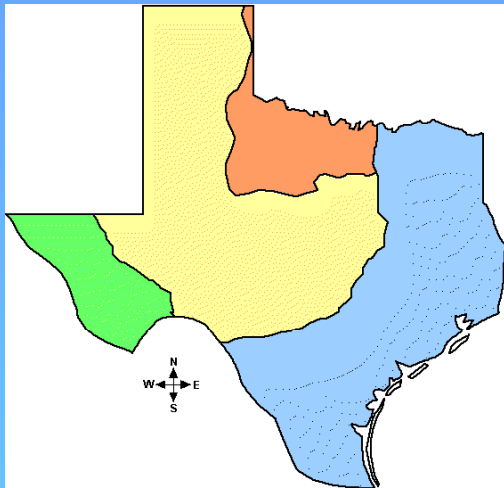


# Texas Bus Tour

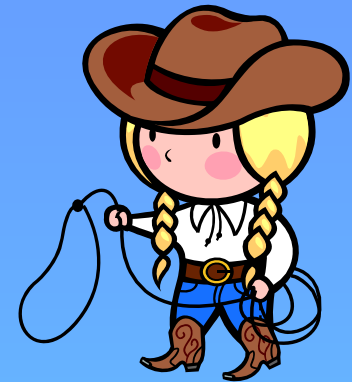


# Welcome!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Texas Bus Tour



- Our tour guides today are Tumbleweed Tonya



- Fasten your seatbelts
- Enter and Exit through the aisle
- Take notes in your Texas Travel Guide as we make four stops, so hold on tight!
- By the way, tips for the tour guide are encouraged.

# FIRST STOP

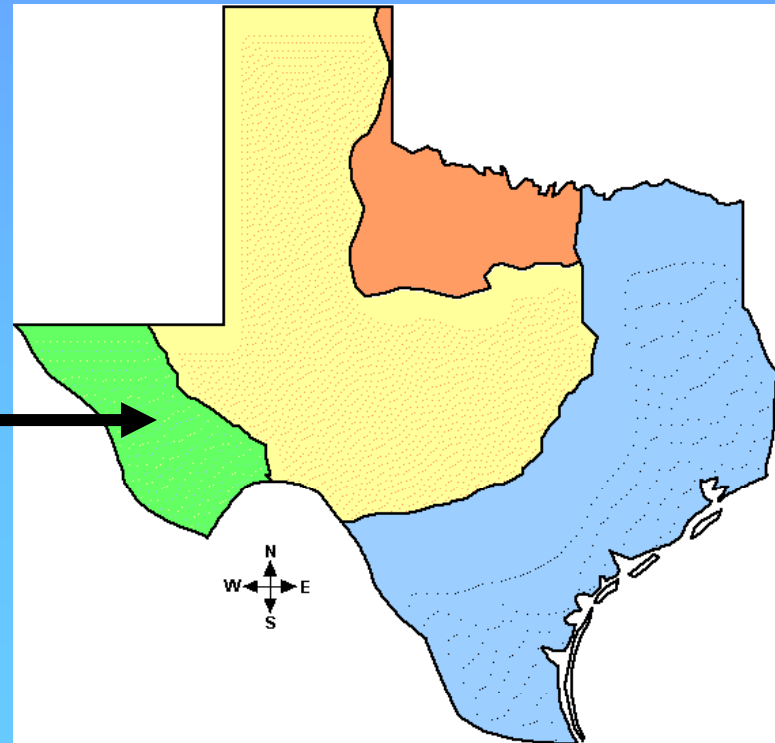
## Mountain and Basin Region



Our first stop is the Mountains and Basins region!

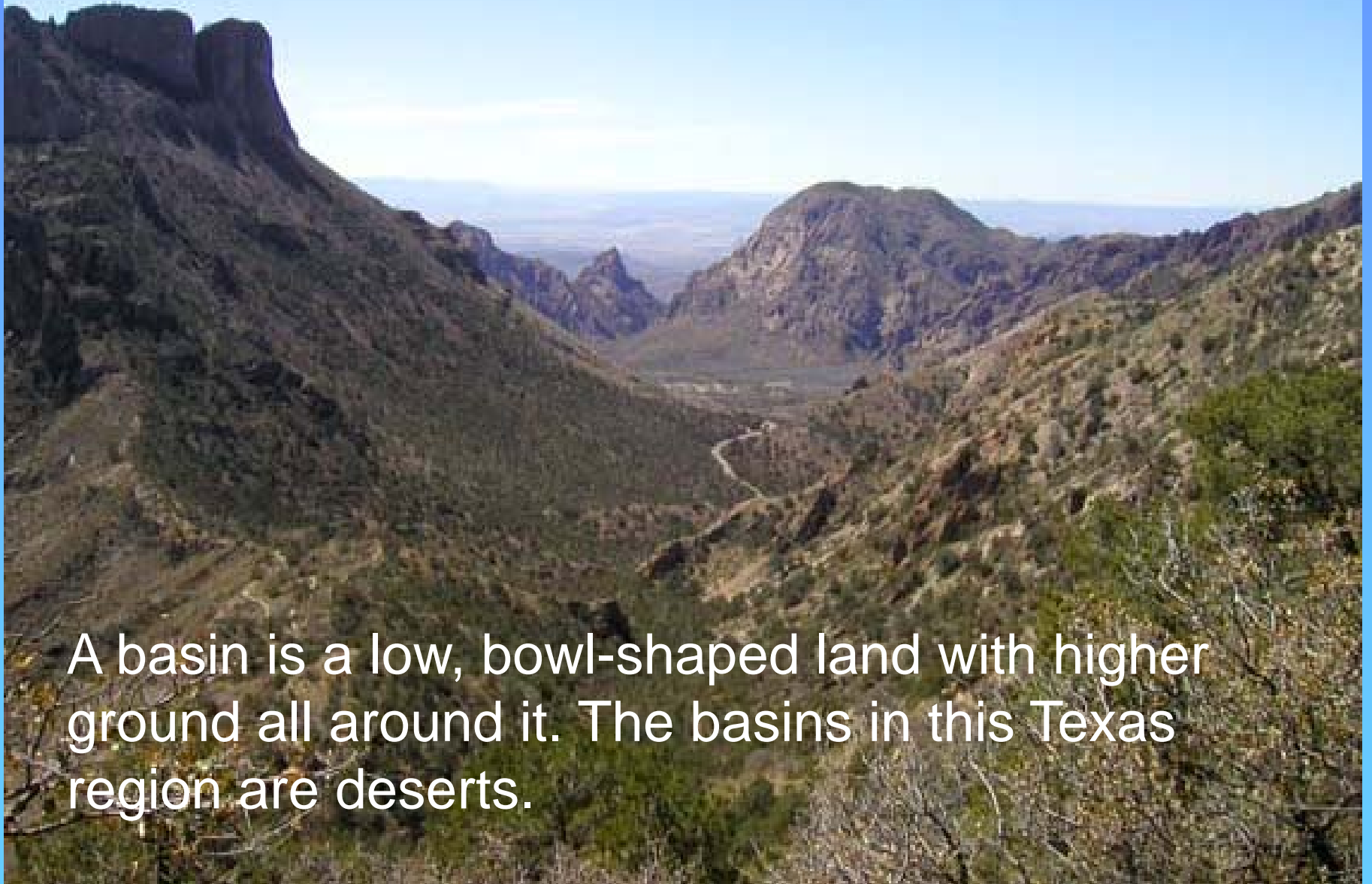
The Mountains and Basins region is the most western region of Texas. It has many mountain ranges and is very dry.

**Mountains and  
Basins Region**



# Mountains and Basins Region

A basin is a low, bowl-shaped land with higher ground all around it. The basins in this Texas region are deserts.



There are three mountain ranges in this part of Texas.



**The mountains in Texas are part of the Rocky Mountains which stretch through the western United States from Mexico to Canada. The Texas Rocky Mountains are made up of many small mountain ranges.**



**Mountains  
and Basins  
Region of  
Texas**



**The Davis Mountains are in the center of the Mountains and Basins region.**





**The Chisos Mountains are located in the Big Bend National Park.**

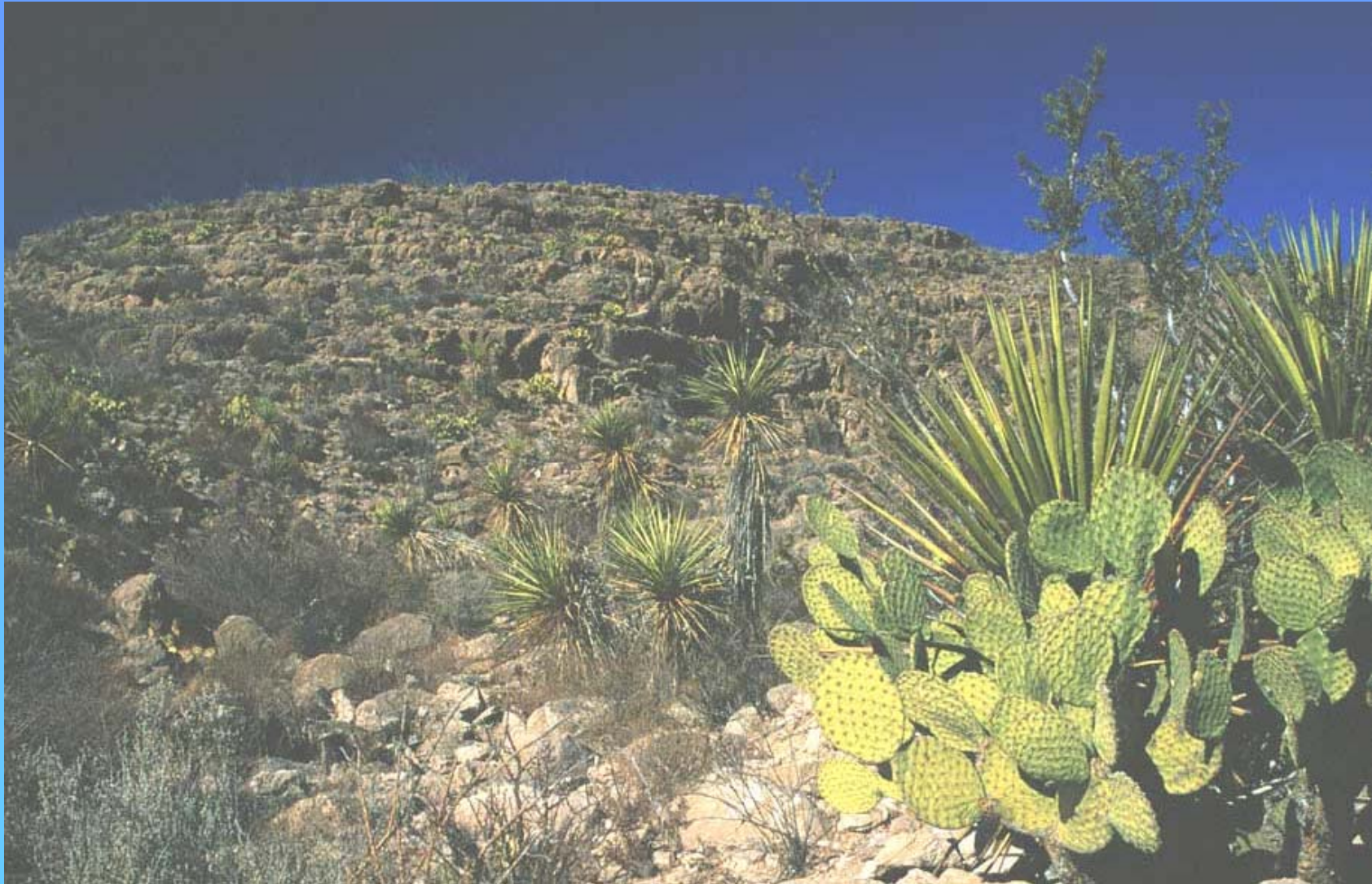
The Guadalupe Mountains border Texas and New Mexico.



Guadalupe Peak is the highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet above sea level.



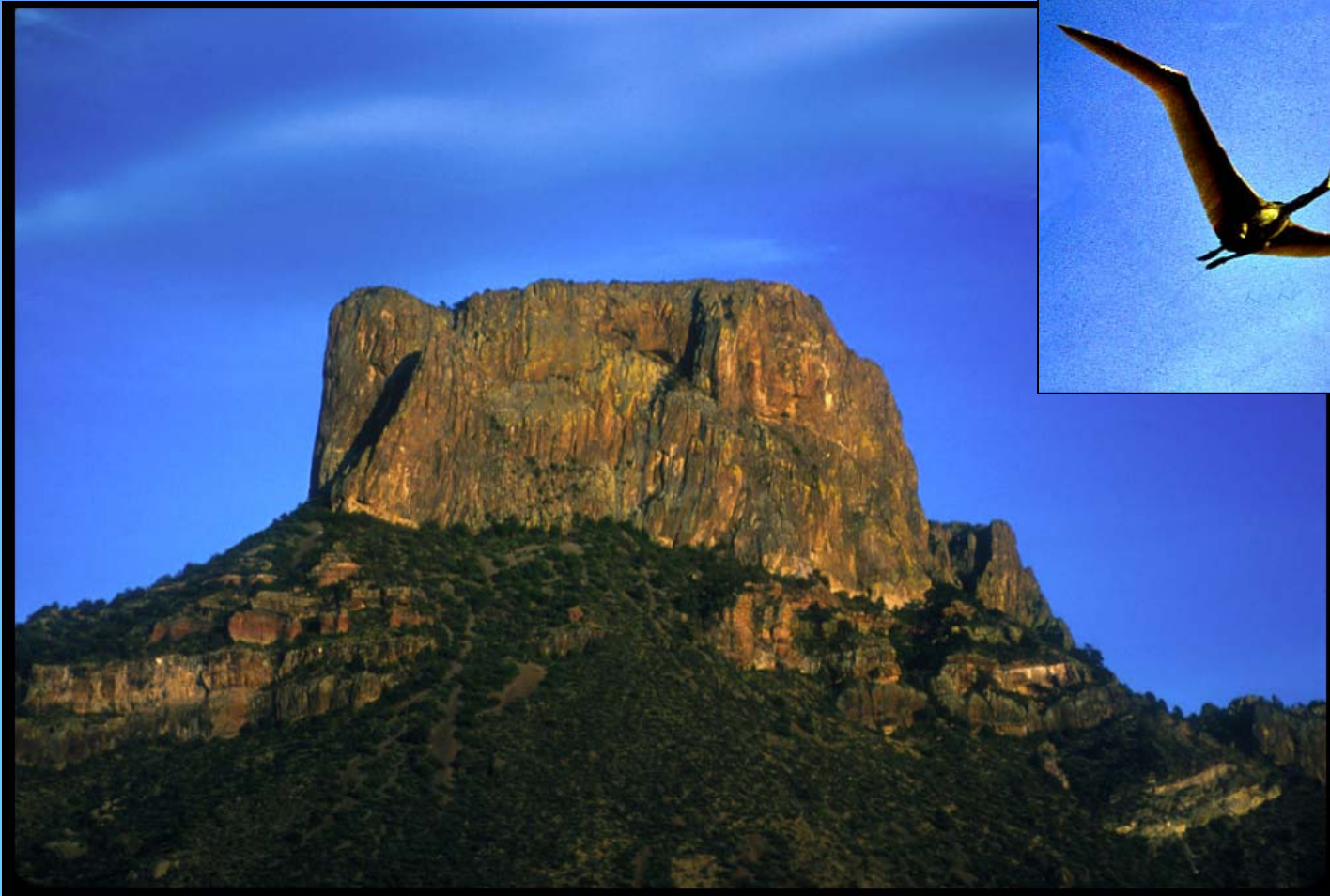
The Chihuahuan Desert is located in this region. Prickly pear cactus grows here.



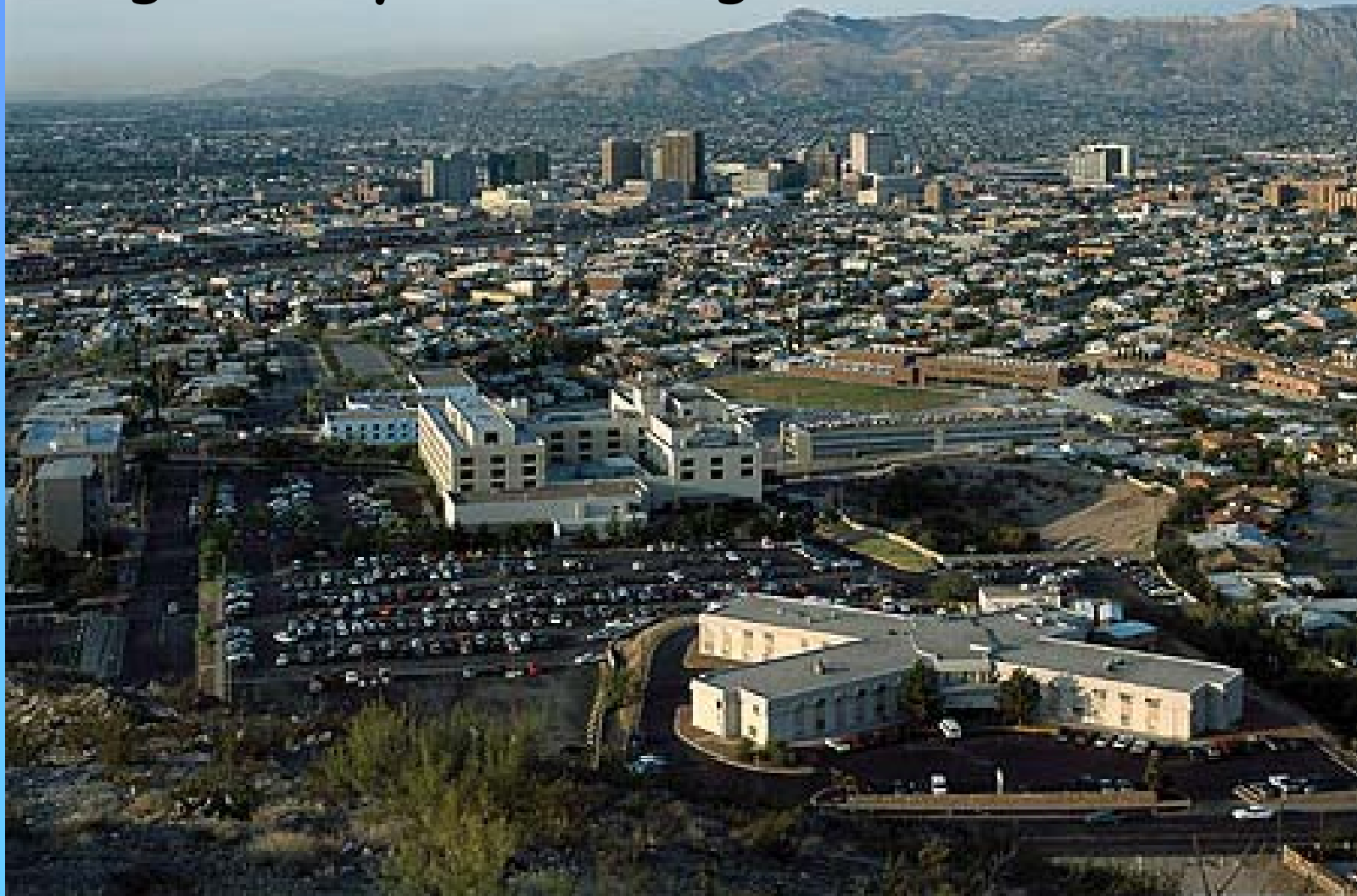
Big Bend National Park is located in a gigantic bend in the Rio Grande River. 99% of the park is desert!



Did you know the largest pterodactyl bone ever discovered was found right here in Big Bend National Park? It had a wingspan of 51 feet and was found by Douglas A. Lawson in 1971.



This is the city of El Paso. The name is Spanish for "The Pass". El Paso is the largest city in this region of Texas.

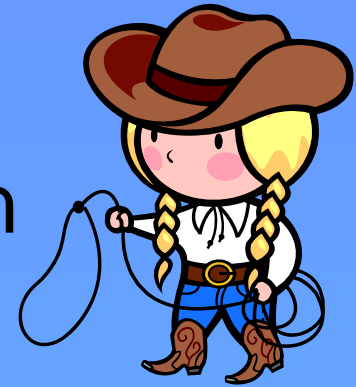


Okay, everyone back on the bus!  
Make sure you took plenty of notes!

- This region is located in West Texas.
- This region has all of Texas' mountains and valleys.
- This land is mostly desert. It has the least amount of rainfall in Texas.
- El Paso is the biggest city.
- Big Bend National Park is located here.



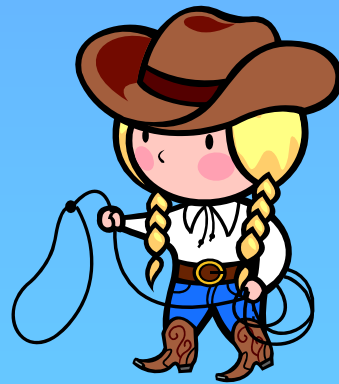
# Mountain and Basin Region



Let's get off the bus and visit Big Bend National Park.

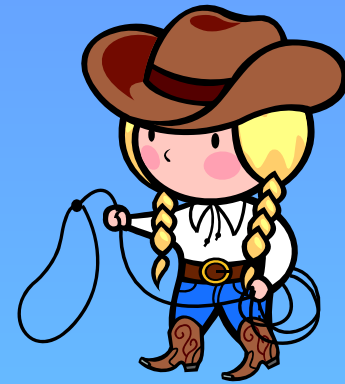
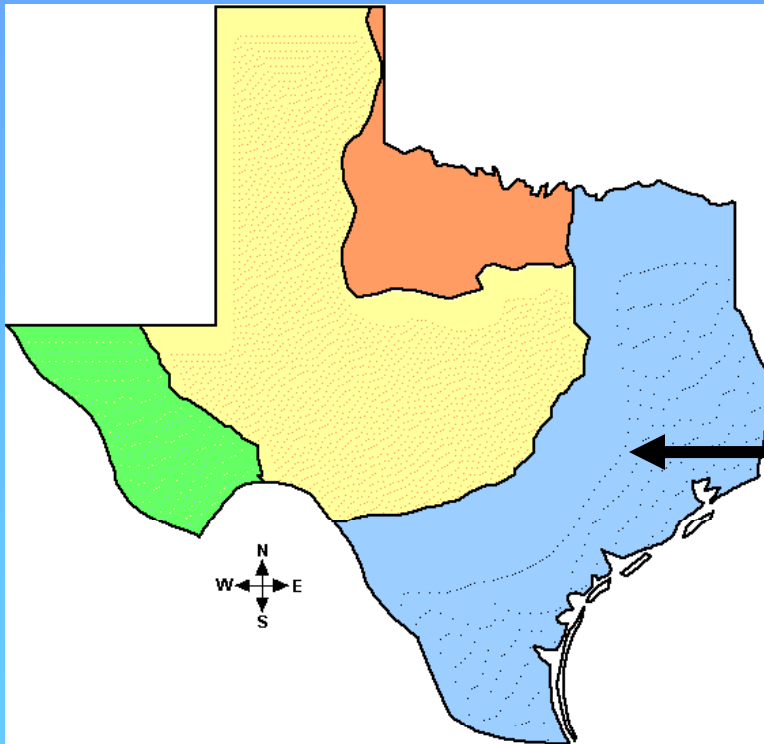
# SECOND STOP!

## Coastal Plains Region



Our second stop is the Coastal Plains region!

The Coastal Plains are mostly flat land that lies alongside an ocean. Coastal Plains cover near one third of the state of Texas!



**Coastal Plains  
Region**

This the Piney Woods of East Texas. It was once the home of the Caddo Indians.



Our state bird, the Mockingbird, lives here. They got their name from their unique ability to copy or "mock" other birds. Another state symbol is found in abundance here. The pecan tree is the state tree of Texas.



**Mocking bird**

**Pecan tree**



Weather in the Coastal Plains region is usually mild. That means that winters are short and warm compared to other parts of the country. Summers are long, hot, and humid.



There are lots of rivers and lakes in this region.  
Perfect for fishing and water sports.



**Fishing in Texas**



The Coastal Plains of Texas lie alongside an ocean. All rivers that flow west drain into the Gulf of Mexico. Many people visit the beaches that lie along Texas.





Shipping is a huge industry in this region. Corpus Christi and Houston have huge ports where ships from all over the world visit to load and unload goods.



**Corpus Christi**



**A cargo ship**



**Houston**

Farming and ranching are important industries in the Coastal Plains region.

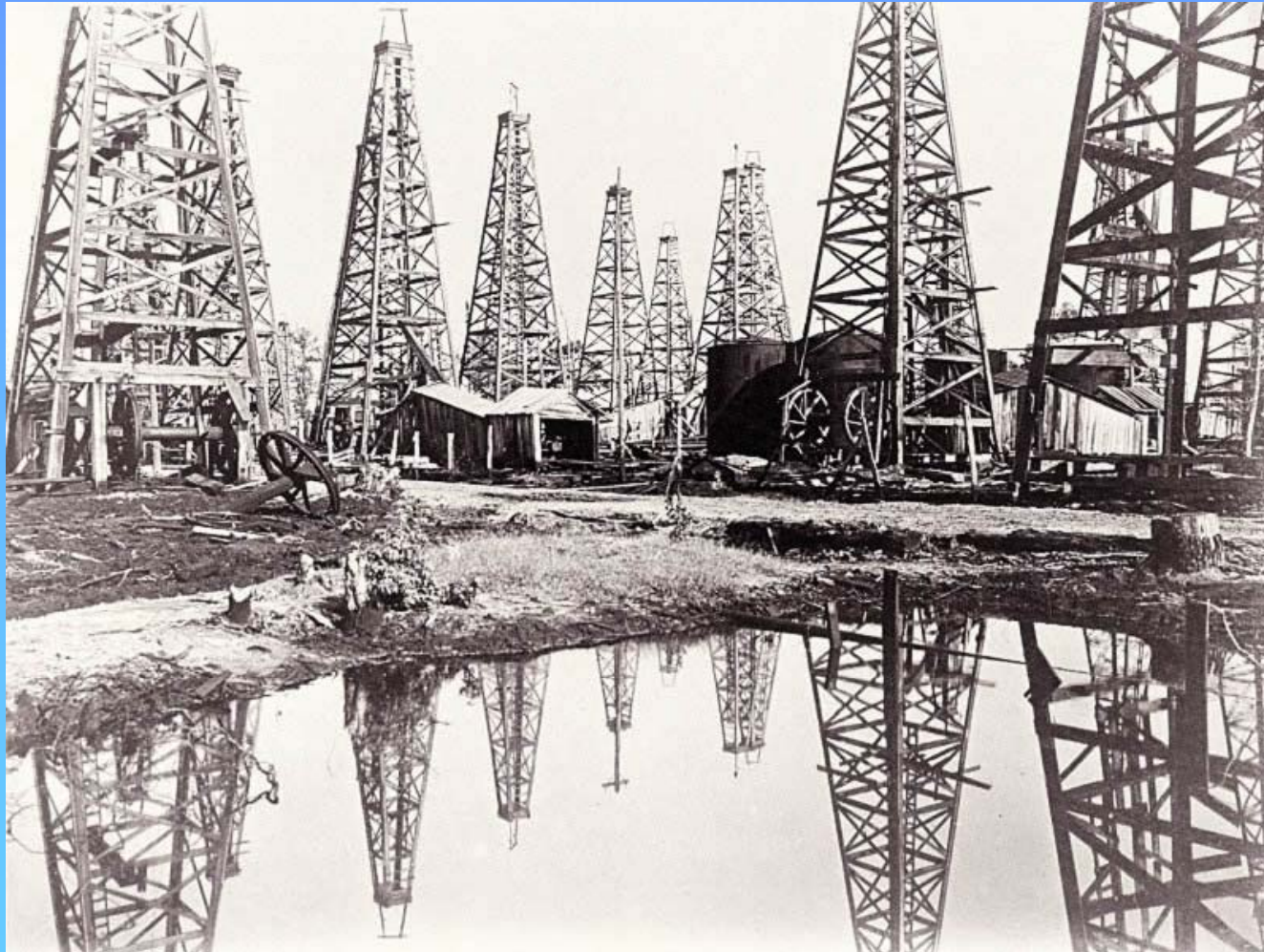


**In Kingsville, you will find King Ranch. It was started in the late 1800s by Captain Richard King and his wife Henrietta. It is still one of the largest cattle ranches in Texas today.**



**In the southern most area of Texas known as “The Valley”, some crops are grown all year due to the warm weather. Crops include cotton, sugar cane, citric fruits, soybeans, and corn.**

Oil is found in the Coastal Plains region. These tall structures are oil derricks. Many people call the oil found in Texas "Black Texas Tea".



Many large cities are located in the Coast Plains including Dallas, Austin, and Houston. Although Austin is our state's capital, Houston is the state's largest city. Houston is also the fourth largest city in the U.S.!



**Austin**



**Houston**

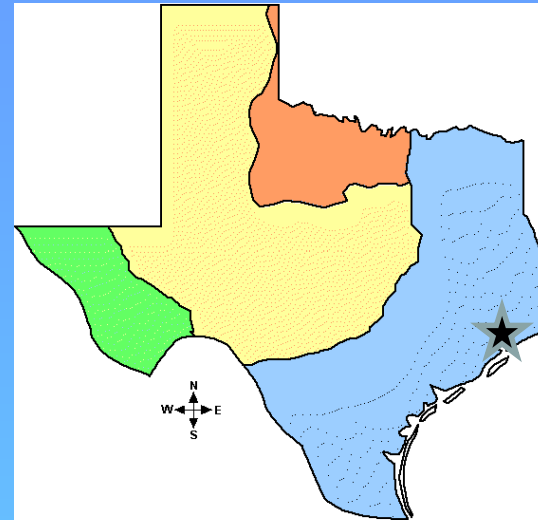
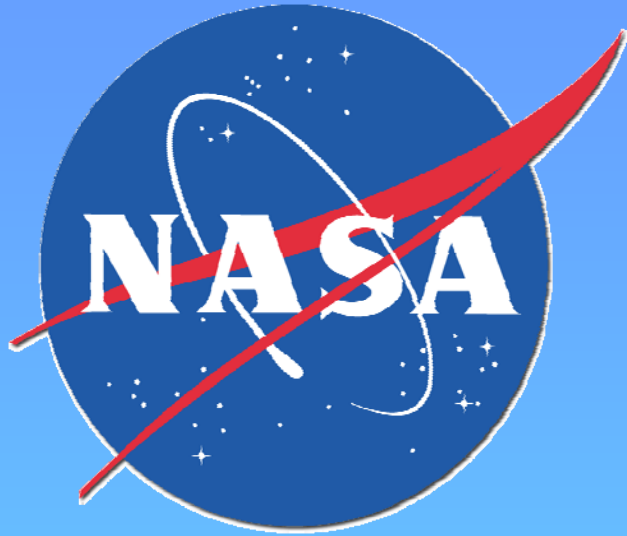
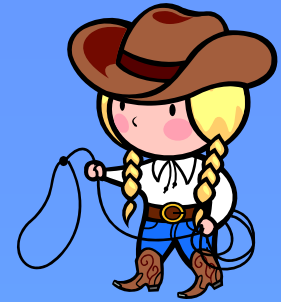


**Dallas**

Okay, everyone back on the bus!  
Make sure you took plenty of notes!

- This region is located in southern and eastern Texas
- This region is very flat so it's very easy to build large cities like Houston, Dallas, Austin, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Laredo.
- This region gets the most rainfall in Texas. It's also very hot and has mild winters.
- Farming, ranching, shipping, and oil are largest industries in this region.

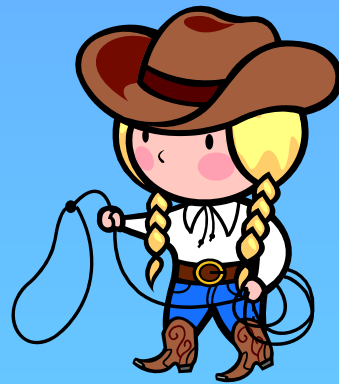
# Coastal Plains Region



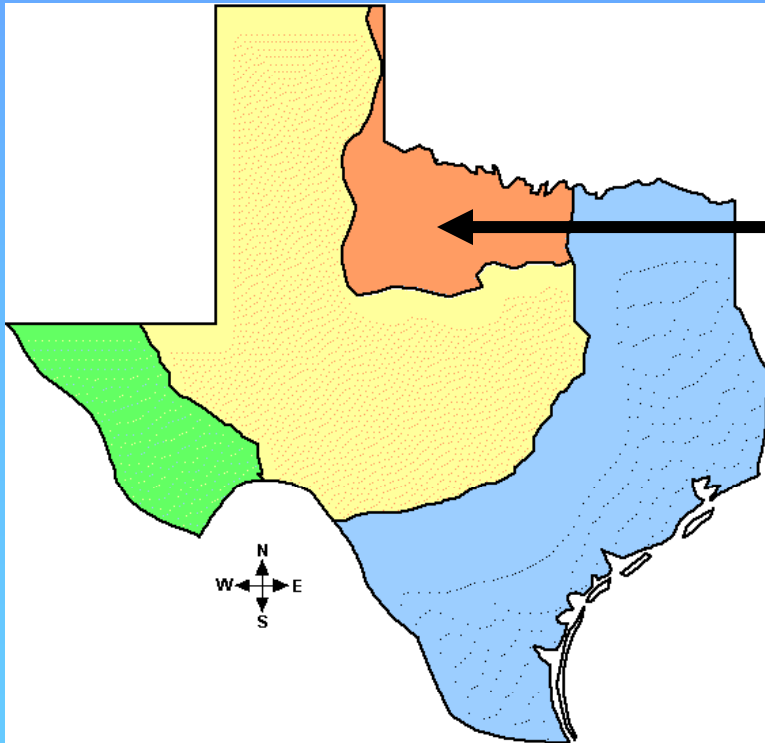
Let's get off the bus and visit NASA located in Clear Lake southeast of Houston

# THIRD STOP!

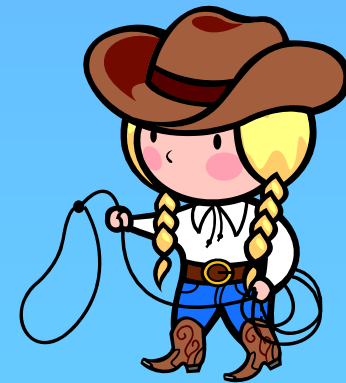
## Central Plains Region



Our third stop is the Central Plains Region! The Central Plains region is in the center of Texas. It has a little higher elevation than the Coastal Plains and is covered with rolling prairies.



**Central Plains  
Region**





The Central Plains Region is a rural area. This means a small population and a lot of open country. It has warm summers and cool winters. There are many cattle ranches and farms here.



This region does have some wild weather. During the spring there is a chance of tornados. These are funnel-shaped storms with swirling winds that do a lot of a damage to a community.



Fort Worth is one of the larger cities in the Central Plains region. It is known for its stockyards and cowboys.



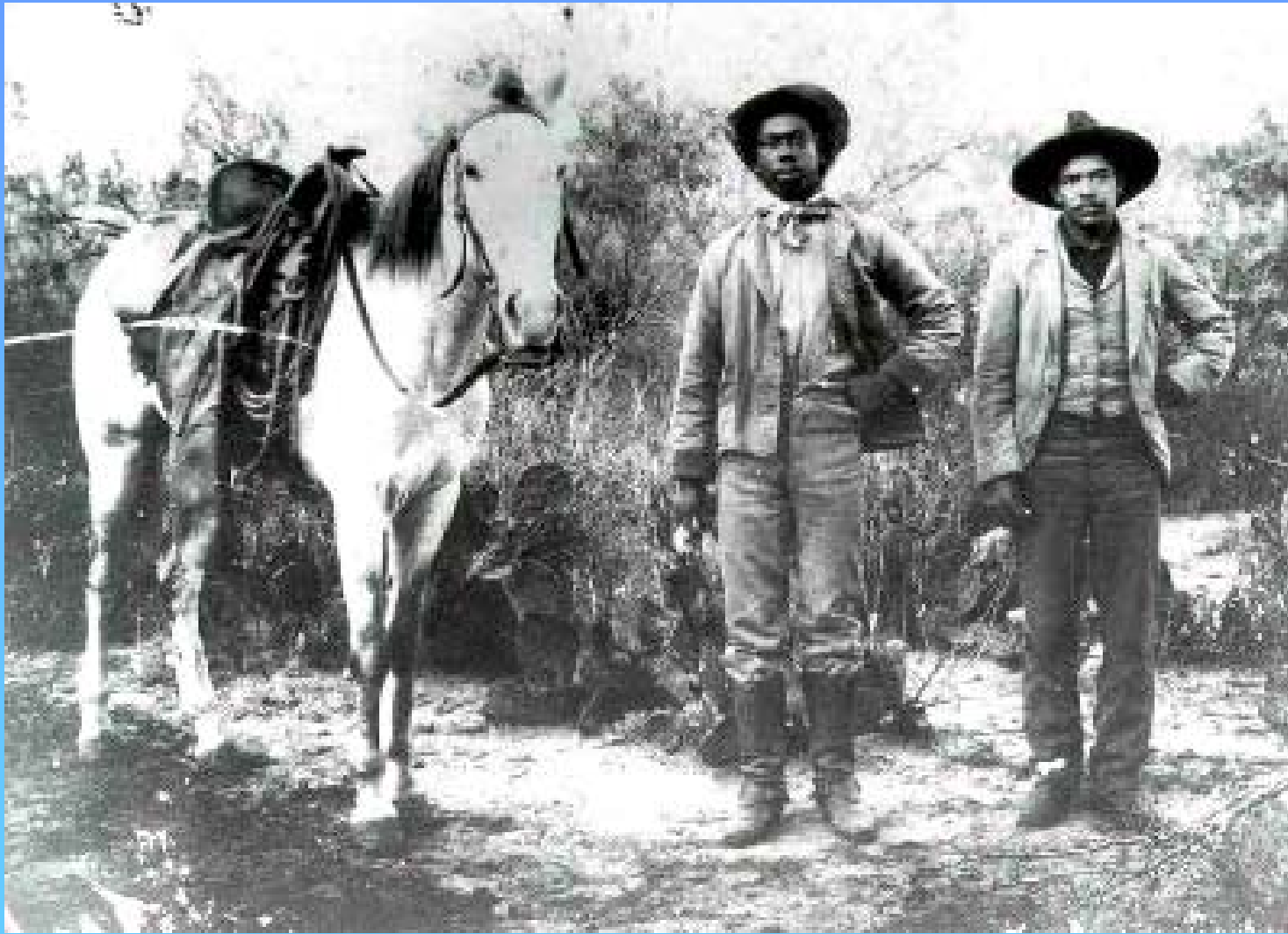
Fort Worth was one of many stops along the famous cattle drive trail known as the Chisholm Trail. The Chisholm Trail was started by a Cherokee trader.



Cowboys and cowgirls in this region still work on cattle ranches. Many compete in rodeos around the country.



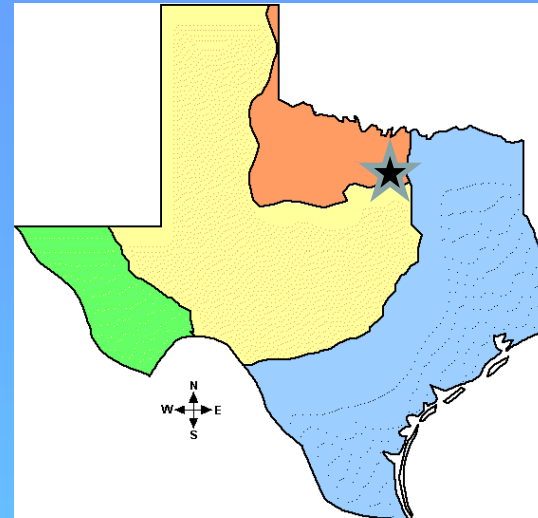
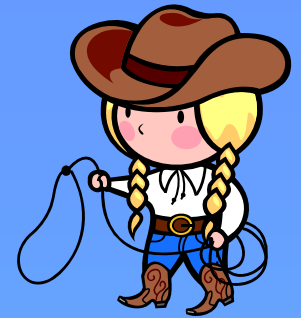
Did you know that after the Civil War, about one third of the Texas cowboys were African-American or Mexican-American? And several were women!



Okay, everyone back on the bus!  
Make sure you took plenty of notes!

- This region is known for its rolling hills.
- The Central Plains are slightly higher than the Coastal Plains.
- Many cattle ranches are located here.
- It is rural, not highly populated.
- Fort Worth, Abilene, and several military bases are located in the Central Plains.

# Central Plains Region

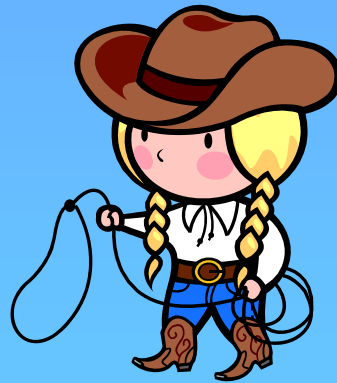


Let's get off the bus and visit Ft. Worth.



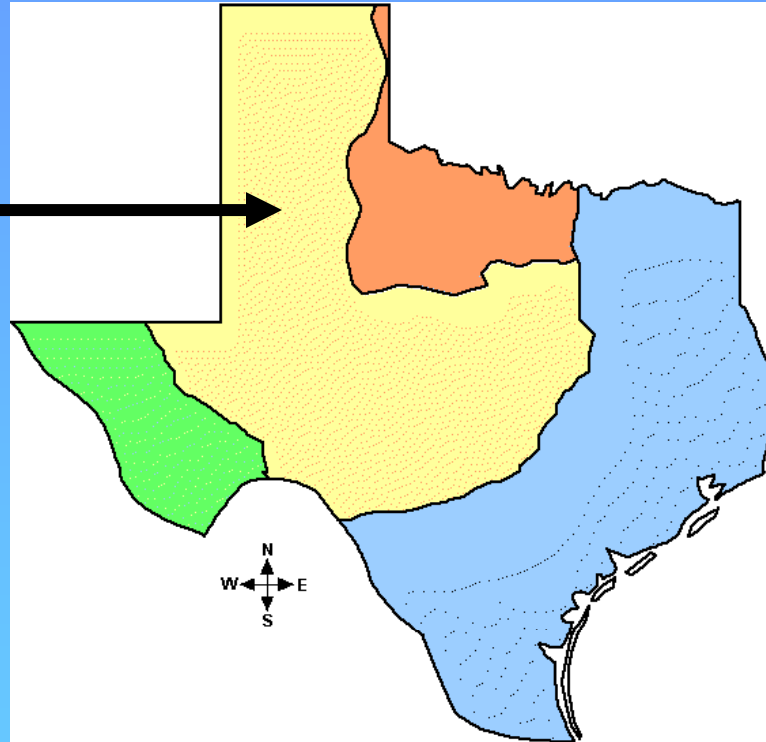
# LAST STOP!

## Great Plains Region



Our last stop is the Great Plains Region! Most of the Texas Panhandle is located here.

Great Plains  
Region



Land in the *Great Plains* region very high in elevation, but is still very flat.



In the southern part of the Great Plains is a landform called the Edwards Plateau. It's very high and flat, like a table. The southern and eastern parts have hills though. This area of Texas is often called the "Hill Country".



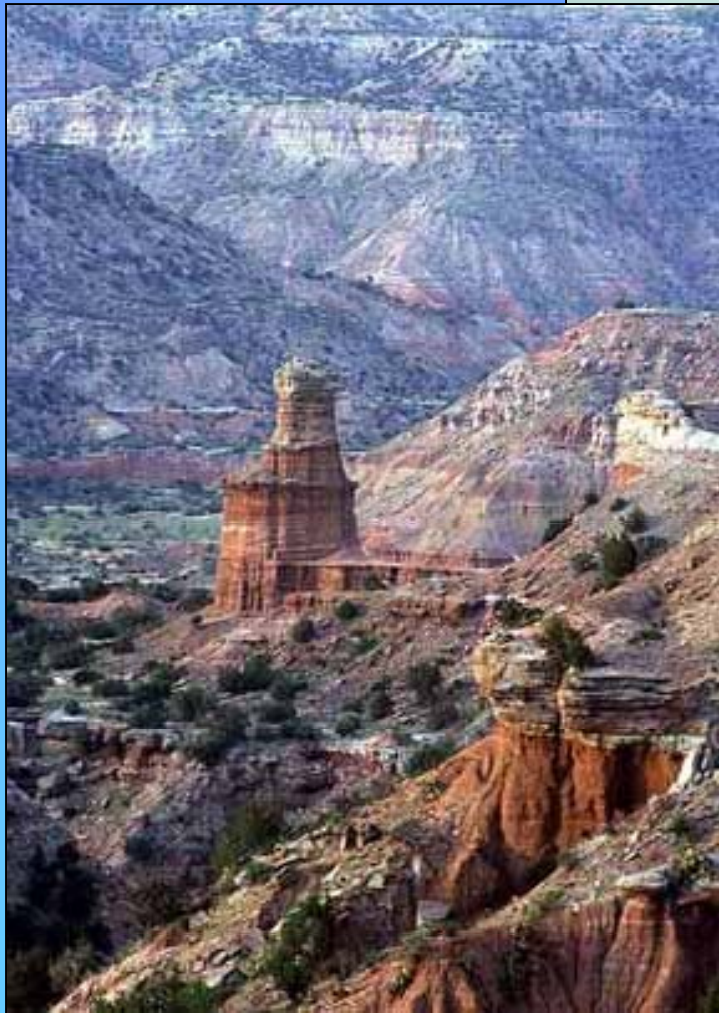
The Cap Rock Escarpment is in the Texas Panhandle. This is where the rolling Central Plains meet the high, flat land of the Great Plains.



In the southern part of the Great Plains is another escarpment called the Balcones Escarpment. Spanish explorers called it that because it looked like "balconies"



Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest canyon in the U.S. It is sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of Texas".



**Palo Duro Canyon is located just south of Amarillo.**

The Great Plains region is very dry and few water sources. Early settlers faced many droughts and sandstorms. However in the winter, the Panhandle will often get blizzards which are very harsh snow storm.



**Sandstorm in the Panhandle**

**Blizzard in the Panhandle**





Ranching is very popular in the Great Plains. Flat grassy land is perfect for raising cattle. What you don't see are armadillos. It's much too cold here!



**Longhorn cattle**



**Not up in the panhandle!**

Wheat and cotton are important crops in the Great Plains. Wheat can grow in areas with little water.



Two major cities in the Great Plains are Lubbock and Amarillo. Both cities grew after railroads were built in Texas. Railroads carried the cattle to markets back east.



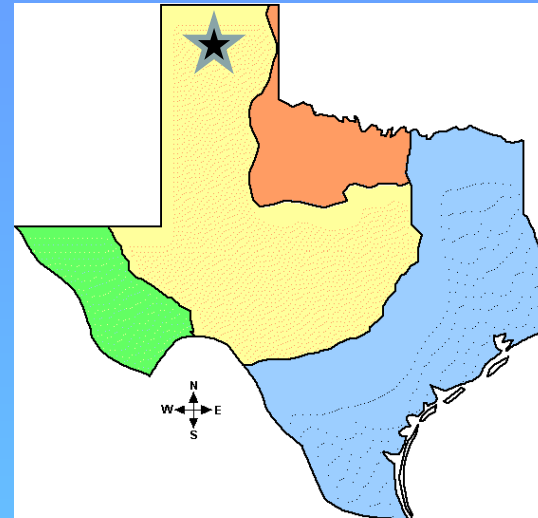
Today, both Lubbock and Amarillo are home to many different industries, including farming, cattle ranching, gas, oil, health care, and tourism.



Okay, everyone back on the bus!  
Make sure you took plenty of notes!

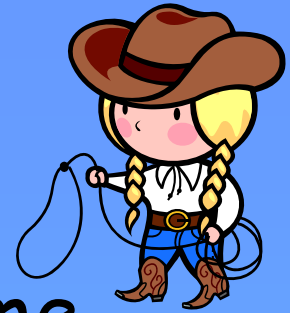
- Very high, flat land
- Plateaus, mesas, and canyons
- Region is very dry with little rain
- Cooler land because of high elevation
- Major cities: Amarillo and Lubbock
- Important crops: cotton and wheat
- Balcones Escarpment separates the Great Plains from the Coastal Plains

# Great Plains Region



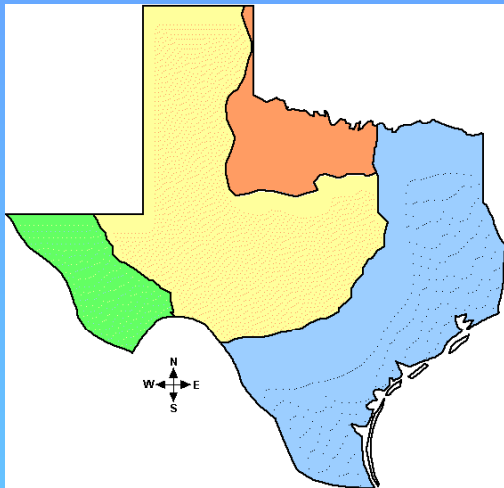
Let's get off the bus and visit Palo Duro State Park.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Texas Bus Tour



### Postcard Home

- Choose a region we just visited.
- Write to someone and tell them all about it.

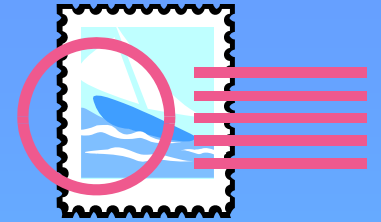


Choose a region we just visited. Draw a picture to represent that region. You may use your notes. Make sure to include pictures of specific details we discussed.





Now, write a letter to someone and tell him or her about your trip to one of the regions. Be sure to include **facts about the region** (things you might see, etc.) and **information about the Native American tribes** that live in that region. **You must include 3 facts about the region and 2 facts about the Native American tribe that lives in that region.**



TO:

---

---

---

---