

TEXAS CONNECTION

Activity #88

Life on the Edge



Extra Resources

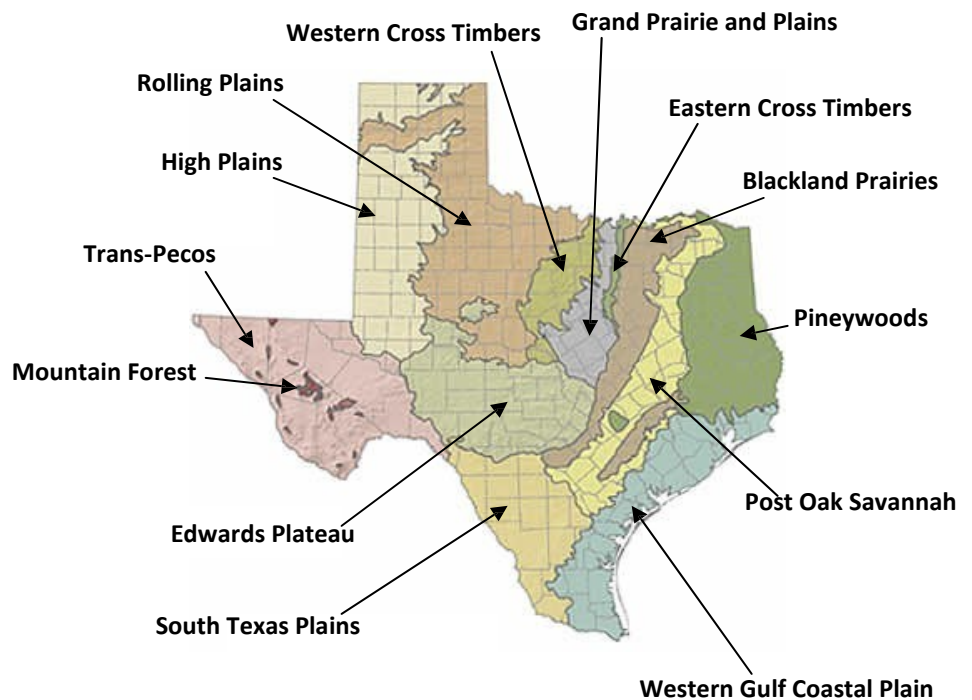
Texas A&M Forest Service
Texas Ecoregions
<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/texasEcoRegions/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Texas Coastal Wetlands
www.texaswetlands.org/

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Plant Guidance by Ecoregion
http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/

Texas Overview

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has identified 10 Ecoregions across the state. Texas A&M Forest Service took those Ecoregions and broke them down into the 13 different Ecoregion/forest types listed below:



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Life on the Edge focuses on three Ecoregion/forest types: Blackland Prairies, Pineywoods (Northern Pineywoods) and Western Gulf Coastal Plain (Coastal Wetlands). Each area has a set of organism charts that include a picture of the organism in addition to its habitat and diet needs. Also included is a picture of each area and its location on the Texas Forest Service Ecoregion/forest types map

Ten organisms are selected for the Northern Pineywoods and nine for Blackland Prairies and Coastal Wetlands.

Refer to pages 382-384 in the Project Learning Tree K-8 Activity Guide for full instructions

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The following scenarios can be used for “Habitat Scramble.”

Scenario #1

A burn ban is in place due to a lack of rainfall. Campers in the Pineywoods ignored the burn ban and started a camp fire. It got very windy and the forest caught on fire. They did not report the fire to anyone because they are afraid. Approximately 25 percent of the forest burns. Only 25 percent of the animals that live in the forest are affected. They must find a new habitat or die.

Scenario #2

Someone is driving down the highway through the Blackland Prairie and flicks a cigarette out the window. The prairie is very dry because it has not received any rain since October. The prairie catches on fire and 50 percent is burned. Only 50 percent of the animals that live in the prairie are affected. They must find a new habitat or die.

Scenario #3

There is a burn ban due to a lack of rain fall. A big cold front moves in and it is thundering and lightning. Lightning hits a tree and it catches on fire. It is very windy and the wind spreads the fire to other trees, causing the forest to catch on fire. The fire department is unable to get the fire in time and 25 percent of the forest burns. Only 25 percent of the animals that live in the Pineywoods are affected. They must find a new habitat or die.

Scenario #4

A new housing development is being built next to the Coastal Wetland. Part of the wetland is filled in and its size is reduced by 50 percent. Only 50% of the animals that live in the wetlands are affected. They must find a new habitat or die.

Scenario #5

A real estate developer purchased land in the Blackland Prairie area to build a mega outlet mall. About 10 percent of the prairie is affected. Only 10 percent of the animals that live in the prairie are affected. They must find a new habitat or die.