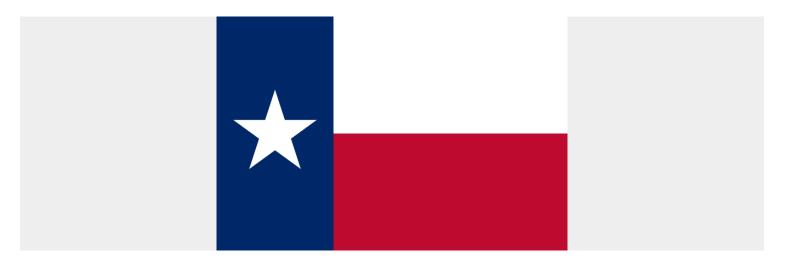
TEXAS

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Texas is a constituent state in the United States of America. It is located in the South Central region of the United States. Texas is named after the Caddo Indian word "Tejas" which means "friends" or "allies". The state's nickname is *The Lone Star State*. The nickname of the state honors the Lone Star flag, which was used after the state gained its independence from Mexico in 1836. Before agreeing to be annexed by the United States, Texas was an independent republic for ten years. In 2015, The Lone Star State became the official nickname for Texas.

The first Europeans to set foot in Texas were Spanish settlers known as missionaries in 1528. The French, who claimed that the area was a part of Louisiana, made their first attempt at settlement in 1685. The United States bought the French claim in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 but, by treaty, gave it up to Spain in 1819. Mexico seized control of the region in 1821. Texas declared its independence from Mexico in 1836. Texas became the 28th state to join the Union on December 29, 1845.

It is bordered by Arkansas to the northeast, Louisiana to the east, New Mexico to the west, Oklahoma to the north, and the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas to the south and southwest. The Gulf of Mexico is located to the southeast of the state's coastline.

Houston is the largest city, while Austin serves as the state capital.

Pan de campo, often known as cowboy bread, was designated as the official state bread of Texas in 2005 to honor the state's cowboy history. In the same year, Texas made the cowboy hat its official state hat.

With a total area of 268,597 sq mi (695,662 sq km) and a recorded population of 29,145,505, as mentioned in the United States Census 2020, Texas is the second largest state by both area and population.

The interesting fact is the state's well-known historical tree. The oldest tree in the state is a coastal live oak that is situated close to Fulton. The tree is thought to be older than 1,500 years.

The state of Texas has "Friendship" as its official motto. In 1929, "Texas, Our Texas" became the state song of Texas.

In the middle of the 20th century, Texas established a high-tech industry and a diversified economy. It has the second-highest number of Fortune 500 company headquarters in the United States as of 2015.

The Bluebonnet was chosen as the official state flower in 1901, whereas the Mockingbirds were declared the official state bird of Texas in 1927.

Texas has no official language, however, English is the most widely spoken language (64.9%) followed by Spanish (28.8%), with other languages accounting for the remaining 6.3%.