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# This is Texas!

LE VILLAGE, LE QUARTIER, LA VILLE

What are the different faces  
of the Lone Star State?



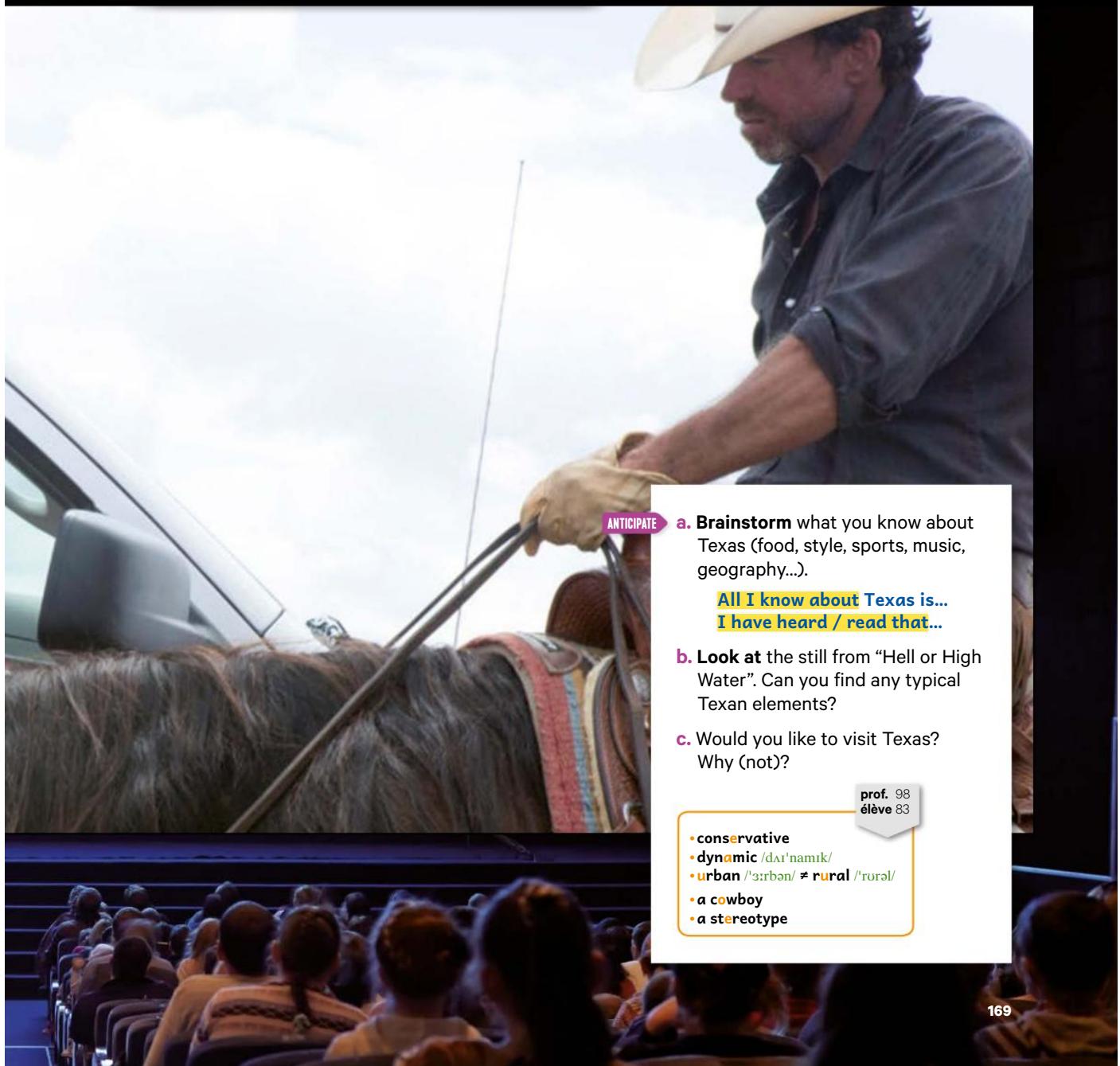
↑ Hell or High Water, David Mackenzie (2016)

## SCENARIO

Texas is much more diverse than people tend to think. The Lone Star State is not just about cowboys, ranches, barbecues and country music! Let's find out the different faces of the second largest state of the United States.

## FINAL TASK

Create and play  
Texas Trivial Pursuit



**ANTICIPATE**

a. **Brainstorm** what you know about Texas (food, style, sports, music, geography...).

All I know about Texas is...  
I have heard / read that...

b. **Look at** the still from "Hell or High Water". Can you find any typical Texan elements?

c. Would you like to visit Texas?  
Why (not)?

prof. 98  
élève 83

- conservative
- dynamic /dai'namik/
- urban /'ɜːrbən/ ≠ rural /'rʊrəl/
- a cowboy
- a stereotype

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## DOCUMENTS

### 1 The Texas triangle

ANTICIPATE

- Look at the map.  
Imagine what the "Texas triangle" is?
- Read the first three paragraphs.  
Take notes about the origin of the expression.
- Read the rest of the text.  
Explain in your own words what the Texas triangle is nowadays.  
**Texas is now more... because...**
- Perform an interview about the Texas triangle (origin, evolution...).  
**Student A:** You are a journalist.  
Ask questions to the current mayor of San Antonio.  
**Student B:** You are the current mayor of San Antonio.  
**Answer** the questions.



### 2 Texas small towns



- Watch the video.  
Write down the three destinations that Chet Garner recommends.
- Watch the video again.  
Write down as much information as you can about each town.
- Imagine a conversation at a visitor centre.  
**Student A:** You are a tourist interested in visiting small towns in Texas.  
**Student B:** You are an employee who suggests Student A where to go and what to do.
  - What would you recommend outside...?
  - Oh... Don't miss... And once there, try...

One of Texas' best business legends helps explain what has become a national economic powerhouse—the "Texas triangle."

- The story starts in 1967 when, supposedly, entrepreneur Rollin King and lawyer Herb Kelleher dined in downtown San Antonio at a hotel bar. King drew a triangle on a cocktail napkin, labeling the corner points San Antonio, Houston and Dallas. He proposed what would become Southwest Airlines.
- Southwest started with the business plan of flying between three cities in the triangle, and it used that as a launching place to become a leading U.S. airline.

And what is the Texas triangle today?

- It's "an increasingly important global megalopolis," said former San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros. He called the Texas triangle one of the major megaregions of the U.S. "Today, the power and economic weight of the Texas triangle is clear on the global scene. And as the state evolved, Texas became more urban than rural in the thrust of the economy. Texas is not thought of as a great urban state when, in reality, we really are," Cisneros said.

The state, which registered a population of 20.85 million in the 2010 U.S. census, is projected to grow to 40.5 million by 2050, according to a report from Lloyd Potter, state demographer based at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

↑ Texas' triangle cities make up the 'economic guts' of the state,  
San Antonio Express News (2017)



↑ Explore the small towns of Texas, Chet Garner (2016)

### 60 3 Just a town for cowboys?

**ANTICIPATE** a. Look at the photographs by Peter Dench. What do they have in common?

prof. 99 b. Listen to the first part of the radio program.  
Write down what they associate Dallas with.

c. Listen to the second part. What does Dallas' mayor Mike Rawling say about his city?

While most people associate Dallas with...



↑Dench Does Dallas, Peter Dench (2015)



↑Dench Does Dallas, Peter Dench (2015)

prof. 101  
élève 85

- **cosmopolitan**
- **entertaining**
- **sophisticated = glamorous**
- **an area:** une région
- **an economic powerhouse:** une puissance économique
- **a megalopolis = a large city or urban area**
- **to be home to sth:** accueillir, abriter, héberger qqch
- **to be interested in = to be into sth**
- **to be worth a visit:** valoir le détour
- **to cruise around /kru:z/ = to take a tour**  
= to see the sights
- **to evolve = to modernise = to improve**
- **to explore = to discover**
- **to prove sb wrong:** démentir qqn
- **there is much more to it = there is more than meets the eye:** ça va bien au-delà

prof. 100  
élève 84

#### TRAIN YOUR VOICE

##### La prononciation du « t » intervocalique américain

1 Écoutez ces mots.  
Concentrez-vous sur le « t » intervocalique.  
**city better Trinity**

2 Entraînez-vous à prononcer les mots suivants.  
**quality reality fascinating**

##### • Le comparatif → p. 208

Texans think they are cooler than other Americans.  
Texas may look more traditional than other states.  
France is not as big as Texas.

##### • L'impératif → p. 216

Visit Texas, the Lone Star State.  
Don't go to Amarillo: go to Dallas.

##### • Les énoncés interrogatifs → p. 216

Are small towns worth the visit?  
Where did you go in Texas?  
Why is the Texas triangle important?

## 4 Keep Austin weird

a. **Read** the article.

Are these sentences true or false? **Explain**.

1. Austin is a creative city.
2. Austin is a very stressful city.
3. Austin is the world capital of country dancing.
4. Austin is a tourist town.

b. The City Council is looking for a new slogan to attract more tourists.

In groups, **come up with** a slogan for Austin and **explain** it to the class.



While Austin is booming and topping national lists as a number one place to work and play, the city's laid-back vibe remains. After all, it is a city where flip-flops are considered business casual and a decent pair of boots always passes as formal attire. It's a mecca for musicians, software engineers, artists, environmentalists and creative entrepreneurs. Each year, the SXSW music festival reinforces Austin's bragging rights as a world capital of live music.

Austin is not a tourist town. The city lacks a single main attraction that most larger cities offer, and instead offers appealing surprises in every neighborhood. The "Keep Austin Weird" mantra is a successful campaign to promote local businesses, and demonstrates a commitment to support authenticity. With this ethos comes the freedom to create, the freedom to prosper and the freedom to wear whatever you please. It's a city to truly be yourself and explore in any way you like.

↑ Austin is booming, Texas Report (2015)

## 5 Let's go to Houston!

**ANTICIPATE**

a. What do you know about Houston?

Does the phrase "Houston, we've had a problem" ring a bell?



b. **Watch** a promotional video.

**Take notes** about the following topics: **size, recreation, culture and business**.

c. Why do you think Houston has become the fourth largest city in the USA?

**Most likely, because...**



**VIDEO**

vidéo 39



↑ Discover Houston, Greater Houston Partnership (2013)

prof. 102  
élève 86

- **fascinating** = wonderful
- **laid-back** = relaxed ≠ **stressful** = busy
- **one of a kind** = unique
- **touristy**: trop touristique
- **trendy** = **hip**: branché(e)
- **vibrant** /vibrənt/
- **a monument**
- **a must-see**: un incontournable

• **Le superlatif** → p. 209

Austin is **the craziest** / **the most eccentric** Texan city.

**The most sports-loving** city in Texas is Houston.

# VOCABULARY

→ Banque d'exercices p. 194



big steaks  
cattle  
country music  
cowboys  
oil  
ranches  
rodeos

a stereotype  
to change one's mind about something  
to come as a surprise = to surprise sb  
to prove sb wrong  
there is much more to it =  
there is more than meets the eye =  
it's not just...



## STEREOTYPES

## TEXAS

### JOHNSON CITY

hometown of former president Lyndon B. Johnson



### FORT DAVIS

national historic site  
a Wild West fort  
to keep settlers safe

### LOCKHART

barbecue capital of Texas

## SMALL TOWNS

## BIG CITIES

### HOUSTON

cultural  
diverse  
dynamic = vibrant ≈ innovative  
huge = massive  
impressive  
green  
sports-loving

#### Highlights

beautiful skyscrapers  
4th largest city in the USA  
fastest-growing wages  
high quality of life  
low unemployment rate

#### Must-see

The Theater District

### DALLAS

cosmopolitan  
glamorous = upscale

#### Highlights

beautiful skyline  
a green space larger than Central Park  
the largest arts district in the country  
modern sport stadiums



### AUSTIN

cool = hip = trendy  
creative  
laid-back = relaxed  
one of a kind = unique  
weird ≠ conventional  
not a tourist town

#### Highlights

world capital of live music

#### Must-see

SXSW music festival

## Make your own mind map

Make a mind map with the words and expressions that, in your opinion, best reflect the reality of Texas today.

# PREPARATION TIME

## How to create, play and win Trivial Pursuit

L'heure du jeu a sonné ! Il vous incombe de créer un Trivial Pursuit sur les contenus de cette unité, puis d'y participer. Pour remporter la partie haut la main, suivez le guide !

### Avant le jeu

#### • Préparez vos questions

- Pour créer vos questions et pour vous préparer à répondre à celles de vos camarades, commencez par vous remémorer tout ce que vous avez étudié dans l'unité : lieux, personnages, stéréotypes texans, etc.  
Afin de faire le point plus facilement, vous pouvez utiliser la carte mentale de la p. 173 ou bien créer un tableau récapitulatif de vos connaissances. Rappelez-vous : plus ces dernières seront précises, plus vous aurez de chance de remporter la victoire.
- Rédigez vos questions en réfléchissant bien à leur structure.
- Évaluez le degré de difficulté de chacune de vos questions et choisissez l'ordre dans lequel vous les poserez. La logique voudrait que les plus faciles soient placées au début, et les plus ardues à la fin.

**Classez** ces questions en fonction de leur degré de difficulté.

- What cities form the Texas Triangle?
- Can you name two Texan cities?
- Which two words best define Austin?  
a) Hip b) Glamorous c) Laid-back

### Pendant le jeu

#### • Concentrez-vous de bout en bout !

- Lorsque vous lisez une question, articulez bien : les deux autres équipes doivent pouvoir comprendre aisément ce que vous êtes en train de demander.
- Lorsque c'est à vous de répondre, n'hésitez pas à demander à votre camarade de répéter si vous n'avez pas saisi la question.
- Même si vous n'êtes pas sûr(e) de la réponse, lancez-vous ! Rappelez-vous que si vous passez votre tour et que l'autre groupe répond correctement, il gagnera 3 points...

#### • Soyez fair play

Ayez des nerfs d'acier et une attitude positive ! Applaudissez aux réponses correctes, respectez vos adversaires, ne vous énervez pas si vous vous trompez, et surtout ne trichez pas ! Faites en sorte que tout le monde participe et passe un excellent moment.



## TRAIN YOUR VOICE



### Les groupes de souffle (3)

prof. 103  
élève 87

- Écoutez ces questions. Notez dans votre cahier les moments de courte pause entre les mots.

- In your opinion, who is the most famous Texan of all times?
- Do you know any celebrities from Texas?
- Which city in Texas will be the most popular in 2024?

- Répétez ces questions en reproduisant les groupes de souffle.

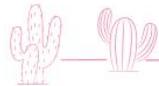
- Lisez cette question à voix haute en marquant les moments de pause.  
Ensuite, écoutez et vérifiez vos choix.

Tell me, who do you think is the best baseball player in Texas?

prof. 104  
élève 88



### CREATE AND PLAY TEXAS TRIVIAL PURSUIT



Using everything you have learned in this unit, create and play a trivia game about Texan culture and history.

- a. In pairs, **prepare** at least 6 questions about Texas.  
Half of them must be quite easy, but the other half has to be more tricky!
- b. **Cut out** question cards (half an A4 sheet of paper will do).  
**Fold** them in half.  
**Write** your questions in capital letters on the outside, and the answers in small letters on the inside – only one question per card.
- c. **Form** groups of 6. Three teams of 2 students will compete against each other.
- d. The first group **asks** a question to one of the other two teams.  
If they get the right answer, they score 2 points.  
If they do not, the same question is asked to the other team.  
If they get the right answer, they get 3 points.
- e. **Repeat** the operation until every group has asked its questions.  
The winning team is the one with the highest score.



## MORE BOOKS, FILMS... ABOUT THE TOPIC



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### In suburbia

#### Books

- **The Stepford Wives**, by Ira Levin (1974)
- **Suburbia**, by Bill Owens (1973)
- **Revolutionary Road**, by Richard Yates (1961)

#### Films

- **Suburbicon** (2017)
- **Pleasantville** (1998)
- **Rebel Without a Cause** (1955)

#### TV Series

- **Mad Men** (2007-2015)

#### Documentaries

- **The End of Suburbia** (2004)
- **A City is Born** (1958)



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### This is Texas!



#### Books

- **The Field Guide to the North American Teenager**, by Ben Philippe (2019)
- **Travels with Charley**, by John Steinbeck (1962)
- **Southwest**, by John Houghton Allen (1952)

#### Films

- **My All-American** (2015)
- **No Country for Old Men** (2008)
- **All the Pretty Horses** (2000)

#### TV Series

- **Storage Wars: Texas** (2011-2014)
- **Friday Night Lights** (2006-2011)
- **King of the Hill** (1997-2010)

#### Documentaries

- **The Education of Shelby Knox** (2005)

#### Songs

- **Houston, We Got a Problem**, by Luke Combs (2018)
- **That Girl from Texas**, by John Wolf (2010)