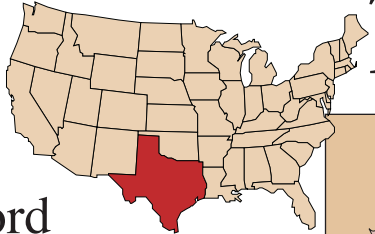


The **state flag and seal** were adopted when Texas became the 28th state in 1845. Both are based on those used by the Republic of Texas and date from 1839.

The large white star was first used on Texas flags in the 1830s.



In a word

The name Texas is from the Caddo Indian word “Tejas,” meaning friends or allies. The state’s motto is “Friendship.”

Lay of the land

Texas is the second-largest (by area) and second most populated of the 50 states. If it were a country, Texas would be the 40th largest, behind Chile and Zambia. The diverse landscape includes coastal swamps, piney woodlands, grassy plains and hills, desert and the mountains of the Big Bend. Many people associate Texas with deserts, but less than 10 percent of the land is desert.

Cowboys

Cattle have played a long and important role in the Texas economy and are often associated with the images of rodeos and cowboys. In the 1800s, the Spanish/Mexican vaqueros (cowmen) taught arriving Easterners the skills needed to survive in the West.

Six flags over Texas

The term “six flags over Texas” came from the several nations that have controlled the region:

Spain 1519-1685; 1690-1821	France 1685-1690	Mexico 1821-1836	Republic of Texas 1836-1845	Confederacy 1861-1865	United States 1845-1861; 1865-present

A brief overview of historic events

For millennia, various tribes of native Americans occupied the region that is now Texas. Some of the major tribes that existed at the time of the first European exploration included the Apache, Alabama, Atakapa, Caddo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche, Creeks, Koasati, Koroa, Kiowa, Muskogee, Pueblos, Quapaw, Shawnee, Waco and Wichita.

1519: Alonso Alvarez de Pineda explores and maps the Texas coastline.	1716-1789: Spain establishes several Catholic missions and the towns of San Antonio, Goliad and Nacogdoches.	1812: The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition crosses the Sabine from Louisiana in a movement against Spanish rule in Texas.	1901: “Black gold” is discovered at the Spindletop oil field.	2000: George W. Bush is elected president of the United States.
1528: Cabeza de Vaca explores the Texas interior.	1830: Mexico bans emigration into Texas.	1835: First shots of Texas Revolution (against Mexico) fired in Gonzales. Texans led by Jim Bowie win the Battle of Concepcion, near San Antonio.	1963: President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.	
1540: Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explores northern Texas.			1988: Texan George H.W. Bush is elected president of the United States.	

1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000
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Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle
1643 - 1687

1685: French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle claims Texas for France. He establishes Fort St. Louis at Matagorda Bay.

1836: The Texas Declaration of Independence.
1836: Texans are defeated by Mexico at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio. Sam Houston becomes first president of the Republic of Texas.

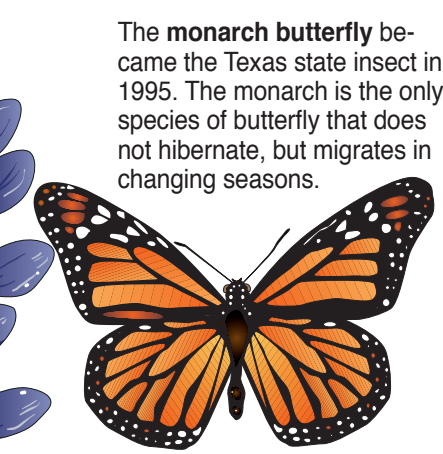
1843: Mexican-Texan truce is signed.
1845: Texas becomes the 28th state.
1861: Texas joins the Confederate States of America.
1866: Texas rejoins the United States of America.



Pecans



Steer



The **monarch butterfly** became the Texas state insect in 1995. The monarch is the only species of butterfly that does not hibernate, but migrates in changing seasons.

The **bluebonnet** is a hardy winter annual native to Texas and commonly seen along sunny roadsides throughout the state.

Did you know?

- Texas is the only state to have had six different nations fly their flags over it.
- The King Ranch in Texas is bigger than the state of Rhode Island.
- More wool comes from Texas than from any other state.
- The beverage Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885.
- The first suspension bridge in the U.S. was the Waco Bridge crossing the Brazos River. Built in 1870, it is still used by pedestrians.
- The state’s cattle population is estimated at 16 million.
- Edwards Plateau in west-central Texas is the top sheep-growing area in the country.
- The Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America’s last flock of whooping cranes.
- Texas has been the birthplace of two U.S. presidents:



Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th U.S. president
(1890 - 1969)



Lyndon B. Johnson
36th U.S. president
(1908 - 1973)

Just the facts

Area	268,581mi ² (696,241 km ²)
Population	25,674,681 (2011)
Capital city	Austin
Largest city	Houston
Largest metro area	Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex
Highest elevation	Guadalupe Peak 8,751 ft (2,667 m)
Lowest elevation	Gulf of Mexico sea level
Agriculture	Livestock, cotton, cereal crops and produce, dairy and greenhouse products
Fishing	Shrimp, crabs, flounder, oysters, red snapper, red drum, sea trout
Manufacturing	Electronics (computers, components, military communication systems), chemicals, cotton fabrics
Mining	Oil and natural gas, cement, crushed stone, lime, salt, sand, gravel

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; www.texas.gov; www.netstate.com; www.50states.com; www.history-timelines.org

At a bookstore near you: Two full-color World of Wonder compilations: “Plants & Animals” and “People & Places.” For more information, please visit QuillDriverBooks.com or call 800-605-7176