

IR-28: Mapping the Texas Core

Use a Texas highway map or Texas digital highway map and the blank Texas map on the next page to complete the following tasks.

1. Use the highway map of Texas to do the following.

A. Label these features on your map:

- Davis Mountains
- Edwards Plateau
- Balcones Escarpment
- Gulf Coastal Plain
- Llano Estacado

B. Label these cities on your map:

- Austin
- Arlington
- Corpus Christi
- Dallas
- El Paso
- Fort Worth
- Garland
- Houston
- Lubbock
- San Antonio

C. List the major transportation arteries within each of these cities:

1. Dallas/Fort Worth _____

2. San Antonio _____

3. Houston _____

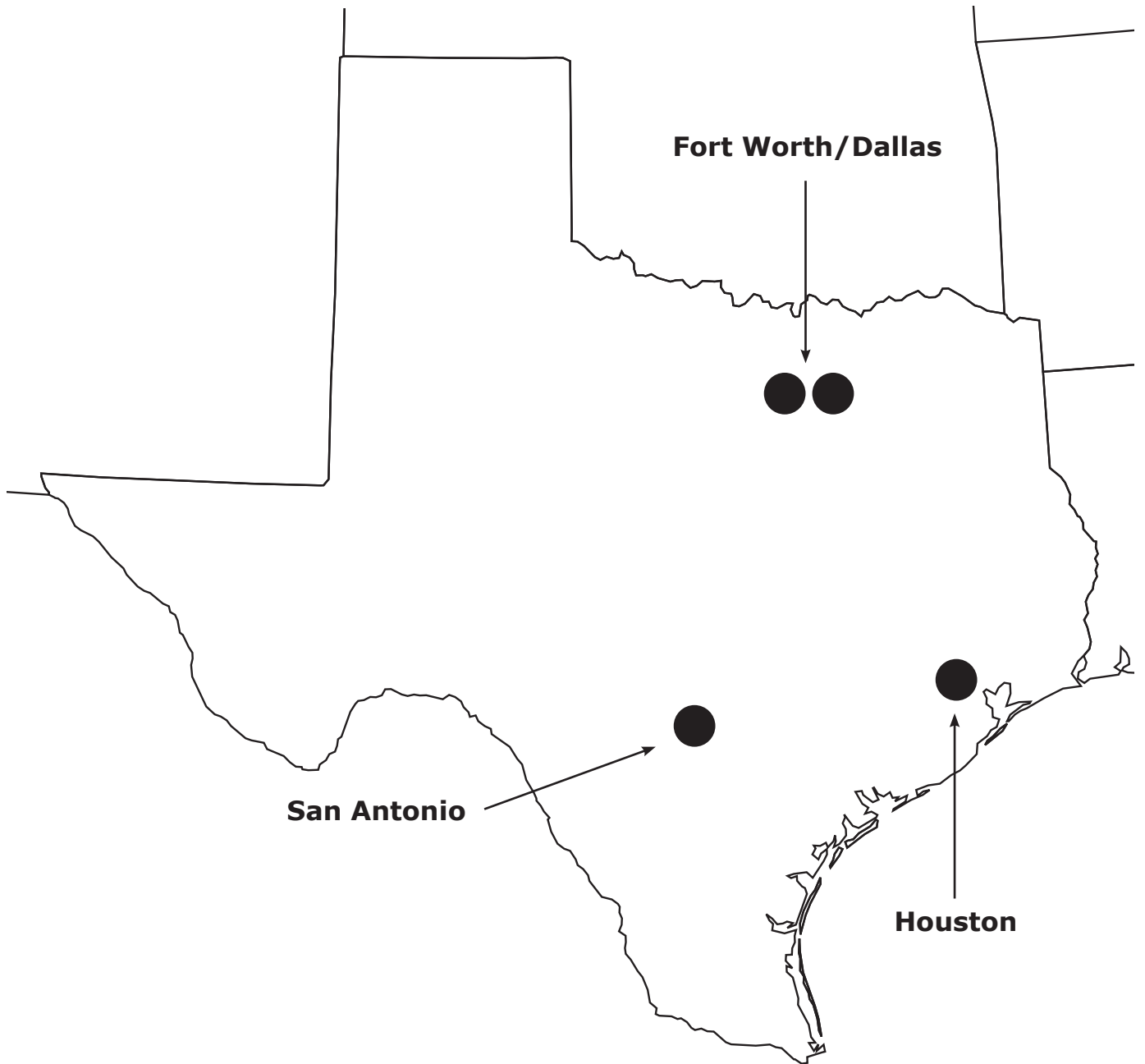
D. On your map, draw the major highways that connect these three urban centers. What shape is made when you have drawn the highways?

E. For each city, use IR-30 and resources set aside by your teacher to list the economic activities under the correct economic sector. You may not have to use every box for each city.

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City	Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Tertiary Sector	Quaternary Sector

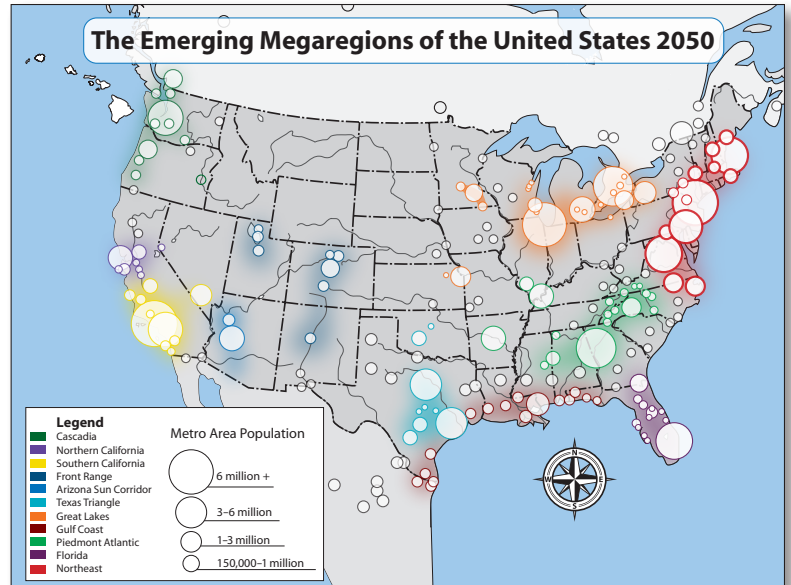




Texas Urban Core

Just as urbanization has contributed to the creation of the megalopolis phenomenon on the east coast of the United States, it also has contributed to the Texas urban core. As of 2009, the estimated total population of the state was more than 24.5 million people, with more than 20 million living in urban areas. By 2040, state demographers predict that the total population will reach more than 35 million, with approximately 30 million of this population living in urban areas.

There are more than 50 cities in Texas that have more than 20,000 residents. About 75% of the total population of Texas lives in what is called the Texas urban core. Unlike the linear layout of the megalopolis, the Texas urban core is shaped like a triangle. This urban core is anchored by the Dallas-Fort Worth combined statistical area (CSA) to the north, Houston-Baytown-Huntsville CSA to the southeast, and the San Antonio metropolitan statistical area (MSA) to the southwest. Even though there are multiple cities within each urban node of the Texas urban triangle, we will treat each as one continuous urban area, noting that in making such broad generalizations, there are always exceptions.



What significance does the Texas urban core have in relation to NAFTA?

Fort Worth originally was settled as a "cow town." When the cattle trails stretched from South Texas to meat-packing cities such as Kansas City, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois, Fort Worth was a natural stopping point. The cattle were allowed to stop on the southern banks of the Trinity River for rest and water before proceeding farther north. Fort Worth maintains its connection to the past with the historic Stockyards in the north side of the central business district. This area has become a regular destination for many tourists who want to see a part of Texas history. Dallas was settled on the northern side of the Trinity River primarily by immigrants from the American Midwest. Dallas has been characterized as being more urban and business-minded than Fort Worth. Each city has tried to maintain its ties to the past in the city proper, but many of the people who have settled in the suburbs that connect Dallas and Fort Worth have blended the historical and cultural characteristics. Together the greater Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area is known as the "American-Texas" city.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has a vibrant and diverse economy. The anchor of the region is the DFW International Airport. As of 2008, it was the seventh busiest airport in the world for passenger traffic and the fourth busiest in the United States

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(if the three airports in New York City are combined). The Metroplex is known for its connections to the banking and business industries. One of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks is located in Dallas. ExxonMobil, AMR Corp. (the parent company of American Airlines), JCPenney, Kimberly-Clark, and Southwest Airlines are Fortune 500 companies whose corporate headquarters are located in the Metroplex. The information technology industry also is an important economic element in this region, with companies such as Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Texas Instruments making their homes here. Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter Textron, and Raytheon are major defense contractors that also have a significant economic impact in the area.

The Metroplex is intertwined with a maze of federal and state highways. Interstate highways include I-35, I-45, I-20, and I-30. US Highway 183 runs in an east-west direction through the middle of the Metroplex and connects Dallas and Fort Worth. Texas Highway 121 runs generally southwest to north-northwest and connects some of the newest and fastest growing communities of Lewisville, The Colony, Frisco, and McKinney.

Houston is known as the “International-Texas” city because it is ethnically much more diverse than any of the other major urban areas. In particular, Latinos in Houston come from a variety of Latin American countries, including but not limited to Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. Asians can trace their roots to Vietnam, Korea, China, Japan, and Taiwan. These different ethnicities, combined with the African and Anglo influences, create a cultural mosaic that is represented in many different restaurants, places of worship, music, architecture, and festivals. Unlike other Texas cities where the ethnic composition is strongly influenced by one country (e.g., Mexican influence in San Antonio and El Paso), Houston is international in its composition.

Ethnic Background	Percentage of Population
African	17
Anglo	30
Asian	6
Latino	34
Other	11

Houston has the nation’s fourth largest population in the city proper and is the ninth most populous MSA. After the economic crisis that began in the 1970s, Houston’s economy diversified, and it now includes jobs in the energy industry, primarily via the Port of Houston; aerospace, with Johnson Space Center; information technology, with Hewlett Packard (HP); and the medical industry, with the Texas Medical Center. Houston’s stature in Texas as the “International-Texas” city is reflected in the scope of economic international relations it maintains.

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Houston is known as the “petroleum capital of the world” because of the amount of oil that is refined in the greater Houston area. From Texas City, Channelview, Deer Park, Pasadena, and Houston, more oil is refined in this region than in any other region in the world. NASA’s Johnson Space Center is located in Houston. Whereas spacecraft launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, mission control is located in Houston. HP is the world’s largest information technology company, ranking No. 10 among Fortune 500 companies in 2012. HP has almost 332,000 employees worldwide and about 7,000 in Houston. The Texas Medical Center is located in Houston and is the world’s largest purveyor of medical services, including education, research, and treatment. There are more than 40 different institutions associated with the Texas Medical Center. There were roughly 6 million patient visits to the Texas Medical Center in 2009, with more than 18,000 patients from other countries. A variety of services are offered in the Texas Medical Center from the leading organizations in the research and treatment of cancer, cardiovascular issues, organ transplants, pediatrics, sports medicine, and burn injuries.

The greater Houston MSA has more land area than the other urban nodes of the Texas urban core, approximately 579 square miles (1,500 square kilometers). There are about 575 miles of freeways to connect the various parts of Houston. Interstates 10 and 45 are the two primary arteries through the city. I-10 runs east-west, whereas I-45 runs north-south. US 59/I-69 is a major corridor that runs southwest to northeast. With the continual growth in the northwest suburbs of Houston, US 290 has become a vital road for people commuting to and from work. Loop 610 also is a significant part of the transportation infrastructure of Houston.

San Antonio is referred to as the “Mexican-Texas” city because of its historical and cultural ties to Mexico. In fact, 70% of the Latino residents of San Antonio are of Mexican descent. San Antonio was founded as a Catholic mission and was one of the northern outposts for Spanish colonists. When Mexico declared its independence from the Spanish, San Antonio maintained its religious and military standing, acting as a buffer between Mexico and the United States. The battle at the Alamo during the fight for Texas independence from Mexico is iconic in Texas history.

Because many of its residents are literate in more than one language, San Antonio is a bilingual city. Being bilingual is beneficial economically because San Antonio hosts many telecommunications jobs, and the tourism industry claims that more than 20 million people visit San Antonio annually. Visitors account for about \$8 billion in the local economy. In addition to the Alamo and other Spanish missions, San Antonio has one of the most renowned zoos in the country, a professional basketball team, minor-league baseball and hockey teams, and several theme parks. The mild climate welcomes visitors year-round for golf as well as shopping, especially on the famous River Walk.

The city of San Antonio also has a strong military tradition. Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases are active military installations surrounding San Antonio. Brooks Air Force Base closed in 2011 after having been operational since 1917. San Antonio’s mild climate allows the Air Force to have fully operational bases year-round. The Army operates Fort Sam Houston, which is located close to the center of San

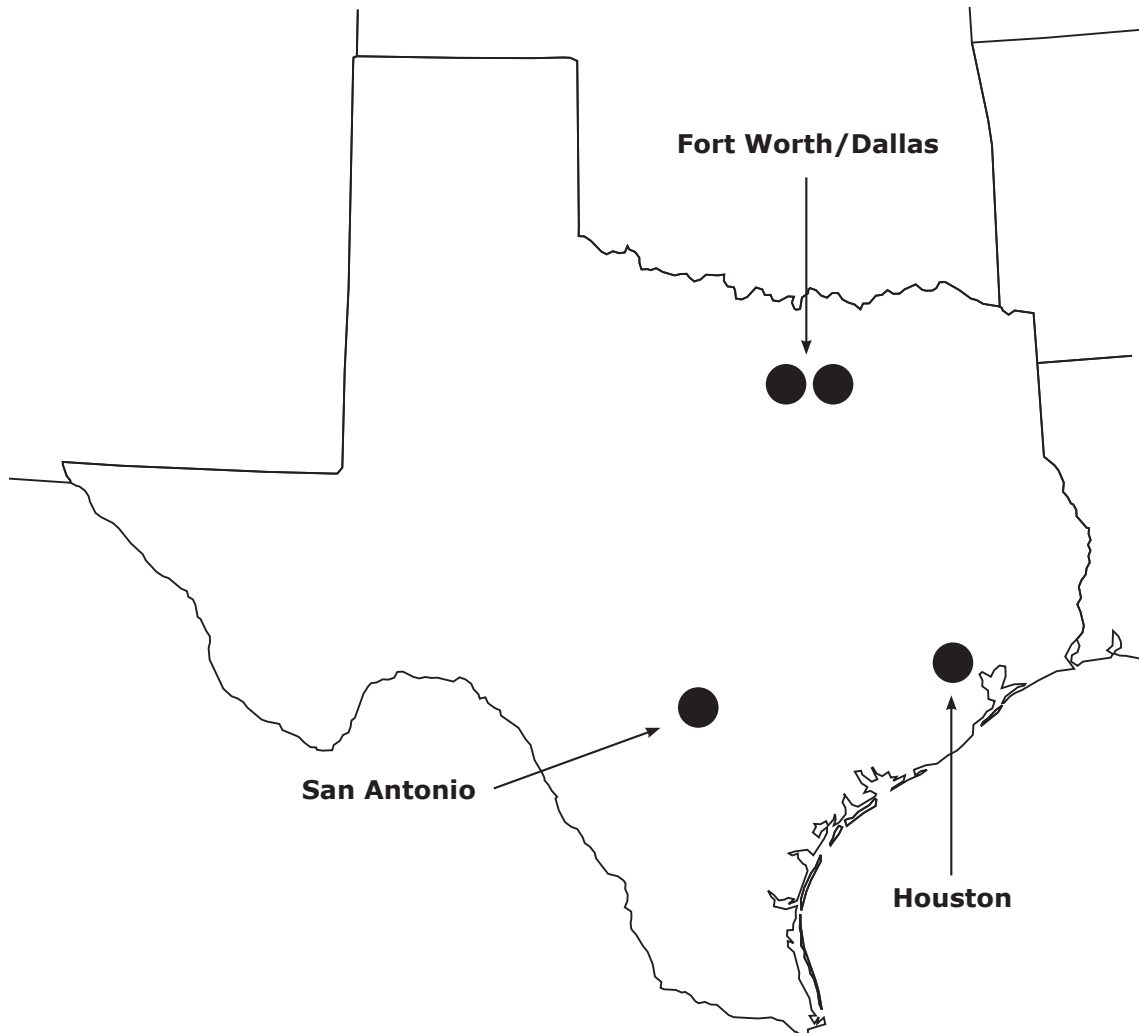
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Antonio. After World War II, the Army decided to make Fort Sam Houston into the principal medical facility for the Army. Fort Sam Houston is unique because it is the largest military training facility in the world.

Given the information about the Texas urban core, what seems to be the most logical dominant city of Texas? Remember, there must be clear evidence to suggest a city that is one of the most populated and that is of critical importance economically, socially, and politically. Throughout Texas' history, some cities have risen to prominence while others have faded into obscurity. Considering the economic, social, and political climate today, does one city rise to the top as the most dominant city of Texas?

IR-31: Texas Core Assessment Items

Use the map below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following questions.



1. Which of the following statements is best supported by the map?
 - A. There is greater ethnic diversity outside the Texas urban core than inside it.
 - B. The greatest amount of economic development in Texas can be found along the corridor of US 59/I-69, I-10, and I-37.
 - C. The vast majority of people and businesses are located inside the Texas urban core.
 - D. More oil and natural gas can be found inside the Texas urban core than outside it.

2. Which of the following pairs is correct?
 - A. Houston—international city
 - B. Fort Worth—medical industry
 - C. Dallas—ethnically diverse
 - D. San Antonio—banking center