

LESSON 25

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

Population in Texas

- *Population History of Counties, 1850–2010*
- *Population History of Selected Cities, 1850–2000*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 6, 8, 21, 22, 23

7 - 8, 21, 22, 23

8 - 10, 11, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 2

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. POPULATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK: Students will answer the questions on the **Student Activity Sheet** regarding county populations from the downloadable chart “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at: <http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population>.

2. COLOR-CODED COUNTIES MAP: Using a Texas Counties Map (see Appendix) and the most recent census data on “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population>

students will color code counties according to these population categories:

- **1,000,000 and over**
- **500,000 to 999,999**
- **100,000 to 499,999**
- **50,000 to 99,999**
- **1,000 to 49,999**
- **0 to 999**

Ask the students to create a key for the population categories on their map.

3. GRAPH & ARTICLE: Students will use “Population History of Selected Cities, 1850–2000” from <http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population> and a blank grid (see Appendix).

They will select their hometown or a city in their county and construct a line graph reflecting the population changes from 1850 to 2000.

Upon completion of the line graph, students will write an article for *Texas Highways* magazine discussing the reasons for the population changes. Encourage students to find other references for their article, such as town articles in the **Handbook of Texas Online** or other articles.



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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Population Fill-in-the Blank

Answer these questions about county populations from the downloadable chart “Population History of Counties, 1850–2010” at:

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/topics/population>.

- a. The population of Atascosa County in 1940 was approximately _____ times its population in 1890.
- b. The population of Comal County was twice as much in 1970 as it was in _____.
- c. Was the population of Ector County in 1920 less than or more than the population of Gillespie County in the same year? _____
- d. How many more people were there in Irion County in 2000 than there were in 1890? _____
- e. Which county had the largest population in 2010? _____
- f. In what year did the population of Limestone County decrease for the first time? _____
- g. The population of Runnels County decreased by approximately 3,700 between what two census counts? _____
- h. The population of Uvalde County in 2010 was approximately _____ times the population of Wheeler County.

