

Picture This — Activity #6



TEKS:

K.10 A
1.5 A
3.10 A
4.10 A
5.9 A

Resources:

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/>

http://www.livescience.com/strangenews/070803_gm_numberspecies.html

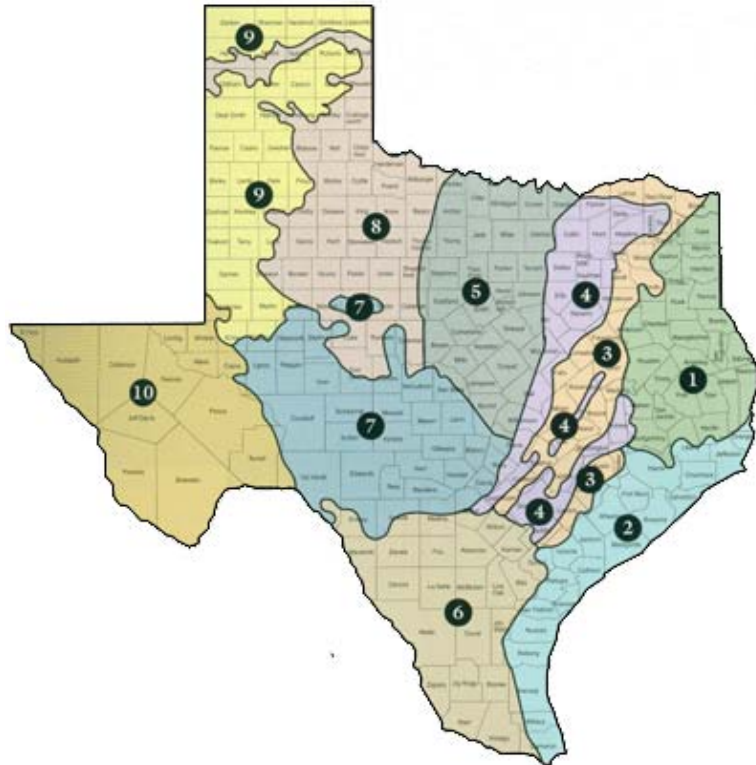
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/>

http://www.texasep.org/html/wld/wld_3pna.html

Texas Overview:



The National Science Foundation "Tree of Life" project estimates that there could be anywhere from 5 million to 100 million species on the planet, but scientists only have identified about 2 million. The second largest state in the nation, Texas occupies 261,914 square miles. The state also ranks second in the nation in terms of overall biodiversity. There are 5,500 plant species — 425 of which are *endemic*, or unique to the state). There are 1,200 animal species, of which 263 are classified as endemic.



Texas Parks and Wildlife has identified 10 Ecoregions.




- Ecoregion 1 - East Texas Pineywoods
- Ecoregion 2 - Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes
- Ecoregion 3 - Post Oak Savannah
- Ecoregion 4 - Blackland Prairies
- Ecoregion 5 - Cross Timbers and Prairies
- Ecoregion 6 - South Texas Plains
- Ecoregion 7 - Edwards Plateau
- Ecoregion 8 - Rolling Plains
- Ecoregion 9 - High Plains
- Ecoregion 10 - West of the Pecos ("Trans-pecos")

Use the below chart as a quick reference guide for the plants and animals found in Texas' five distinct Ecoregions.

East Texas Pineywoods	Plants		Animals	
	<p>Eastern redbud Flowering dogwood Southern magnolia Eastern red cedar Longleaf pine Bald cypress American beautyberry Buttonbush Loblolly pine</p>	<p>Pine, oak and other hardwood forests Red maple American beech White ash Sweetgum Southern red oak Water oak Red mulberry</p>	<p>White-tailed deer Swamp rabbit Eastern gray squirrel Eastern flying squirrel Bull Frog Attwater's pocket gopher Marsh rice rat Eastern harvest mouse Cotton mouse Prairie vole River otter</p>	<p>Southern short-tailed shrew Seminole bat Ringtail Virginia opossum Rafinesque's big-eared bat Eastern cottontail Common gray fox Striped skunk Bobcat</p>
Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes	Plants		Animals	
	<p>Texas madrone Grasses Tallgrass prairies Sugarberry Green ash Sweetgum Water oak Willow oak Southern live oak</p>	<p>American elm Holly Yaupon Red mulberry Wax myrtle Cherry laurel Sweet bay Red chokecherry Shortleaf pine</p>	<p>Muskrat Coyote Marsh rice rat Mink River otter Bottlenose dolphin Alligator Diamondback terrapin Bull frog Roseate spoonbill Black skimmer Gulls Terns Pelicans</p>	<p>Near shore fish: Spotted sea trout Red drum Southern flounder Striped mullet Sheepshead Shrimp Blue crab</p> <p>Off shore fish: Snappers Spadefish Groupers Sandflats of Aransas</p>

South Texas Plains	Plants		Animals	
	<p>Sugarberry Brasil Anaqua Fresno Great leadtree Retama Texas ebony Southern live oak Saffron plum Texas kidneywood Honey mesquite Texas wild olive</p>	<p>Desert yaupon Fiddlewood Duckweed Saltmarsh spikerush Common cattail Smartweed Live oak Wax myrtle Plantain Silverleaf sunflower Panic grass</p>	<p>Chachalaca Caracara Road runner Ferruginous pygmy-owl Green jay Elf owl Texas tortoise Indigo snake Texas longnose snake</p>	<p>Mexican Burrowing toad Grooved-billed Anis Redwing blackbird Swallowtail butterfly Leopard frog Indigo snake Catfish Sunfish</p>
West of the Pecos "Trans-pecos" or Big Bend	Plants		Animals	
	<p><u>In the Desert</u> Creosote bush Lechiguilla Prickly pear Yucca Agave Sotol Ocotillo</p> <p><u>In the Mountains</u> Mexican pinyon pine Ponderosa pine Chisos red oak Big-toothed maple Texas madrone Alligator juniper</p>	<p><u>In Wetlands (cieneegas, rivers, washes)</u> Cottonwood Willow Desert willow Seep willow Alkali sacaton Common reed Giant reed (not native) Salt cedar (not native)</p>	<p>Pronghorn Antelope Squirrel Hooded skunk Coyote Javelina Desert bighorn sheep Mule deer Mountain lion Cactus mouse Collared lizard Western diamondback rattlesnake Cactus wren Roadrunner Painted redstart</p>	<p>Townsend's big eared bat Tarantula Horned lizard Pyrrhuloxia Great horned owl Vermilion flycatcher Bullock's oriole Jackrabbits Blotched watersnakes Rio Grande tetra Round-nosed minnow Catfish Green sunfish</p>

Edwards Plateau	Plants		Animals	
	Switchgrass Bluestem grass Grama grass Indiangrass Wild rye Curly mesquite Buffalograss Live oak Shinnery oak Juniper Mesquite	Bald cypress Pecan Possumhaw Smartweed Sugarberry Boxelder Buttonbush Black willow Marsh purslane Water pennywort Cattail	Muskrat White-tailed deer Rio Grande turkey Raccoon Javelina Brazilian freetail bat Ringtail Nine-banded armadillo Tarantula	Northern mockingbird Guadalupe bass Salamander Cricket frog Gulf Coast toads Grebes Blue herons Green-backed heron Kingfishers

Resources:

Texas Forest Service

Trees of Texas offers a wealth of information on the Ecoregions including: elevation, precipitation, topography, soils, vegetation description, fire impacts and historical information (<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/texasEcoRegions/>).

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Plant Guidance by Ecoregions offers a detailed list of trees, shrubs, succulents, vines, grasses, wildflowers and conifers for each region (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildscapes/guidance/plants/ecoregions/>).

Learn About Texas Regions is kid friendly and includes the following: topography and characteristics, major cities/rainfall/elevation, common vegetation, common wildlife and rare animals and habitats (http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/about_texas/regions/).

Wildlife Fact Sheets contain detailed information: other names, description, life history, habitat and distribution. Some fact sheets include pictures of the species (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/>).