



Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet # 19

Sent home on _____

Return by _____

Student's Name

Name _____ Date _____

Read the article “A Whole Other Country” before answering Numbers 19 through 35.

A Whole Other Country

Some people who have never visited Texas think the land is the same throughout the state. Some think the state is all desert filled with cactus. Others think it is an endless plain. Both are partly right. Texas has many deserts and plains, but those are just two types of the impressive land features found there. Texas also has mountains, forests, beaches, and canyons. The state is so large and so varied that some people use the expression “a whole other country” to describe it.

You can probably recognize the outline of Texas. Its shape is partly formed by water. In the north, the Red River forms the border between Oklahoma and Texas. The Sabine River separates Texas and Louisiana in the east. The Gulf of Mexico forms the southeast border of the state. The Rio Grande divides Texas from Mexico in the west and the south.

If you look at a map of Texas, you will see that eastern Texas has mostly plains and a few small hills. Western Texas has plains, hills, and mountains. The state has four main natural regions, or areas. The four regions are the Gulf Coastal Plain, the Central Plains, the High Plains, and the Mountains and Basins. The landscape of each region differs from that of the others.

Gulf Coastal Plain

The Gulf Coastal Plain region covers the eastern and southern part of Texas. It is the largest region in the state. The Gulf Coastal Plain runs along the Gulf of Mexico. The land here is mostly low and flat. Part of this region is tropical. You’ll find miles of sandy beaches here. The region also reaches inland, away from the coast, for about 250 miles. Fields of vegetables and fruits grow to the west of the coast.

Central Plains

As you move away from the Gulf of Mexico, the land begins to rise. The Central Plains region is in the north-central part of the state.

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It has rolling hills and valleys. Many Texans call this region the Hill Country. Cattle and sheep graze on the grassy land there.

For hundreds of years, ancient rivers and streams shaped the land of the Central Plains. As you go farther west, there are forests of oak and hickory trees. Many different crops grow in this region.

High Plains

The High Plains are west of the Central Plains and are also part of the Great Plains of the United States. The land here is high and flat and looks something like a table. Parts of the High Plains are marked by long walls of steep cliffs and slopes. The southern and eastern parts are hilly. Many legends about rough, tough Texas cowhands are from the High Plains.

Mountains and Basins

This region is in western Texas. The land here is high, dry, and often rugged. The soil is dry and rocky. There are many small mountain ranges and dramatic cliffs in this region of Texas. These mountains are part of the Rocky Mountains, which stretch from Mexico to Canada. The highest peak in Texas is Guadalupe Peak. It rises nearly 9,000 feet above sea level.

A basin is land shaped like a bowl that has higher ground around it. In this region, the basins are parts of large deserts. You can visit Big Bend National Park in the Mountains and Basins region. You can also gaze at stars through a huge telescope at the McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains, which are also in this region.

The Land Called Texas

The state of Texas is varied and vast. It's no wonder that for centuries people have been drawn to this land. That may be why some call it a whole other country!

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Now answer Numbers 19 through 35. Base your answers on the article “A Whole Other Country.”

- 19 Read this sentence from the article.

Others think it is an endless plain.

What does the word *plain* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) a flat area
- (B) easy to see
- (C) not mixed with anything
- (D) a vehicle that flies in the sky

- 20 Read this sentence from the article.

The state is so large and so varied that some people use the expression “a whole other country” to describe it.

What does the word *expression* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) a familiar saying
- (G) a symbol for an idea
- (H) a person’s first language
- (I) a statement that is untrue

- 21 Which of the following partly forms the outline of Texas?

- (A) hills
- (B) water
- (C) plains
- (D) mountains

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- 22 Read this sentence from the article.

The Sabine River separates Texas and Louisiana in the east.

Which word has the same sound as the underlined letter in *separates*?

- F acorn
- G actor
- H although
- I around

- 23 Read this sentence from the article.

The landscape of each region differs from that of the others.

What does the word *landscape* mean in the sentence above?

- A land that is owned
- B broad, flat-topped land
- C the landforms of a region
- D land that has not been settled

- 24 Which of these shaped the land in the Central Plains region?

- F rivers and streams
- G the Gulf of Mexico
- H the Rocky Mountains
- I grazing cattle and sheep

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- 25 Read this sentence from the article.

Cattle and sheep graze on the grassy land there.

What is the correct way to divide the word *cattle* into syllables?

- Ⓐ ca • ttle
 - Ⓑ ca • tt • le
 - Ⓒ cat • tle
 - Ⓓ catt • le
- 26 Study this box.

Features of the Central Plains Region of Texas
grassy land
oak and hickory forests

Which information belongs in the empty box?

- Ⓕ steep cliffs
- Ⓖ rolling hills
- Ⓗ low, flat land
- Ⓘ sandy beaches

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- 27 Read this sentence from the article.

Many legends about rough, tough Texas cowhands are from the High Plains.

Which word has the same sound as the underlined part of the word *tough*?

- (A) caught
- (B) ouch
- (C) such
- (D) watch

- 28 Read this sentence from the article.

Many legends about rough, tough Texas cowhands are from the High Plains.

What does the word *cowhands* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) fenced areas for cattle
- (G) ropes used for catching cattle
- (H) people who take care of cattle
- (I) ranches where cattle are raised

- 29 In what region of Texas can deserts be found?

- (A) Gulf Coastal Plain
- (B) Central Plains
- (C) High Plains
- (D) Mountains and Basins

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- 30 Read this sentence from the article.

There are many small mountain ranges and dramatic cliffs in this region of Texas.

What does the word *dramatic* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ unusual
- Ⓑ dangerous
- Ⓒ causing wonder or awe
- Ⓓ having a variety of forms

- 31 Read this sentence from the article.

The highest peak in Texas is Guadalupe Peak.

What does the word *peak* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ small hill
- Ⓑ desert floor
- Ⓒ grassy plain
- Ⓓ mountain top

- 32 Read this sentence from the article.

You can also gaze at stars through a huge telescope at the McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains, which are also in this region.

In the sentence above, the word *telescope* means an instrument that can help you see which types of objects?

- Ⓐ small objects
- Ⓑ nearby objects
- Ⓒ moving objects
- Ⓓ far-away objects

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- 33 What is this article MOSTLY about?
- (A) how the mountains and valleys in Texas were formed
 - (B) how the Texas plains differ from the deserts in West Texas
 - (C) the variety of native plants and animals that can be found in Texas
 - (D) the different regions and landscapes that make up the state of Texas
- 34 According to the article, why do people often refer to Texas as “a whole other country”?
- (F) It shares its southern border with another country.
 - (G) The state is so large and has so many different regions.
 - (H) The land differs so greatly from the rest of the United States.
 - (I) Many people mistake it for another country when they see it on a map.
- 35 Which sentence from the article states a FACT?
- (A) “Some think the state is all desert filled with cactus.”
 - (B) “Others think it is an endless plain.”
 - (C) “The state has four main natural regions, or areas.”
 - (D) “It’s no wonder that for centuries people have been drawn to this land.”

