Coastal Plains

Page 90 | The Coastal Plains includes the barrier islands off the coast of Texas, which protect it from the Gulf of Mexico. This region includes some of the largest urban areas of Texas: Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and Laredo.

This region has <u>about 48 inches average annual rainfall</u> making a wide variety of vegetation plentiful. The area is a nearly level, drained plain dissected by streams and rivers flowing into estuaries and marshes. Sand, dunes, grasslands and salt marshes make up the areas nearest to the sea.

National Parks in this area include the Big Thicket National Preserve, Padre Island National Seashore, and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site.
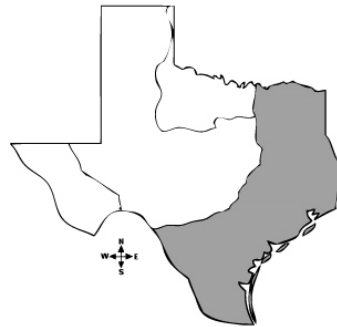
NATURAL RESOURCES:
- OIL / NATURAL GAS
- FORESTS (THICK TREE AREAS)
- RICH SOILS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:
- OIL / NATURAL GAS
- FISHING
- FARMING (COTTON & RICE)
- LUMBER
- TRADE / SHIPPING
- TECHNOLOGY
- TOURISM (GULF COAST)

CLIMATE:
- SUB-TROPICAL: HOT & HUMID (MILD/WET WINTERS)

North Central Plains

Page 86 | This region is bound by the Caprock Escarpment to the west, the Edwards Plateau to the south, and by the Balcones Fault to the southeast. Two prominent sub-regions include the Rolling Plains (west) and the Grand Prairie (east). This area includes the cities of Abilene, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, San Angelo, and Waco.

With <u>about 36 inches average annual rainfall</u>, gently rolling to hilly forested land is part of a larger pine-hardwood forest of oaks, hickories, elm, and gum trees. Soils vary from coarse sands to tight clays or red-bed clays and shales.

The only National Park in this region is the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.
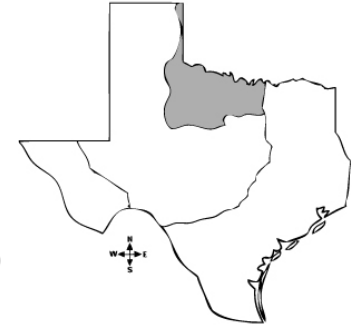
NATURAL RESOURCES:
- GRASSLANDS
- TIMBER (PLENTIFUL TREES)
- GOOD SOILS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:
- FARMING (COTTON, CORN & WHEAT)
- PECANS & PEACHES
- LUMBER
- RANCHING (CATTLE, SHEEP & GOATS)
- LIVESTOCK (DAIRY)
- MANUFACTURING
- TECHNOLOGY
- TRADE (RAIL & AIR)

CLIMATE:
- SEMI-ARID: HOT & TEMPERATE (COOL/DRY WINTERS)

Great Plains

Page 80 | Landforms in this region include the Llano Estacado, the Panhandle, and the Edwards Plateau. It is bordered on the east by the Caprock Escarpment in the panhandle and by the Balcones Fault to the southeast.

Cities in this region include Midland, Odessa, Lubbock, and Amarillo. The Hill Country is a popular name for the area of hills along the Balcones Escarpment and is a transitional area between the Great Plains and the Coastal Plains.

With about 24 inches average annual rainfall, the southern end of the Great Plains are gently rolling plains of shrubs and grassland, and home to the dramatic Caprock Canyons and Palo Duro Canyon state parks.

National Parks in this area are the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park and the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

NATURAL RESOURCES:
- GRASSLANDS
- OIL / NATURAL GAS
- THIN SOILS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:
- RANCHING (CATTLE / SHEEP / GOATS)
- OIL / NATURAL GAS
- FARMING (COTTON, CORN, WHEAT)
- COTTONSEED (WORLD'S LARGEST)

CLIMATE:
- SEMI-ARID: HOT & TEMPERATE (COLD/WINDY WINTERS)

Mountains and Basins

Page 75 | The region is in extreme western Texas, west of the Pecos River beginning with the Davis Mountains on the east and the Rio Grande to its west and south. The only city in the region is El Paso.

The region is the only part of Texas regarded as mountainous and includes seven named peaks in elevation greater than 8,000 feet (Guadalupe Peak is 8,750 feet). With about 12 inches average annual rainfall, this region includes sand hills, desert valleys, wooded mountain slopes and desert grasslands.

The vegetation diversity includes at least 268 grass species and numerous desert and succulent plants, including flowering cactus, yucca, creosote bush, and many plants suited to the desert requiring little water.

National Parks include Big Bend National Park, the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and Fort Davis National Historic Site.

NATURAL RESOURCES:
- DESERT PLANTS
- OIL / NATURAL GAS / MINERALS
- WIND
- THIN, DRY SOILS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES:
- OIL / NATURAL GAS
- MINERALS
- WIND POWER
- TRADE / TRANSPORTATION
- TOURISM (BIG BEND & EL PASO)

CLIMATE:
- ARID DESERT: HOT & DRY (COLD/WINDY WINTERS)