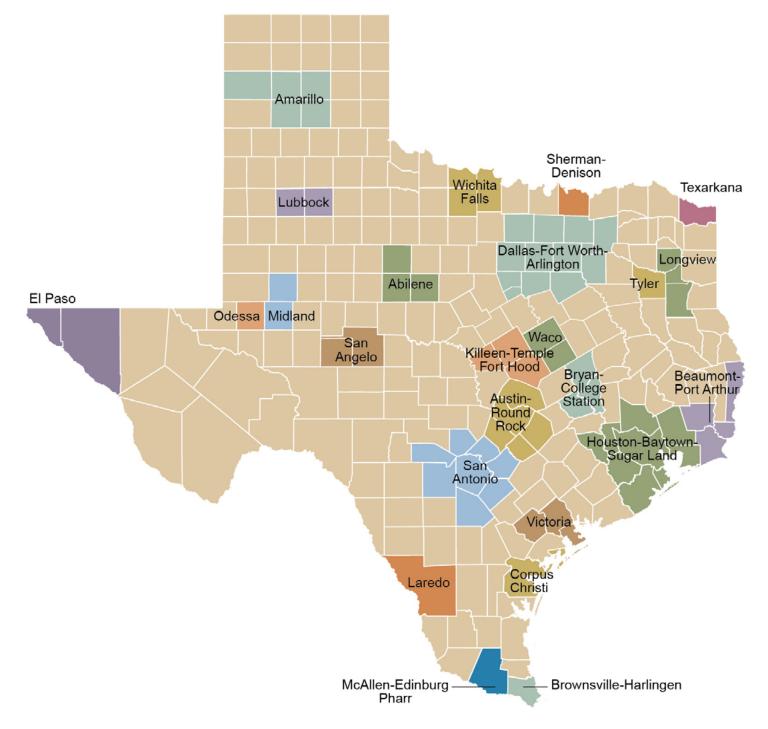
## Out of State and Foreign-Sounding Names

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 (the 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 ( <b>BOWIE</b> )
·	Capital of New Mexico (GALVESTON)
VISIT PLACES WITH F	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)

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas



This map has an accompanying table that lists all counties in each MSA, their most recent population figures, and the percent change from 2010 or 2000. See Population section in any edition of the Texas Almanac. This map is updated for 2014. Also, see the Texas Almanac website: http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population.