A GUIDE TO ALL things TEXAS!
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD a tall tale or two about Texas. A few of them are even true. But it’s not so exaggerated to think of Texas as a whole other country. Covering 268,596 square miles, Texas stretches 801 straight-line miles from north to south and 773 miles from east to west.

A few things about Texas might surprise you. Like mountains looming a mile high in Big Bend Country. Deep forests that blanket millions of acres in the East Texas Piney Woods. Humid swamps where wild orchids grow. Dramatic volcanic landscapes. More than 600 miles of sunny Gulf coastline. Thirty-three modern cities with populations of 100,000 or more. And thousands of square miles of grassy, rolling prairies where ranches and Texas cowboys still thrive.

This isn’t a detailed guide—it’s a quick look at the colorful and distinctive land called Texas. In these pages, you can discover for yourself the truth about the Texas mystique.

Enjoy!
During more than four centuries of recorded history in the area that became Texas, many flags have flown at significant times and places. There was the flag associated with the opening shots of the Texas Revolution at Gonzales in 1835, plus many flags of the revolutionary period that included a “lone star.” Northeast Texas flew flags of the Long Republic and the Fredonian Republics; and South Texas unfurled a flag of the Republic of the Rio Grande. At San Jacinto, where Texas won independence, the charging Texans carried a white silk banner that had the figure of a woman symbolizing liberty.

All are important in telling Texas’ history, but here, we focus on the six flags of the nations that exercised actual dominion over or staked major claims to Texas.

Texas Under Spain 1519–1685; 1690–1821
- Spain became the first European nation to claim what is now Texas, beginning in 1519. More than 100 years before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, Alonso Alvarez de Pádua was busy mapping the Gulf Coast from Florida to Yucatán, claiming the land for the government of Spain. Meanwhile explorer Hernán Cortés was establishing a Spanish presence in Mexico. Spain’s obsession with gold, encouraged by the successes of Cortés, led to more expeditions.
- A few shipwrecked Spaniards, like Alvar Nuñez and Cabeza de Vaca, and explorers such as Vásquez de Coronado, occasionally probed the vast wilderness, but colonization came slowly. It followed the creation of missions and more than 100 years passed before Spain started a settlement that could be called a town in Texas. This was Yaleta, established in 1681 in present-day El Paso.
- Gradually expanding from Mexico, other Spanish missions, forts and civil settlements followed for nearly a century and-a-half until Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821.
- The red-and-yellow-striped Spanish flag of this historic period depicts a lion of Leon and a castle of Castile on a shield topped by a crown.

Texas Under France 1685–1690
- Planning to expand its base from French Louisiana, France took a bold step in 1685, planting its flag in eastern Texas near the Gulf Coast. Although Spain had claimed Texas, most of the territory had no Spanish presence at all. The nearest Spanish settlements were hundreds of miles away.
- French nobleman René Robert Presidio La Bahía hosts a re-enactment of the Goliad Massacre each March.

The many flags of Texas are on display inside the Alamo.
Throughout Texas history, whether during exploration, colonization, revolution or expansion, Texans were busy establishing forts, presidios, military camps, barracks and stockades to ward off potential enemies or expansion. Through much of Texas history, whether during exploration, colonization, revolution or expansion, Texans were busy establishing forts, presidios, military camps, barracks and stockades to ward off potential enemies or expansion. During the course of the war, Texas provided both men and supplies to the Confederacy. And like all states in the doomed Confederacy, it faced devastation and economic collapse.

The last battle of the war was fought in Texas at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville. A month after Robert E. Lee had officially surrendered, the Confederates claimed victory because these soldiers were determined to fight on. The first national flag of the Confederate States of America is known as the Stars and Bars. You may have seen the later X-crossed Confederate battle flag also known as the Stussy Cross.

TEXAS IN THE UNITED STATES
1845–1861; 1865–Present

On December 29, 1845, Texas was admitted into the United States, becoming its 28th state. Shrugging aside defeat and bitter conflicts for years to come. The Texas Longhorn is the state’s official large mammal. See page 35 for more state symbols.
The Legislature of the State of Texas

- The Texas Legislature meets every two years.
- It convenes in January of every odd-numbered year for a session lasting no more than 140 days.
- In addition, the governor may call a special session at any time.
- The Legislature has two chambers—the Senate and the House.
- The Senate has 31 members who serve four-year terms.
- The House has 150 members who serve two-year terms.

For more information, see www.capitol.state.tx.us.

★ The builders accepted as payment 3 million acres of land in 10 counties of the Texas Panhandle. This land became the famed XIT Ranch.

★ Original plans called for construction with Texas limestone. After the cornerstone was laid on March 2, 1885, concerns arose about the uniform quality of limestone from then-available quarries.

★ Owners of Granite Mountain at Marble Falls in Burnet County offered building stone, free of charge, to the state. The structure was completed with the Sunset Red Texas Granite that makes the Capitol so distinctive.

★ It was designed by architect Elijah E. Myers in the Renaissance Revival style. The building was dedicated on May 16, 1888, and occupied in September of that year.

★ Covering 2.25 acres of ground with some 8.5 acres of floor space, the Capitol was said to be the seventh-largest building in the world at the time of its construction.

★ A four-story, 650,000-square-foot underground extension was added in 1993. Major renovation of the Capitol was completed in 1995.

★ The building stands 302.64 feet tall, measured from the oval walk at the south entrance to the tip of the star in the Goddess of Liberty’s hand at the top of the dome. It is 14.64 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

★ The Capitol is open daily for visitors. For more information, visit the State Preservation Board website at www.tspb.state.tx.us.

A U S T I N B E C A M E T H E capital city in 1839. The capital was later moved to Houston in 1841, then Washington-on-the-Brazos before returning to Austin in 1845. The Texas Constitution, adopted February 15, 1876, authorized the sale of public land to finance a new state capitol in Austin.

Many monuments and statues can be found on the Capitol grounds.
This is an overview of the state showing interstate and major highways. It is not intended for use as a travel map. Colors indicate the seven Texas travel regions—shown below. The next 14 pages feature each region.

The Texas Department of Transportation operates 12 travel information centers for the convenience of the traveling public. Uniformed, professional travel counselors welcome visitors and provide literature and information on travel within the state.

Working with the Texas State Travel Guide and the Texas Official Travel Map, counselors expertly chart routes to any area of Texas, pointing out the most convenient short-line directions or leisurely scenic drives to your destination. They supply comprehensive statewide travel publications, plus detailed brochures about towns, attractions and points of interest along the way.

The Texas Travel Information Centers served 2,172,724 customers in 2015. Travelers stopping at the travel information centers had access to more than 3.8 million pieces of literature, making them the largest outlets of travel literature in the state and some of the largest in the nation.

The Texas Travel Information Centers are open daily except New Year’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For 24-hour highway condition information, call 800/452-9292 or visit www.drivetexas.org.

Use this mileage chart to see how far it is between two Texas cities. Traveling on I-40, it is 834 miles from El Paso to Orange!
VISITORS TO THIS BEAUTIFUL NATURAL REGION FIND HIGH-COUNTRY ADVENTURE AFTER ADVENTURE BECAUSE THE BIG BEND COUNTRY IS CHOCKFULL OF OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES LIKE HIKING, CAMPING, HORSEBACK RIDING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, JEEP TOURING, RIVER RAFTING AND MORE. THE LANDSCAPES IN THIS TALLEST REGION OF THE STATE ARE STRAIGHT OUT OF AN OLD HOLLYWOOD WESTERN, WITH THorny, SUN-BLEACHED AND JAGGED TERRAIN. ANCIENT ROCK LAYS EXPOSED IN ROCKY MOUNTAINS MORE THAN A MILE ABOVE SEA LEVEL. SURVIVAL BECAME A WAY OF LIFE FOR THOSE WHO SETTLED IN THIS ROUGH, REMOTE AREA. ALTHOUGH EARLY EXPLORERS COULDN’T TAME THE LAND, THEY MADE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE. TODAY, EXCELLENT HIGHWAYS SPAN THE WILDERNESS, LEADING TO SITES WHERE THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR TRAIL SWEEP ACROSS TWO NATIONS, CONQUISTADORS AND CAVILRY TROOPERS SCANNED THE HORIZON FOR DANGER, AND COWBOYS MADE THEIR HOME ON THE RANGE.

ABOVE: TEXAS’ OLDEST MISSION. CORPUS CHRISTI DE LA YSLETA IN EL PASO WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1682.

RIGHT: PAISANO PETE IN FORT STOCKTON IS A POPULAR PHOTO SUBJECT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BIG BEND COUNTRY REGION, GO TO WWW.TRAVELTEXAS.COM.
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

• Houston and Bay area: Museum and theater districts, Houston Astros, NASA/Space Center Houston, Kemah Boardwalk and San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

• Galveston: Historic homes and Moody Gardens

• Corpus Christi: Texas State Aquarium and Padre Island National Seashore

• South Padre Island: Water sports, beaches and fishing

• Brownsville: History, nature parks and Charro Days

• Beaumont: Museums and Spindletop-Glades Boomtown

• Orange: Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and the Stark Foundation museums

• Port Aransas: Mustang Island State Park, beaches and fishing

• Rockport/Fulton: Goose Island State Park and Fulton Mansion

• National Wildlife Refuges and Coastal Birding Trail sites

BIG-CITY BUZZ YIELDS TO QUaint VILLAGES AND SUNNY BEACHES IN THIS DIVERSE REGION

Between the moss-draped bayous of Louisiana and the sunny shores of Mexico, you’ll discover the 624-mile stretch of the Texas Gulf Coast. Here, you’ll find a wealth of natural harbors, historic fishing villages, busy ports, offshore islands, sheltered bays and recreational areas sprinkled along the seashore. Campers and anglers enjoy superb seashore parks, while nature-lovers delight in some of the best opportunities for bird-watching in the Western Hemisphere. The seaside playground, South Padre Island, draws tourists from across the globe and enjoys acclaim as one of the best beaches in the world.

The tall ship Elissa is on display at the Texas Seaport Museum in Galveston.

Texas’ Padre Island is one of the longest stretches of undeveloped barrier island in the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Gulf Coast region, go to www.TravelTexas.com.

ABOVE: NASA/Space Center Houston is the headquarters of America’s manned space program. LEFT: Dolphins interact with visitors at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.
Lush green slopes, rocky landscapes and bubbling springs are just some of the delights of the Texas Hill Country. You’ll also be amazed by rolling hills and river valleys that were shaped by ancient seas, enormous geological forces and millennia of erosion. Today, skyscrapers stand in cities just miles away from open space teeming with native wildlife. Visitors explore cliff-edged lakes, dude ranches, deep canyons and state parks that offer historic treasures and natural beauty. It’s a land to cherish—rich with Texas’ handsome capital city, charming small towns, cool water activities, highland vistas and more.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

• Austin: The State Capitol, Bullock Museum, Barton Springs, and music.
• Fredericksburg: German culture, wineries, Enchanted Rock and Luckenbach.
• San Marcos: Aquarena Springs and Wittliff Collections.
• New Braunfels: Wurstfest and the Comal River.
• Kerrville: Folk music, arts and crafts, and food festivals.
• Caves: Cave without a Name, Longhorn Caverns, Natural Bridge Caverns, Inner Space Caverns and Caverns of Sonora.
• State Natural Areas: Devil’s Sthole, Lost Maples, Hill Country.
• Swimming holes: Hamilton Pool and Blue Hole.
• Bat watching: Ann Richards Bridge and Eckert James River Bat Cave.
• Dude ranches and river resorts.
• Highland Lakes and recreation.

NATURE AND CHARM ABOUND IN ROLLING HILLS, SPRING-FED RIVERS AND HISTORIC TOWNS

For more information on the Hill Country region, go to www.TravelTexas.com.
What better way to understand the frontier and the people who settled it than to browse the fascinating museums and experience the rugged beauty of the Texas Panhandle Plains? Resilient men and women shaped the heritage of this region. The Panhandle Plains slice through what residents call the “Golden Spread,” which refers to this immensely rich agricultural, mineral and industrial area.

Those who travel these wide-open spaces find many opportunities for camping amid scenic vistas, nature photography and exploring the paths of the ancient people who once roamed this land.

**ABOVE** Perryton’s Wheatheart of the Nation Celebration features one of the many rodeos in this region.

**RIGHT** The American Wind Power Center in Lubbock houses the largest windmill collection in the world.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the Panhandle Plains region, go to www.TravelTexas.com.

**REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Amarillo**: Quarter Horse Museum, Cadillac Ranch, Discovery Center and Route 66
- **Lubbock**: Ranching Heritage Center, Buddy Holly, natural history and Texas Tech
- **Canyon**: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, TEXAS and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
- **Abilene**: Frontier Texas!, The Grace Museum and National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature
- **San Angelo**: Fort Concho, art centers and a river walk
- **Wichita Falls**: Waterfalls and bike races
- **Mineral Wells**: Crazy Water, Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway
- **Buffalo Gap**: Historic village
- **Dalhart**: XIT ranch
- **Quanah**: Medicine Mounds
- **Possum Kingdom State Park**: Canoeing and kayaking
- **Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway & official bison herd**: Hiking and bird watching
- **Fort Griffin State Historic Site**: Civil War and Western history

**BIG SKIES, DEEP CANYONS AND WIDE EXPANSES HIGHLIGHT THIS COWBOY-LADEN FRONTIER**
EAST TEXAS APPEAL IS ACCENTUATED BY HISTORIC SITES AND MAJESTIC FORESTS

To appreciate the vast East Texas Piney Woods—with acreage almost equaling that of all the forests of New England—get out and explore on a walk or a drive. This isn't the open prairie that often comes to mind when you picture Texas. The Piney Woods were the first part of Texas to be settled by Anglo-American pioneers. Steamboats once traveled on rivers and bayous, including Caddo Lake, the only natural lake in Texas. Plantation homes were part of the Old-South lifestyle. Today’s travelers savor outdoor recreation in verdant landscapes and enjoy historic structures in delightfully comfortable small towns.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Tyler: Rose Garden and Museum
- Huntsville: Prison and Sam Houston museum complex and statue
- Texarkana: Stand in two states at one time
- Jefferson: Historic homes and Caddo Lake
- Longview: Balloon races
- Palestine and Rusk: Ride the historic Texas State Railroad
- Nacogdoches: The Oldest Town in Texas
- El Camino Real de los Tejas historic sites
- National Forests: Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston
- Big Thicket National Preserve
- Dogwoods and azalea festivals in spring
- Great lakes for fishing and recreation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on the Piney Woods region, go to www.TravelTexas.com.
Making a giant sweep from the Texas-Oklahoma state line through Dallas and Fort Worth, south to the dark, rich central prairies is the Prairies and Lakes region. Here, Stephen F. Austin and Sterling Robertson settled their original Texas colonists. In this region, you can find adventure in the big city or recreation at the lake. Ballet, symphonies, museums, sporting events, outdoor activities and a calendar full of fairs and festivals offer plenty of options for entertainment and fun. This region also is home to dozens of major lakes where anglers go fishing for black and sand bass, crappie and catfish.

**REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**
- Dallas: State Fair of Texas, museums and culture
- Fort Worth: Cultural and Stockyard districts
- Arlington: Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Six Flags
- Washington-on-the-Brazos and Gonzales: Cradles of Texas independence
- Waco: Mammoths, zoo, and Dr Pepper
- Bryan/College Station: Football and George Bush Presidential Library
- Brenham: Blue Bell ice cream and bluebonnets
- Round Top: Shakespeare, music and antiques
- Ennis: Bluebonnets and car races
- La Grange: Quilts and Monument Hill
- West and Caldwell: Kolaches and Czech culture
- Lots of lakes and parks

**ADVENTURE AND RECREATION RUN THE GAMUT FROM BALLET TO BASS FISHING**

Lake Whitney is a popular water recreation spot.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Prairies and Lakes region, go to www.TravelTex.com.
The Alamo in San Antonio, is Texas’ most famous shrine.

SOAK UP THE FLAVORS, INTRIGUING HISTORY, VIBRANT CULTURE AND STUNNING SCENERY

Welcome to the region where conquistadors planted fortresses for Imperial Spain, where huge ranches flourished, and where Franciscan padres founded graceful missions a half-century before the United States was born. The South Texas Plains, stretching from San Antonio to the Mexican border, offers a delightful bicultural experience, complete with mariachi music and the tangy taste of Mexican cuisine. There’s a definite Latino flavor made even more exotic by glossy green citrus groves, rustling palms and blazing bougainvilleas that supply the backdrop for the Lower Rio Grande Valley at the southern tip of the state.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
• San Antonio: The Alamo, River Walk, SeaWorld, Fiesta Six Flags, museums and mercado
• Laredo: Washington’s Birthday Celebration, and Border Heritage and Republic of the Rio Grande museums
• McAllen: Quinta Mazatlan and Museum of Art and Science
• Mission: The National Butterfly Center and Los Ebanos Ferry
• Hidalgo: Borderfest and the pumphouse museum
• Alamo: Santa Anna National Wildlife Refuge
• Port: Strawberry Festival
• Rio Grande City: Fort Ringgold—the best preserved fort in Texas
• Edinburg: Museum of South Texas History and Lake El Sal del Ray
• World Birding Centers: Headquarters at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Mission, also in Edinburg, Hidalgo, McAllen, Roma, and Weslaco
• Fannin: State Historic Site

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the South Texas Plains region, go to www.TravelTex.com.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is home to nine World Birding Center sites.
The Lone Star State gets much of its uniqueness from its beautiful mix of people. Indeed it is this great blend of cultures that gives Texas its lively personality. You can hear it in the music, taste it in the food, sample it at the festivals and see it in the architecture—Texans are a colorful bunch. Here are just a few:

**NATIVE AMERICANS:**
Texas’ earliest inhabitants, the Native Americans, were not a single culture. There were many tribes, including the Apache, Caddo, Comanche, Cherokee, Kiowa, Tonkawa, Wichita, Hueco and Karankawa. Today, there are three federally recognized Native American tribes in Texas—the Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas.

**HISPANIC:**
European Spaniards changed the New World more than any other people. They came to Texas as soldiers, settlers and priests. But they also changed, as much as they changed the land. They encouraged mixed marriages with European, Native American and African, and those blends—mestizos—became known by many names—Mexicans, Tejanos, Hispanics, Latinos, Mexicanos, Mexican Americans, la Raza and Chicanos.

**GERMAN:**
German Texans are a predominant cultural group in Texas and their traditions, food and music can be found in many festivals and events throughout the year. The Germans made their way to Texas in about 1844 where they bought land and settled in New Braunfels. After a considerable amount of growth, they later founded the town of Fredericksburg.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN:**
Spain declared in 1803 that any African-American slave that crossed the Sabine into Texas would be automatically free. Seeking that promise of freedom, many slaves headed for the border and became teachers, merchants, miners, landowners and more. When Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836, slavery became legal again. But on June 19, 1865, slaves received word—the Emancipation Proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln—that they were freed. The event, which occurred in Galveston, is now celebrated in several states as Juneteenth.

**FRENCH:**
The French Alsatians founded Castroville, near San Antonio, and after the Texas Revolution, French missionaries helped to rebuild the Catholic Church in Texas and set up schools, churches and hospitals across the state.

**ASIAN:**
Around 1880, many Chinese came to Texas to help build the railroads, now one of the best systems in the nation. In 1902, Japanese migrated to the Gulf Coast where they started rice farms. Today, Asians—also including East Indian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Laotian, and Cambodian Texans—continue to add their languages, religions and cultures to the Texas mix. Houston, in fact, has the third highest Asian population in the nation.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS
The most fun way to celebrate the different cultures of Texas is to attend festivals like the Czech Heritage Fest, Kolache Fest, Greek Food Fest, African-American Heritage Festival, Germanfest, Oktoberfest, Festa Italiana, Celtic Heritage Festival, Fiesta in San Antonio, Polka Fest, numerous Native American powwows, the Wendish Fest and more.

For more event information, visit the Texas Highways Events Calendar at www.texashighways.com or www.traveltexas.com.
For information on state parks, hunting and fishing, call Texas Parks and Wildlife at 800/792-1112 or visit www.texasstateparks.org. For information on state historic sites, call Texas Historical Commission at 512/463-7948 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers more than 90 state parks, with features ranging from natural landscapes to outdoor recreational areas to historic sites. Park visitors find abundant camping facilities, hiking and nature trails; close-up views of colorful birds and wildlife; flora from shady forests to desert cacti; and frequent opportunities for fishing, swimming and boating. Fishing is allowed in all water-access state parks, and fishing licenses are available at most.

In the Texas state park system, you’ll find eerie subterranean chambers, primeval wetlands, mile-high mountain vistas, spectacular canyons and sandy seashores. The Texas Historical Commission oversees certain state historical sites, which accent Texas’ heritage.

Telescopes are available on a regular basis at George Observatory in Brazos Bend State Park near Rosenberg.

Centuries-old Spanish missions, rough-hewn frontier army forts and dignified mansions from bygone days are preserved. Most parks charge an admission fee, plus a range of additional fees for camping and other accommodations.

A Texas State Parks Pass, available at state parks or by calling (512) 389-8900, offers discounts and unlimited entry to more than 90 state parks.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AREAS
• Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
• Amistad National Recreation Area
• Big Bend National Park
• Big Thicket National Preserve
• Chamizal National Memorial
• Fort Davis National Historic Site
• Guadalupe Mountains National Park
• Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
• Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
• Padre Island National Seashore
• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site
• Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River
• San Antonio Missions National Historic Park

For more information, visit www.nps.gov.
IN THE HUMID MARSHLANDS of the East Texas Piney Woods, carnivorous pitcher plants trap unwary insects. Far across the state, red Mexican silenes seek the seclusion of cool canyons. On the sun-swept Gulf Coast, beach morning glories race across lonely dunes. Such is the variety of Texas’ 5,000 wildflower species—products of the state’s diverse environment.

Bluebonnets, buttercups and Indian paintbrushes crop up statewide, making colorful displays along the highways each spring. While spring is the most spectacular season, other times offer their own specialties. The sun-drenched Trans-Pecos region doesn’t follow the calendar. In almost any month, “spring” follows each rare, welcome rain, when yucca, ocotillo and cacti erupt in a brief display of blooms.

Throughout the year in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, towering palms stand guard over bougainvillea-draped boulevards. In winter, citrus orchards are heady with the scent of orange blossoms, and giant poinsettias, a major floriculture crop, decorate homes for the holiday season.

Wildflowers of Texas, a brochure published by the Texas Department of Transportation, is available free from all Texas Travel Information Centers and by writing to Wildflowers of Texas, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249. Or call 800/452-9292.

For information about Texas wildflowers, see www.wildflower.org.

Texas Highways

POP QUIZ!

TAKE THIS QUIZ TO FIND YOUR TRUE TEXAS IQ:

1) What is the capital of Texas?
2) Where is Sam Houston buried?
3) What mountain range is inside Big Bend National Park?
4) How many miles long is the Texas Gulf Coast?
5) What is the largest city on historic Route 66 in Texas?
6) What makes Caddo Lake unique in Texas?
7) Where was Dr. Pepper invented?
8) What famous building is located in San Antonio?
9) What is the longest river in Texas?

(Click your answers below)

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

0-2: Yankee. You’ve got some studying to do. Subscribe today!
3-5: Bless Your Heart. Don’t give up, you’ll get there.
6-8: Walkin’ in Tall Cotton. You know a lot about Texas, but we can still teach you a thing or two.
9: You’re a True Texan! You probably already subscribe to Texas Highways, but think about giving your friends and family a gift subscription!

Become a True Texan and subscribe for just $24.95 a year! Click the Subscribe tab at www.texashighways.com or call us at 800-839-4997.

Texas Highways

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

0-2: Yankee. You’ve got some studying to do. Subscribe today!
3-5: Bless Your Heart. Don’t give up, you’ll get there.
6-8: Walkin’ in Tall Cotton. You know a lot about Texas, but we can still teach you a thing or two.
9: You’re a True Texan! You probably already subscribe to Texas Highways, but think about giving your friends and family a gift subscription!

Become a True Texan and subscribe for just $24.95 a year! Click the Subscribe tab at www.texashighways.com or call us at 800-839-4997.
Varied vegetation, altitudes from sea level to more than 8,000 feet, rainfall from less than ten inches to more than 55 inches annually, and a strategic position on the North American continent combine to provide a diversity of bird life unrivaled by any other state. In addition, Texas’ large resident bird population is augmented by migrating species.

The Panhandle Plains is home to horned larks, kites and prairie chickens. Its lakes attract mallard, wigeon and pintail migrant ducks. Rare Colima warblers, eagles, canyon wrens, desert-dwelling flycatchers and tiny verdins make their nests out west.

Rare Colima warblers, eagles, canyon wrens, desert-dwelling flycatchers and tiny verdins make their nests out west.

The Hill Country hosts flocks of wild turkeys and almost countless resident and migrant species—including rare golden-cheeked warblers. Open terrain is habitat for fleet-footed roadrunners.

The East Texas Piney Woods is home to several eastern species, including the wood thrush, Acadian flycatcher and Kentucky warbler. A few swallow-tailed kites may live here and so might the ivory-billed woodpecker, which was once thought to be extinct.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the winters are mild and the plants are diverse. Butterfly watchers from across the globe can spot a multitude of species including swallowtails, whites and sulphurs, gossamer-winged, metalmarks, Heliconians, monarch, true brush-foots, emperors, leafwings and skippers.

Out of more than 600 bird species identified in Texas, most have been sighted along the Texas coastline. Numerous shorebirds populate the region—gulls, pelicans, egrets and roseate spoonbills, plus the world’s few remaining whooping cranes, which winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The Lower Rio Grande Valley hosts tropical birds and is the only place in the nation where such species as white-tipped doves, chachalacas and green jays may be observed.

Texas is home to the Great Texas Wildlife Trails—Heart of Texas, Coastal Birding, Mountains and Basins, Panhandle Plains, and Prairies and Pineywood trails. These driving trails across the state help birders and wildlife enthusiasts find the best viewing spots.

To learn more about the trails or for information on trail maps, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/birdingtrails.

With three-fourths of all known North American birds represented in Texas, anywhere in the state, anytime of the year, there are birds for the watching. No other state offers the birding variety (or challenge) that Texas does. It’s no wonder Texas is one of the nation’s leaders in nature tourism.

…”AND BUTTERFLIES, TOO

With its many ecological regions and diverse geological and biological features, Texas is also the most butterfly-diverse state in the nation. Of the 772 species recorded in North America (north of Mexico), about 432 have been recorded in Texas. Nearly 100 of those species are found only in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where the winters are mild and the plants are diverse.

Butterfly watchers from across the globe can spot a multitude of species including swallowtails, whites and sulphurs, gossamer-winged, metalmarks, Heliconians, monarch, true brush-foots, emperors, leafwings and skippers.

For information and images of Texas butterflies, visit www.butterfliesandmoths.org.
AREA
Texas' boundary extends 3,822 miles with Louisiana on the east, Arkansas on the northeast, Oklahoma on the north, New Mexico on the west, and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The tidewater coastline extends 624 miles.
Texas covers 268,596 square miles (land and water) according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Texas is as large as the following 10 states combined: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and North Carolina.
Texas extends 801 straight-line miles from north to south and 773 miles from east to west.
Brewster County, in West Texas, is the largest of the state's 254 counties with 6,193 square miles, an area larger than the state of Connecticut.
The smallest is the 149-square-mile Rockwall County, just east of Dallas.

POPULATION
According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Texas had an estimated 26,956,958 residents in 2014, ranking second among the 50 states. The state is home to six of the 25 largest U.S. cities. From 2013 to 2014, Texas gained more people than any other state.
The six largest Texas cities and their populations based on 2013 estimates are:
- Houston: 2,418,584
- San Antonio: 1,499,089
- Dallas: 1,277,576
- Austin: 885,460
- Fort Worth: 794,747
- El Paso: 674,433
Texas has 33 cities with a population of 100,000 or more.

TERRAIN
The state's surface ranges from sea level to mountains more than one mile high. There are sun-baked desert, rich black farmlands, humid swamps, and dramatic volcanic landscapes of basalt and granite. The table-flat Great Plains, parts of the Blacklands, and the Edwards Plateau have mostly prairie grass. The coastal lowlands of the Texas coast are mainly flat, sandy beach, or marsh. The Panhandle has rolling landscapes.

The Rio Grande is the longest river in the state. It forms the international boundary between Texas and Mexico. Caddo Lake in East Texas is the only natural lake in the state.

Travel
Travel and tourism is one of the most important export-oriented industries in Texas. According to the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism travelers spent $67 billion while traveling in Texas in 2014. This directly supported 999,000 jobs, and generated $4.7 billion in state and local taxes. For the year the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Texas travel industry was $26.9 billion.

WEATHER
Texas enjoys generally mild winters, but the summers are hot. In July, the average daytime high statewide is almost 96 degrees. Average annual rainfall varies from less than 10 inches in east Texas to about 58 inches in parts of East Texas.

ENERGY
Petroleum: The first successful oil well in Texas was drilled in 1866 near Nacogdoches. In 2012, 533 million barrels of crude oil and more than 7.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas were produced from 270,082 producing wells, including 137,864 oil wells and 102,218 gas wells.
Wind: Texas leads the nation in wind energy production and is tops in the nation for installed capacity—12,214 megawatts in June 2013, almost triple that of the next contender, Iowa.
Texas, home to the two largest wind farms in the world, plays such a significant role in the energy markets that it would rank sixth behind China, the United States, Germany, Spain and India if the state stood as its own nation.

AGRICULTURE

FARMING: Texas’ 4,175,500 farms and ranches cover about 80 percent of the state’s land area, or approximately 130.4 million acres. Agricultural production and related items totaled an average of $20 billion annually. Texas ranks first nationally in cotton production, with an annual cotton crop average of 5.54 million bales since 1996. Other major crops include corn, wheat, hay, nursery crops, rice and citrus.

RANCHING: Both in number and diversity, Texas leads the nation in livestock with 16 million cattle and calves, more than twice as much as the next largest producer. Texas produces 20 percent of the nation’s beef cattle.

INNOVATION

TEXAS IS HOME to many universities and research institutions that are global leaders in electronics, medicine, biotechnology, aerospace, advanced materials and energy. Additionally, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office shows that in 2013, 9,289 patents were issued to Texas residents. That places Texas second in the nation, behind California.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT

THE GROSS STATE product for Texas—the sum of values added from all industries in the state—was estimated at $1,530.8 billion in fiscal year 2014. If Texas were a nation, its economy (based on Gross Domestic Product) would rank as the 12th largest in the world.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

IN 2013, for the 12th year in a row, Texas was the top exporting state in the nation, with more than $279.5 billion in exports, according to U.S. Department of Commerce data.

The state’s top exports were petroleum, coal products, chemicals, computer and electronic machinery and transportation equipment. Mexico, Canada, China, Brazil and the Netherlands were the state’s top export recipients. In 2012, port level imports—mostly energy, machinery and telecom/high technology equipment—totaled about $811.8 billion.

TRANSPORTATION

BY LAND: Texas has 313,210 miles of public roads, which is more than any other state. On this system are more than 46 railroads operating on more than 10,425 rail miles, carrying 378.9 million tons a year. BY SEA: The state offers 11 deep water ports with channels at least 30 feet deep along the Gulf Coast, including the Port of Houston, which is ranked second in the nation for total trade. BY AIR: There are 301 public-use airports and three public-use heliports. The state’s two largest airports—Dallas-Fort Worth International and George Bush Intercontinental in Houston—rank No. 3 and No. 13, respectively, as the nation’s busiest airports by total passengers served.

STATE SEAL: Since the earliest days of Texas, a five-pointed “lone star” has been prominent among Texas symbols. The state seal, adopted as part of the 1845 state constitution, features the lone star encircled by olive and live oak branches. The Congress of the Republic of Texas adopted the lone star as its seal in December 1836 and added the olive and live oak branches in January 1839. The state seal is identical to the 1839 seal except that the word “State” has replaced “Republic.”
Motor-vehicle operators must maintain current liability insurance and be able to show proof if requested by law enforcement.

All occupants of cars and light trucks, regardless of age or seating position, must wear seat belts.

Car seats are required for children up to eight years old or who are less than four feet, nine inches in height.

It is illegal (with certain exceptions such as parades and emergencies) to operate an open-bed pickup truck, an open flatbed truck or an open flatbed trailer when children under the age of 18 are occupying the bed of the truck or trailer, regardless of the vehicle’s speed.

Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in the passenger area of a motor vehicle.

Motorcycle operators and passengers must wear protective headgear that meets adopted standards. Exemptions are allowed for persons over age 21 with certain health insurance and training requirements.

KEEPING THE ROADWAYS BEAUTIFUL

While some rules of the road keep people safe, others exist to keep roads free of litter. That’s where the Texas Department of Transportation’s litter prevention programs come in. TxDOT’s Don’t mess with Texas® litter prevention campaign and the Adopt-a-Highway program work closely with their grassroots partner, Keep Texas Beautiful, to keep Texas roads looking clean.

In fact, approximately 20 percent of roadways in Texas are adopted and maintained by Adopt-a-Highway volunteers, which equates to an estimated $4 million in taxpayer savings annually. Over 4,000 dedicated individuals and groups currently oversee adopted stretches of roadway, and this Texas-born program continues to grow thanks to a hardworking core of dedicated volunteers.

That doesn’t mean the work is done, however. With new Texans moving to the state every day, TxDOT understands how vital it is for new residents to recognize the true meaning of Don’t mess with Texas. To address these concerns, the newest round of Don’t mess with Texas messaging emphasizes that litter goes in the trashcan, not on Texas roads. TxDOT’s DMWT program recently partnered with businesses and distributed red, white, and blue trash barrels to popular tourist attractions and venues across the state. Fifty-six barrels feature unique one-liners that tie into the can’s location, whether suggesting a passerby to “two-step your trash over here” at a dancehall or asking restaurant bystanders to “feed me.”

Don’t mess with Texas stepped up its engagement with Texans 16 to 34 through an interactive, mobile-friendly website that allows visitors to find the trash cans across Texas, peruse old advertisements, and create their own digital trash barrels.

Why is littering such a big deal? Not only is it detrimental to the environment and the safety of the traveling public, it’s also against the law. You could be fined up to $500 for littering anything that weighs less than five pounds. Toss anything heavier than five pounds, and you could face a fine of up to $2,000 and six months in jail.

To order Don’t mess with Texas products, to adopt a highway and more, visit www.dontmesswithtexas.org.

Since the TxDOT programs’ beginnings in the late 1980s, thousands of tons of trash have been removed from Texas roadways. According to the 2013 Visible Litter Study, littering has decreased by 34 percent since 2003, which saves taxpayers millions of dollars in reduced litter pickups.

In fact, approximately 10 percent of roadways in Texas are adopted and maintained by Adopt-a-Highway volunteers, which equates to an estimated $4 million in taxpayer savings annually. Over 4,000 dedicated individuals and groups currently oversee adopted stretches of roadway, and this Texas-born program continues to grow thanks to a hardworking core of dedicated volunteers.

That doesn’t mean the work is done, however. With new Texans moving to the state every day, TxDOT understands how vital it is for new residents to recognize the true meaning of Don’t mess with Texas. To address these concerns, the newest round of Don’t mess with Texas messaging emphasizes that litter goes in the trashcan, not on Texas roads. TxDOT’s DMWT program recently partnered with businesses and distributed red, white, and blue trash barrels to popular tourist attractions and venues across the state. Fifty-six barrels feature unique one-liners that tie into the can’s location, whether suggesting a passerby to “two-step your trash over here” at a dancehall or asking restaurant bystanders to “feed me.”

Don’t mess with Texas stepped up its engagement with Texans 16 to 34 through an interactive, mobile-friendly website that allows visitors to find the trash cans across Texas, peruse old advertisements, and create their own digital trash barrels.

Why is littering such a big deal? Not only is it detrimental to the environment and the safety of the traveling public, it’s also against the law. You could be fined up to $500 for littering anything that weighs less than five pounds. Toss anything heavier than five pounds, and you could face a fine of up to $2,000 and six months in jail.

To order Don’t mess with Texas products, to adopt a highway and more, visit www.dontmesswithtexas.org.