Texas State Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. How many stars appear on the Texas state flag?
   - A. One
   - B. Three
   - C. Five
   - D. Six

   Correct answer: A. One
   One white star appears against the blue vertical stripe. The star is associated with the state’s Lone Star nickname.

2. Which flower was first designated as an official Texas state symbol in 1901?
   - A. Indian paintbrush
   - B. Firewheel
   - C. Bluebonnet
   - D. Purple coneflower

   Correct answer: C. Bluebonnet
   The Texas Legislature first designated the bluebonnet as an official Texas flower in 1901.

3. Which animal is the official large mammal of Texas?
   - A. American bison
   - B. Texas longhorn
   - C. White-tailed deer
   - D. Nine-banded armadillo

   Correct answer: B. Texas longhorn
   The large-mammal designation belongs to the Texas longhorn. The nine-banded armadillo is the official small mammal.

4. Which Texas city is home to the Alamo mission complex?
   - A. Houston
   - B. Austin
   - C. El Paso
   - D. San Antonio

   Correct answer: D. San Antonio
   The Alamo is in central San Antonio, where the historic mission buildings are preserved.

5. Which nut-bearing tree is a Texas state symbol?

A. Black walnut
B. Pecan
C. Shagbark hickory
D. American chestnut

Correct answer: B. Pecan
The pecan is the official Texas state tree, designated in 1919.

6. Which summit rises to the highest natural elevation in Texas?

A. Guadalupe Peak
B. Emory Peak
C. Mount Livermore
D. El Capitan

Correct answer: A. Guadalupe Peak
Guadalupe Peak reaches 8,751 feet, the highest natural elevation in the state.

7. Which Texas Panhandle state park has a rock formation called the Lighthouse?

A. Davis Mountains State Park
B. Caprock Canyons State Park
C. Colorado Bend State Park
D. Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Correct answer: D. Palo Duro Canyon State Park
Texas Parks and Wildlife identifies the Lighthouse as a landmark along the trails of Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

8. Which rock gives the exterior of the Texas State Capitol its pinkish-red color?

A. Pink marble
B. Red sandstone
C. Sunset Red granite
D. Red slate

Correct answer: C. Sunset Red granite
The Capitol exterior uses Texas Sunset Red granite. The dome was painted to match that stone.

9. Which battlefield preserves the site where Sam Houston’s force defeated the Mexican army on April 21, 1836?

A. San Jacinto
B. Goliad
C. Gonzales
D. Palo Alto

Correct answer: A. San Jacinto
The Texas Historical Commission dates the Battle of San Jacinto to April 21, 1836.

10. Which state historic site near Alto preserves earthworks connected to an ancestral Caddo village and ceremonial center?

A. Confederate Reunion Grounds
B. Mission Dolores
C. Landmark Inn
D. Caddo Mounds

Correct answer: D. Caddo Mounds
Ancestral Caddo built a permanent village and ceremonial center at the site. Three earthen mounds remain.

11. Which field near Beaumont was the site of the 1901 Lucas gusher?

A. Permian Basin
B. East Texas Oil Field
C. Spindletop
D. Eagle Ford

Correct answer: C. Spindletop
The Lucas gusher at Spindletop helped launch a major Texas oil boom in 1901.

12. Padre Island National Seashore includes a barrier island between the Gulf and which lagoon?

A. Galveston Bay
B. Laguna Madre
C. Matagorda Bay
D. Sabine Lake

Correct answer: B. Laguna Madre
The National Park Service describes the protected portion of north Padre Island between the Gulf and the Laguna Madre.

13. Inside Big Bend National Park, which summit reaches 7,832 feet?

A. Lost Mine Peak
B. Guadalupe Peak
C. Casa Grande Peak
D. Emory Peak

Correct answer: D. Emory Peak
Emory Peak is the park’s highest point. Guadalupe Peak is higher statewide and lies in a different national park.

14. Which of the Buffalo Soldier units was first to garrison Fort Davis after it was reoccupied in 1867?

A. Ninth U.S. Cavalry
B. Tenth U.S. Cavalry
C. Twenty-Fourth U.S. Infantry
D. Twenty-Fifth U.S. Infantry

Correct answer: A. Ninth U.S. Cavalry
The Ninth U.S. Cavalry reoccupied the post in 1867. Other Buffalo Soldier units served there later.

15. Which event occurred between the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto and Texas annexation in 1845?

A. The Lucas gusher erupted at Spindletop
B. The current Texas State Capitol was completed
C. The Republic of Texas established its capital at Austin
D. The Ninth U.S. Cavalry reoccupied Fort Davis

Correct answer: C. The Republic of Texas established its capital at Austin
Austin became the Republic’s capital in 1839, between the battle and annexation. The other events occurred after Texas entered the Union.