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Amazing Texas Facts

If you take a good, close look at this state, you'll see just how extraordinary, unbelievable, strange, marvelous, and just plain amazing it can be. Texas is big. Sizing things up shows that Texas is 248 times the size of another state in the union and that five major American cities could be combined to fit into an area belonging to one Texas city.

You may need your compass to find your way around, because a trip to West, Texas, or Easterly, Texas, will actually send you to central Texas, yet as you travel to Center, Texas, you'll find yourself in east Texas. It's enough to make your head spin,

and so are the tornadoes. There are more tornadoes in Texas each year than in any other state, yet one of our cities has more sunny days than any other city in America.

You will also be amazed by these facts: 95% of the world's helium is found near a major Texas city, and several famous Texans have been full of hot air too. Did you know that the largest Texas steer was seven feet tall? If this sounds like a lot of bull to you, you may also find it hard to believe that Texas has more cattle than people—but it's true, and so are the rest of these **Amazing Texas Facts**.

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Arts Sampler

A visual artist sees the world a little differently than the rest of us do. He is able to examine familiar people, places, events, and ideas and to present them to us in a new and exciting way. He almost always shows us something important about ourselves. In the **Arts Sampler**, we'll see how twenty-six "Eyes of Texas" view the world when we meet thirteen Texas artists.

If you find you enjoy making things, or if building sand castles at the shore is your idea of a high time, or if you doodle and daydream when you're supposed to be paying attention, who knows? Maybe you are turning into a Texas artist yourself.

Encyclopedia of Texas Amusements

There's no excuse for boredom in Texas. From Amarillo to Zavala, this state is loaded with interesting places where you can find something fun to do.

For instance, if you need to meet a gorilla for lunch, you can find out how on page 170. Or if standing in three different states at once appeals to you, read on. What about crab racing and alligator wrestling? Yep, we have that too. You can even see a giant pair

of cowboy boots. Or you could visit NASA, and the Alamo, and Six Flags Over Texas, and . . . well, you'd need an encyclopedia to list them all. And here it is—Texas-sized and alphabetized.

Learn about spectacular caves, lost mines, enchanted rocks, buffalo herds, frog jumping competitions, and more. Queen Victoria was not amused. But then, she didn't live in Texas.

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How To Do Just About Anything

Suppose your grandfather invites you to spend the summer at his ranch. It's six thousand acres of Texas flatlands and wilderness, and your job is to entertain yourself for six weeks in July and August. Hmmmmmm.

You decide to go backpacking with your cousins. You'll benefit from knowing how to make the most of a map of Texas and how to be a friend to wildlife. And in case you're separated from your party and fall into the hands of the enemy, a little knowledge about survival in Texas wilderness could come in handy.

It could be a long time before you're found, and it's hot in the Texas sun. While you sip a tall cool drink that only you know how to make from all Texan ingredients, you should learn a secret code so that you can outwit your captors.

It's always possible, no matter how cunning and slippery you are, that you'll encounter an alien from another planet out there under the stars. No problem. You even know how to pack for outer space, because you learned that in **How To Do Just About Anything**.

Read on, in case any of this ever happens to you.