

6/29/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Texas

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

We're bringing back this popular quiz – updated and improved. Each week (ish), we'll explore one US state. This week, we've randomly selected **TEXAS**. Let's see how much you know about this state where Liquid Paper (Wite-Out), the handheld calculator, and Dr. Pepper were all invented.

Instructions:

1. Divide the players evenly into teams (or as closely as possible).
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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Instructions: Find out how much you know about TEXAS from this quiz.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Texas?
2. Including Austin, Texas has six cities with populations over 500,000. How many can you name?
3. What is Texas' official state nickname?
4. Three of Texas' borders are defined by rivers. Can you name at least two of them?
5. The phrase "Six Flags Over Texas" comes from the six nations that have ruled over that territory, in whole or in part, throughout its history. How many of these nations can you name?
6. After defeating Santa Anna's Mexican army, this Texas hero was the first elected president of the independent Republic of Texas. He was also the first elected US senator from Texas after it was annexed as a US state in 1845.
7. Can you name the two-year-long war that set Texas' western boundary at the Rio Grande?
8. After the Civil War, Texas had a long period of economic stagnation until this discovery in 1901.
9. Greg Abbott became governor of Texas in January 2015. The three governors who preceded him were all nationally known. Can you name them? (Hint: Two were Republicans and one was a Democrat.)
10. Name the Texas governor who was shot in the motorcade where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.
11. Ann Richards was a Democrat and not a supporter of fellow Texan George H. W. Bush when he ran for president in 1988. At the Democratic National Convention that year, Richards uttered this famous quip: "Poor George, he can't help it. He was born with ... " Can you finish the quote?
12. Name one of Texas' current two US senators.
13. While Texas is home to a wide variety of professional sports teams, football is king there. Can you name Texas' two NFL teams?
14. What are the two Major League Baseball teams that call Texas home?

15. Can you name the airline company, one of the largest in the world, that is headquartered at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport?
16. This computer (and other high tech products) company, to which its founder gave his own last name, is the fourth-largest employer in Texas and one of the largest technology companies in the world.

See if you can identify these famous Texans:

17. Born in Kingston, Texas in 1924, he became one of the most famous soldiers of WWII and was widely regarded as the most decorated US soldier of that war. He starred in a 1955 film, *To Hell and Back*, which was based on his WWII experiences.
18. Born in San Antonio in 1943, this former Marine is best remembered for his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal, in which profits from the clandestine sale of weapons to Iran were illegally distributed to rebel groups in Nicaragua.
19. Born in De Kalb, Texas in 1928, he earned a Master's Degree in dramatic arts and taught high school English and drama before taking on the role of Hoss Cartwright in the TV western *Bonanza*.
20. Born in San Antonio in 1905, she was an Academy Award-winning actress and, for a while, a member of the Board of Directors of the Pepsi-Cola Company. However, she may be best remembered for the phrase "No wire hangers!", thanks to a tell-all memoir written by her adopted daughter in 1978.
21. Born in San Saba, Texas in 1946, this future actor attended Harvard University on a scholarship and roomed across the hall from future Vice President Al Gore. Some of his notable roles have included Loretta Lynn's husband in *Coal Miner's Daughter*, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore in TV's *The Executioner's Song*, and Marshal Sam Gerard in the 1993 film *The Fugitive*.
22. Born in Lubbock in 1936, he had one year of success in music with his band, the Crickets, before he died in a plane crash at age 22.
23. *Rolling Stone* magazine put this Port Arthur, Texas native as number 28 on its list of the 100 greatest singers of all time. She sang ten songs on the second day of the Woodstock music festival in 1969, including "Summertime" and "Piece of My Heart." She died the next year of a drug overdose at age 27.

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ANSWERS

1. Austin
2. Houston (2.3 million); San Antonio (1.5 million); Dallas (1.3 million); Austin (930,000); Fort Worth (835,000); El Paso (681,000)
3. The Lone Star State
4. The Rio Grande forms the southwestern border between Texas and Mexico; the Red River forms the northeastern border with Oklahoma and Arkansas; and the Sabine River forms the southeastern border between Texas and Louisiana.
5. Spain, France (which held a short-lived colony in Texas), Mexico, Texas (Texas was an independent country from 1836 to 1845), the United States, and the Confederate States of America (during the Civil War)
6. Sam Houston
7. The Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
8. Oil was discovered at a field called Spindletop in Beaumont, Texas.
9. Rick Perry (2000-2015); George W. Bush (1995-2000); Ann Richards (1991-1995)
10. John Connally
11. " ... a silver FOOT in his mouth!"
12. Ted Cruz (R) and John Cornyn (R)
13. The Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Texans (Note: The Texans joined the NFL in 2002 as an expansion team after Houston's previous franchise, the Houston Oilers, moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where they are now the Tennessee Titans.)
14. The Houston Astros and the Texas Rangers
15. American Airlines
16. Dell Computer. The company was founded in 1984 by Michael S. Dell, who was then an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Texas at Austin.
17. Audie Murphy
18. Oliver North
19. Dan Blocker
20. Joan Crawford
21. Tommy Lee Jones
22. Buddy Holly
23. Janis Joplin