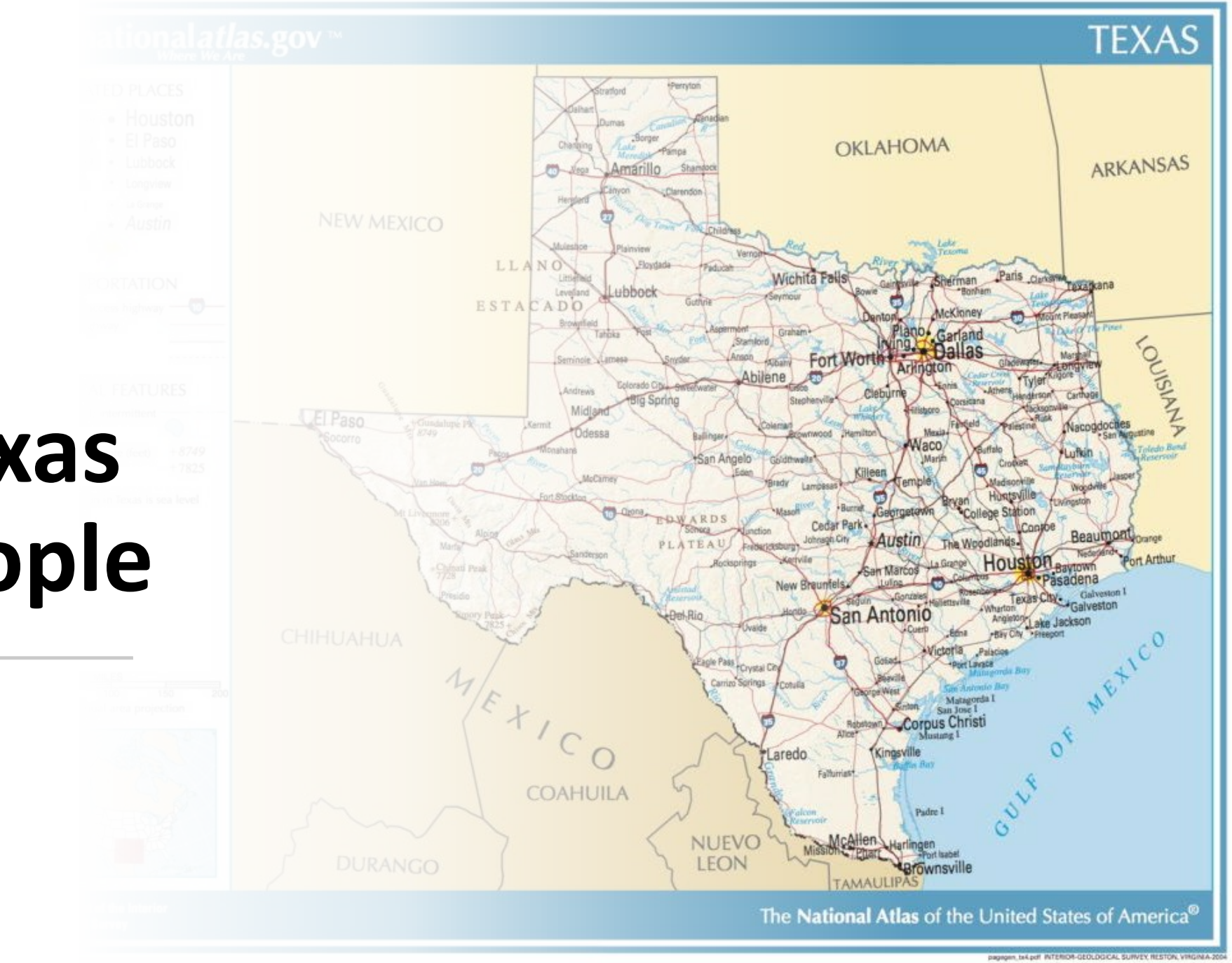
Unit 1:
Natural Texas and Its People

Lesson 7:

Texas Today



Texas History for Teachers

Texas Today

Warm-up

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

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Warm-up

Follow the directions to complete your warm-up

What would you put in a time capsule for people 500 years from now to learn about life in Texas today?

Write your response on your warm-up.

Discuss with a partner

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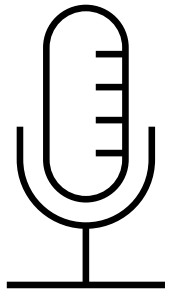
Share with the class



I would put _____ in a time capsule for future people to learn about Texas today because _____.

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Essential Question

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

What are the defining characteristics of Texas today, and how do they compare with early Texas history?

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In today's lesson...

Day 1

1. ***We will*** examine Texas geography, population, culture, and economy today.

2. ***I will*** create a map of Texas including the major cities and bordering locations. I will answer comprehension questions about modern Texas.

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Welcome to Texas Today!

Lesson

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

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Welcome to Texas Today!

Today, at 268,596 square miles and 30.3 million people, Texas is the second largest state in the nation both in terms of land mass and population.

Three of the top ten largest cities in the U.S. are located in Texas: Austin, Dallas, and Houston. In fact, Houston is the 4th largest city in the country at over 2.3 million people!

Texas industries like agriculture, energy, and oil and gas are so successful that Texas' economy is the 8th largest in the world!

A view of the Houston skyline

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Texas Economy

Most people know Texas produces a large amount of oil and natural gas. Texas produces 42% of the nation's oil – in other words, nearly half of all oil in the U.S. comes from Texas!

Did you know that Texas is also the number one producer of wind energy in the nation? In fact, Texas wind energy accounts for nearly 25% of total wind energy generated in the U.S.

Wind turbines at work in the South Texas Plains

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Natural and Human Geography

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Make a prediction

Where do you think most Texans live today based on your prior knowledge of Texas geography and the map to the right?

Where do you think they would be least likely to live?

Explain your answer

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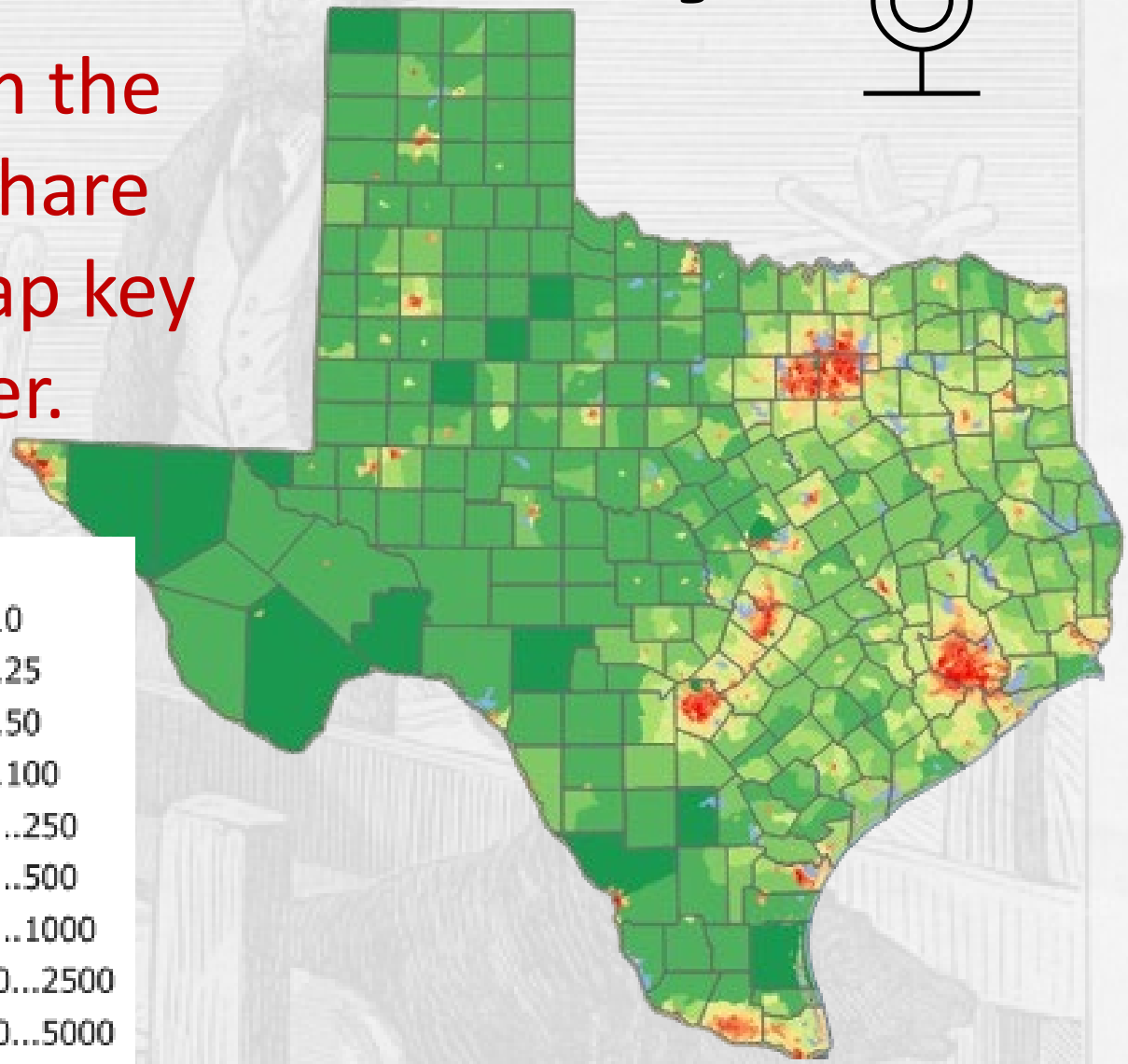
Texas Population *Density**

Was your prediction from the previous slide correct? Share with the class. Use the map key to support your answer.



Key: Population per square mile

This map shows how many people live in a one-mile area.

***Density**: How many are in one area*

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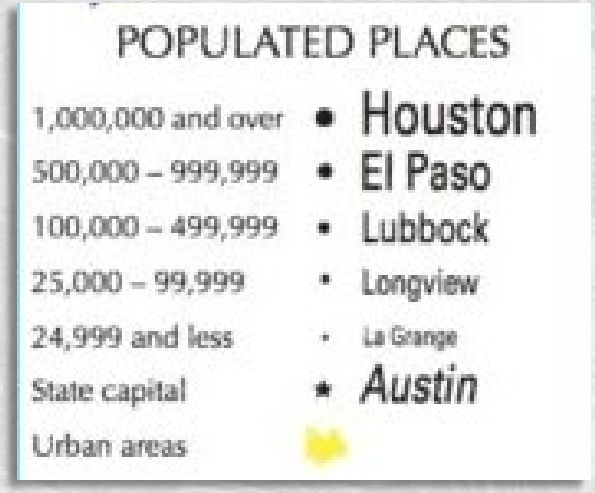
Texas Urban Areas

What is the purpose of this map?

What do you think “urban areas” means?



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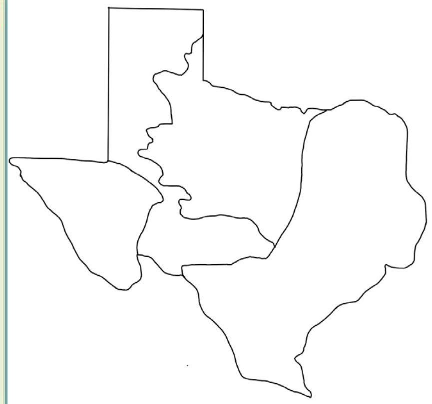
Use the enlarged map on the following slide to label your map on your worksheet.

POPULATED PLACES
1,000,000 and over • Houston
500,000 – 999,999 • El Paso
100,000 – 499,999 • Lubbock
25,000 – 99,999 • Longview
24,999 and less • La Grange
State capital ★ Austin
Urban areas
TRANSPORTATION
Interstate; limited access highway
Other principal highway
Railroad
Ferry
PHYSICAL FEATURES
Streams: perennial; intermittent
Lakes
Highest elevation in state (feet) +8749
Other elevations (feet) +7825
The lowest elevation in Texas is sea level (Gulf of Mexico).
MILES
0 50 100 150 200
Albers equal area projection
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
NEW MEXICO
LOUISIANA
LLANO ESTACADO
EDWARDS PLATEAU
CHIHUAHUA
MEXICO
COAHUILA
DURANGO
NUEVO LEON
TAMAULIPAS
GULF OF MEXICO
Amarillo
Lubbock
Wichita Falls
Fort Worth
Dallas
Arlington
Plano
Garland
Irving
Abilene
Midland
Odessa
El Paso
Socorro
San Angelo
Waco
Killeen
Temple
Austin
Houston
Pasadena
Beaumont
Port Arthur
Tyler
Longview
Texarkana
San Antonio
New Braunfels
Corpus Christi
Laredo
McAllen
Brownsville
Harlingen
Galveston
Denton
McKinney
Sherman
Big Spring
Del Rio
Victoria
College Station
Bryan
Round Rock
Georgetown
Cedar Park
The Woodlands
Lufkin
Nacogdoches



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American Indians in Texas Today

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American Indians in Texas Today

Today, there are three federally recognized American Indian tribes in Texas: the Alabama-Coushatta in east Texas, the Kickapoo Traditional in south Texas, and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo in west Texas.

There are also more than 30 tribes that are not federally recognized like the Lipan-Apache tribe of south Texas.

Members of the Alabama-Coushatta and Apache tribes at a tribal gathering in 1974

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American Indian Culture Today

Many members of American Indian tribes in Texas today keep their tribal culture and heritage alive in a variety of different ways.

Pictured here are dancers from the Texas American Indian Heritage Society preparing to perform a traditional dance in 1997.

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Texas Today

Exit Ticket

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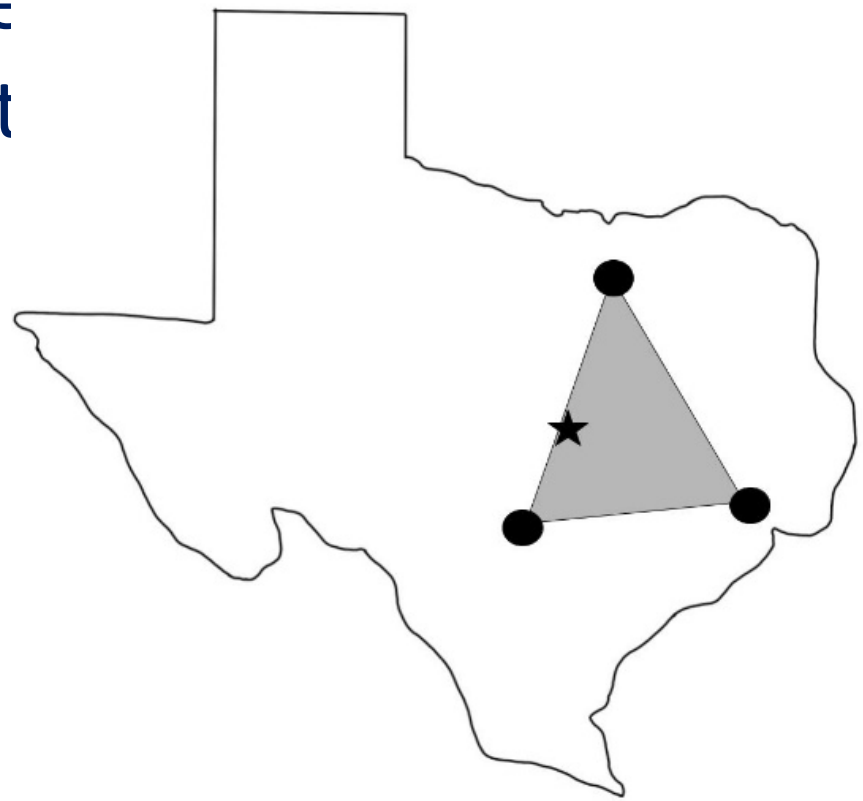
Exit Ticket

Follow the directions to complete your exit ticket

Answer the multiple-choice question on your exit ticket based on the map available.

Write your response

Discuss with a partner



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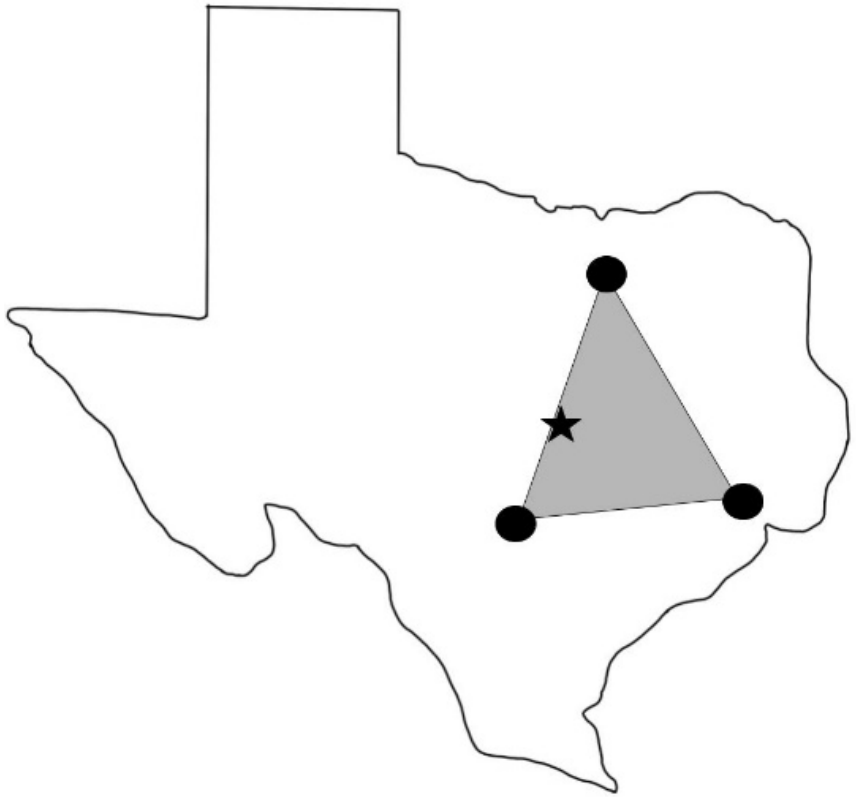
Share with the class



The significance of the map is that _____