

# GRIDIRON

## GEOGRAPHY



NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION  
THE OKLAHOMAN

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**TOPOGRAPHIC**  
ONE MAN'S VISION 50 YEARS OF SURVEYING EXCELLENCE

Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education





# WEEK 1 GAMES

Glenda Sullivan, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Lawton, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Northwestern State at Texas Tech

Wyoming at Texas

Marshall at West Virginia

Tulsa at Iowa State

South Dakota State at Kansas

Missouri State at Kansas State

Savannah State at Oklahoma State

Oklahoma at UTEP

Southern Methodist at Baylor

**1.** Historically, Oklahoma and Texas have been rivals and not only in football. In 1890, after Congress created the Oklahoma Territory, Oklahoma challenged Texas over which branch of the Red River constituted their border. Texas claimed the North Fork of the Red River as the border, while Oklahoma claimed the larger southern branch as the border. In 1897, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Oklahoma in what became known as the “Old Greer County Controversy.” Three counties and part of another county in Oklahoma now make up what was “Old Greer County.” Name these counties.

**2.** West Virginia is one of the top coal producing states in the United States. It relies heavily on its rivers for shipping coal and other products. West Virginia University is located at Morgantown on what river? What is the absolute location (latitude/longitude) of Morgantown?

**3.** The Savannah State Tigers will cross the longest river in the United States while traveling to play the Oklahoma State Cowboys in Stillwater this week. Name this river. Georgia is the largest state in area east of this large river. Which is larger in area, Georgia or Oklahoma? What is the difference in square miles between the two states?

**4.** The geographical center of the contiguous United States is approximately one mile north of Lebanon, Kansas, on US Highway 281 and a mile west on Kansas 191. What is the meaning of “contiguous”? Using a Kansas highway map or a U.S. road atlas, determine what intermediate direction Lebanon is from Kansas State University at Manhattan and the University of Kansas at Lawrence? Is the geographical center of the contiguous United States closer to KSU or KU?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Two teams called the Cowboys are on this week’s Big 12 schedule, although they are not playing each other. Which two university football teams are they? Using a map scale, determine the approximate distance in miles between these two universities. Refer to a United States physical map and identify the two diverse geographical landscapes in which the two universities are located.



# WEEK 2 GAMES

Joseph Rohr, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Tulsa, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma State at Arizona  
Grambling State at TCU  
Miami (FL) at Kansas State

Iowa State at Iowa  
Rice at Kansas  
Texas Tech at Texas State

Florida A&M at Oklahoma  
New Mexico at Texas

**1.** This week the Oklahoma State University Cowboys will travel to play the University of Arizona Wildcats. In what city is the university located? What is unusual about their time zone?

**2.** Texas Christian University is located in Fort Worth. How did the city get its name and on what famous trail is it located?

**3.** Kansas State University is located in Manhattan, Kansas. What special distinction does KSU have under the Morrill Act of 1862? How did Manhattan get its name and what is the city's nickname?

**4.** Lawrence, Kansas, where the University of Kansas is located, is situated geographically between two trails that were important to the history, growth and development of the

southwestern and northwestern portions of the United States. Name these two trails and briefly explain their significance.



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Fans of the Texas Tech Red Raiders will follow their team to watch them play on the home field of the Texas State University Bobcats. Determine the cities in which Texas Tech and Texas State are located; then, figure out the two shortest and most likely driving routes between the two cities. Name the highways followed, the approximate miles of each route (one-way) and how long it would take to make the journey if you travel at an average of 65 miles per hour.



# WEEK 3 GAMES

Annie Elsberry, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Pawhuska Elementary School, Pawhuska, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Sam Houston State at Baylor  
Louisiana-Lafayette at Oklahoma  
State

TCU at Kansas  
JMU at West Virginia  
New Mexico at Texas Tech

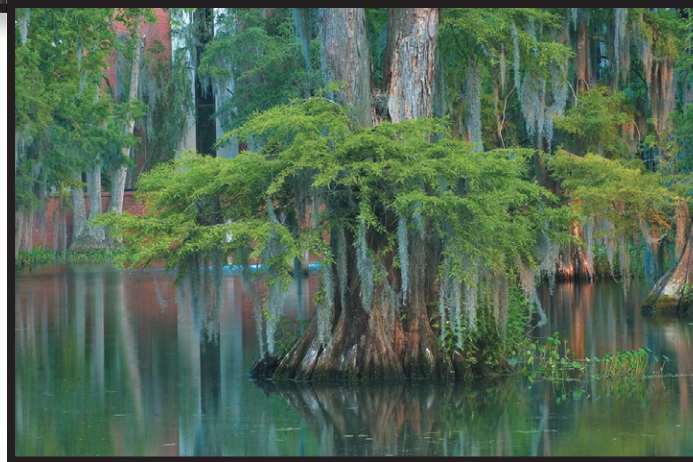
North Texas at Kansas State  
Western Illinois at Iowa State  
Texas at Ole Miss

**1.** When Western Illinois University fans travel from Macomb, Illinois, to Ames, Iowa, to play Iowa State this week, they must cross a river that forms the border between the two states. What is the name of the river? Where is the river's source and where is its mouth?

**2.** West Virginia University hosts James Madison University this week. JMU is located in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley. Who was James Madison? Use a road atlas or an online map site to calculate the approximate mileage from JMU to our nation's capital.

**3.** The University of New Mexico is located in Albuquerque. Some of the first residents of the area were the ancient Pueblo Indians who settled along the Middle Rio Grande River. Spanish explorers arrived here around 1540. What Spanish explorer led the expedition and what part of Oklahoma did he also possibly explore?

**4.** This Louisiana city is located on Interstate 10 and is approximately 60 miles southwest of its state capital. The city is a center of Cajun culture and is named after a French nobleman who served with General George Washington in the American Revolution. What city is it? Who was this French nobleman? In what intermediate direction will this team travel to Stillwater, Oklahoma?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Both the University of West Virginia and JMU are located in the rugged Appalachian Mountains. One of the most popular hiking trails in the US is the Appalachian Trail. It is the world's longest public footpath. Use the Internet to find a map of the Appalachian Trail. What states does it pass through? How long is the trail?



# WEEK 4 GAMES

Glenda Sullivan, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Lawton, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Baylor at ULM  
Kansas at Northern Illinois

Kansas State at Oklahoma  
Virginia at TCU

Maryland at West Virginia

**1.** In 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote our national anthem while watching the bombardment of Ft. McHenry in the harbor of Maryland's largest city. What is the name of this city, what is the body of water on which this city is located, and what is the official name of the anthem?

**2.** Northern Illinois University is located in DeKalb, Illinois, approximately 65 miles west of the third most populous city in the United States. What is the name of this city, and on which Great Lake is the city located?

**3.** Thomas Jefferson was the founder of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Instead of referring to their students as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, UVA calls them first, second, third and fourth to reflect Jefferson's belief that learning is a never-ending process. Refer to a road atlas, a United States atlas and/or the Internet to answer the following questions:

- What is the name of Jefferson's home located just outside Charlottesville?
- In what physiographic province of the Appalachian Mountains is Charlottesville located?
- Charlottesville is located on the fall line of the piedmont region. What does piedmont mean?

**4.** Use a road atlas or an online atlas [such as Google Maps or Mapquest] to

determine what two interstate highways Baylor fans will travel from Waco to the University of Louisiana at Monroe this week. Name these two interstate highways. Along these highways, fans will travel through heavy traffic in each state's third most populated city. Name these two cities. Which is the more populous city and how much larger is it?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Turner Falls near Davis is one of the largest waterfalls in Oklahoma. Water from Honey Creek in the surrounding old mountain range cascades down a 77-foot fall to a natural swimming pool. Refer to an Oklahoma highway map or the Internet to answer the following questions: What is the name of the old mountain range where Turner Falls is located? What direction is Turner Falls from Norman and Stillwater? What Interstate highway would most visitors take to travel to Turner Falls? Approximately what is the distance in miles from Norman and Stillwater to Turner Falls?



# WEEK 5 GAMES

William E. Amburn, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Bartlesville, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Baylor at West Virginia  
Texas Tech at Iowa State

Texas at Oklahoma State  
TCU at Southern Methodist

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Big 12 with football and has changing seasons and weather. It is time to check your Big 12 geographic seasonal knowledge.

**1.** What seasonal storms often strike the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and have caused postponements of Big 12 football games in Texas and West Virginia over the years?

**2.** On what day did the autumnal equinox take place? What does equinox mean? What does this annual event mean for football games played at night?

**3.** The Texas Longhorns travel north to play the Oklahoma State Cowboys this week. Why did cowboys drive longhorn cattle north across Indian Territory on cattle trails from Texas to Kansas in the 1800s?

**4.** What geographical facts cause seasons to change?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Which Big 12 team is more likely to have a subtropical climate, the University of Kansas or the University of Texas? Why?





# WEEK 6 GAMES

Marilyn Pineda, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Comanche Elementary School, Comanche, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma at Texas Tech  
Iowa State at TCU

Kansas at Kansas State  
West Virginia at Texas

**1.** The Iowa State Cyclones will play Texas Christian University Horned Frogs in Texas this weekend. As Iowa State fans drive from Ames to the game in Fort Worth, what tributaries of the Mississippi River will they cross? What is a tributary?

**2.** The home state of one of the teams playing this week has a mean [average] altitude of 1,500 feet above sea level, giving it the highest average altitude east of the Mississippi River. Which state is it?

**3.** Texas Tech, Texas Christian, and Texas Universities all play this weekend. They are all located in the second largest state in the United States in area, as well as the second largest state in population. What are the largest states in terms of area and population?

**4.** In a treaty signed on April 30, 1803, a large portion of land was bought by the United States. The home states of some of the teams playing this week were purchased, at least in part, from what country? What are the names of the states? What is the name of the treaty?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Oklahoma has a diverse geography, making it a fun place to explore. It boasts the highest hill in the world, Mount Cavanal (also known as Cavanal Hill), located in the eastern part of the state near Poteau. Why is it a hill, not a mountain? What is its height in feet? In what county is it located? What is its latitude and longitude?



October 8-14

## WEEK 7 GAMES

Janet Hall, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Bethany Middle School, Bethany, OK

### GAME SCHEDULE

Kansas State at Iowa State  
West Virginia at Texas Tech

TCU at Baylor  
Oklahoma vs Texas (Dallas)

Oklahoma State at Kansas

1. One of this week's Big 12 teams is from a university that was founded on land still claimed by a foreign country. Which university is this and which foreign country still claimed their land?
2. University nicknames usually tell us something about their history or location. One team playing this week has a nickname telling us the kind of landform in their area. What is this team, what is its nickname, and what landform is referred to in its nickname? Another team has a nickname telling us about the kind of weather they sometimes have. What is that team, what is its nickname, and what is the term commonly used for the weather event to which the nickname refers?

3. Half of the teams playing this week are located in lands bought by the United States from the French in the Louisiana Purchase. Four other Big 12 teams are in an area the U.S. claimed was part of the Louisiana Purchase, but which Spain said was not. What four teams are in the area Spain claimed was still theirs after 1803?
4. Of the Big 12 teams that travel this week, which team must travel the farthest? Which travels the shortest distance?

### OVERTIME ACTIVITY

The hometowns of a majority of this week's teams are located within the Mississippi River Basin. What is a river basin? Draw boundaries of the Mississippi River Basin map of the U.S.

October 15-21

## WEEK 8 GAMES

Denise Aguilar, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Central Middle School, Lawton, OK

### GAME SCHEDULE

Texas Tech at TCU  
Kansas State at West Virginia

Kansas at Oklahoma  
Iowa State at Oklahoma State

Baylor at Texas

1. Texas Tech will host the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University (TCU), which is located in Fort Worth. TCU was founded by brothers Addison and Randolph Clark in 1873 as AddRan Male and Female College, located in a Texas town whose absolute location is 32.47 N, 97.82 W. What is the name of the town at this location?
2. Kansas State University's opponent this week is one of the newcomers to the Big 12 conference this year. The official colors of West Virginia University were chosen in 1890 by upperclassmen. What are these two colors? Which rival university, located in the Pennsylvania city on the three rivers (the Ohio, the Allegheny, and the Monongahela Rivers), has the same colors?
3. The University of Oklahoma's opponent this week is the University of Kansas in the city of Lawrence. Lawrence is located on a river

and has a major highway running by it. You can take this highway to the West to reach Topeka, the capital of Kansas, to the East to visit Kansas City, Missouri. Name the river on which Lawrence is situated, and the highway that runs through the city.

4. Iowa State University will travel to Stillwater this week to play the Oklahoma State Cowboys. Eight miles west of downtown Stillwater on State Highway 51 is a body of water that covers more than 3,300 acres and is major attraction for outdoor lovers of the area. People can enjoy such activities as boating, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, and trail riding. What is the name of this popular body of water and who owns it?

### OVERTIME ACTIVITY

The historic suspension bridge of Waco, Texas, home of Baylor University, is a major route out of Texas for livestock. The bridge was built with cables from the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. What is the name of the import



# WEEK 9 GAMES

Ginny Rohr, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Owasso 6th Grade Center, Owasso, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas at Kansas  
Notre Dame at Oklahoma

Texas Tech at Kansas State  
Baylor at Iowa State

TCU at Oklahoma State

**1.** The current president of one of the Big 12 universities was a former governor of Oklahoma and a U.S. senator. Public service runs in this man's family as his father was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1930s and 1940s, and his son is a U.S. representative today. What is this president's name, what Big 12 university does he lead, and what years did he serve in each position?

**2.** Texas Christian University plays Oklahoma State in Stillwater this weekend. If a TCU fan travels on the Heartland Flyer as far as Oklahoma City and then rents a car, how many miles would he then have to drive to get to Stillwater to attend the game? About how many miles does the Heartland

Flyer travel within the state of Oklahoma?

**3.** Notre Dame will be playing the University of Oklahoma. Using Google Maps, determine the interstates and/or other highways the Fighting Irish team could take if they traveled by bus. Calculate the number of miles and approximate travel time.

**4.** Established in 1890, the nickname of this land-grant college team was once the *Aggies*. What was the school's original name? What is the team's current nickname and school's name? What is a *land-grant college*?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

OU and OSU will each have a home field advantage this weekend. Using a map of the state, find the county in which each university is located and its largest nearby lake.



...sity, was completed in 1870 and served as a crossing for a  
...e from John A. Roebling and Son, the company which also built  
...tant cattle trail that crossed the river here by using this bridge?



# WEEK 10 GAMES

Darren Purcell, Professor of Geography,  
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma State at Kansas State  
Oklahoma at Iowa State

Kansas at Baylor  
Texas at Texas Tech

TCU at West Virginia

**1.** Which of the Big 12 teams playing this weekend are located at universities that started as land-grant colleges established to focus on agriculture, science and engineering while still maintaining classical studies?

**2.** The rivers near all of the Big 12 universities eventually flow to the Gulf of Mexico. Which ones see their nearby waters enter the Gulf of Mexico through the Mississippi River? Which rivers near the other schools carry their waters directly to the Gulf?

**3.** Representation in state legislatures varies by

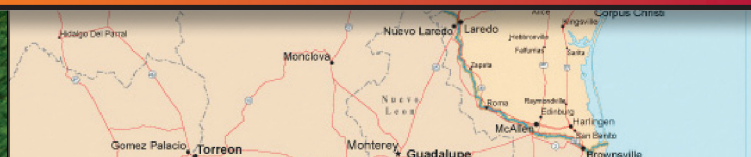
state. Which states involved in a Big 12 game this week have the smallest and the largest legislatures (both chambers combined)?

**4.** Some states are densely populated; in other words, they have many people living fairly close to one another. Other states are more sparsely populated; in other words, people live much farther apart. Rank the states which have Big 12 teams from most to least densely populated based on “persons per square mile.”



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Look up the mascots of all the Big 12 teams playing this weekend and the teams’ nicknames and ask yourself how they relate to local history and geography. Which of them appear to be unrelated to the local culture?





# WEEK 11 GAMES

William E. Amburn, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Bartlesville, OK

Kansas State at TCU  
West Virginia at Oklahoma State

## GAME SCHEDULE

Baylor at Oklahoma  
Iowa State at Texas

Kansas at Texas Tech

Geography can be a lot of fun when you are on vacation doing some hiking, rafting, or sightseeing. How well do you know your Big 12 vacation geography?

1. Which Big 12 university is located in the foothills of a mountain range?
2. Which Big 12 states share the Ozark Plateau with Arkansas and Missouri?
3. The Big 12 states of Texas, Oklahoma, and

Kansas share what broad expanse of flat grasslands that extends from the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan to the Rio Grande?

4. Which Big 12 team is located close to Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk, the Cowtown Cattlepen Maze, and the Stockyard Museum?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Oklahoma is known for its forests, rivers, camping, hiking, and fishing. What scenic rivers in Oklahoma are recommended for those who like to canoe or kayak?





# WEEK 12 GAMES

Jayne Marley, OKAGE Teacher Consultant,  
Yukon Middle School, Yukon, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Kansas State at Baylor  
Iowa State at Kansas

Oklahoma at West Virginia  
Texas Tech at Oklahoma State

**1.** Using a physical map of the United States, tell what major physical geographical feature is found in or nearby the home cities of each of the Big 12 teams playing this week.

**2.** Each of the Big 12 states contains fossil fuels that have been historically and economically important to the state. On a resource/historical map, locate which fossil fuels have been found in each state. Which Big 12 states currently produce the most of each of these fossil fuels?

**3.** One of the physical geographical features from

Question #1 was important in two historic events that occurred in the 19th century; one had to do with Westward Expansion and the other with the Civil War. What is this feature, in what state is it located, and what were the two historic events?

**4.** The Olympic motto in Latin is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" which translates into English as "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." Which of the Big 12 states also have Latin mottos and what do they mean in English?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

College football teams often fly to away games in order to save time. Using a distance scale on a map or an online map site (such as Google Maps or Mapquest), estimate the number of miles and how long it would take to drive from Norman to Morgantown for the OU-WVU game. Compare this to the distance and shortest length of time it would actually take to fly (on Friday, November 16, 2012) using Travel Math: <http://www.travelmath.com/> (Hint #1: look at the actual flights, including lay-over time. Hint #2: use Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City and the airport at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.)



# WEEK 13 GAMES

Rita Barnett, OKAGE Teacher  
Consultant, Woodward, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

West Virginia at Iowa State  
Texas Tech vs Baylor (Arlington)

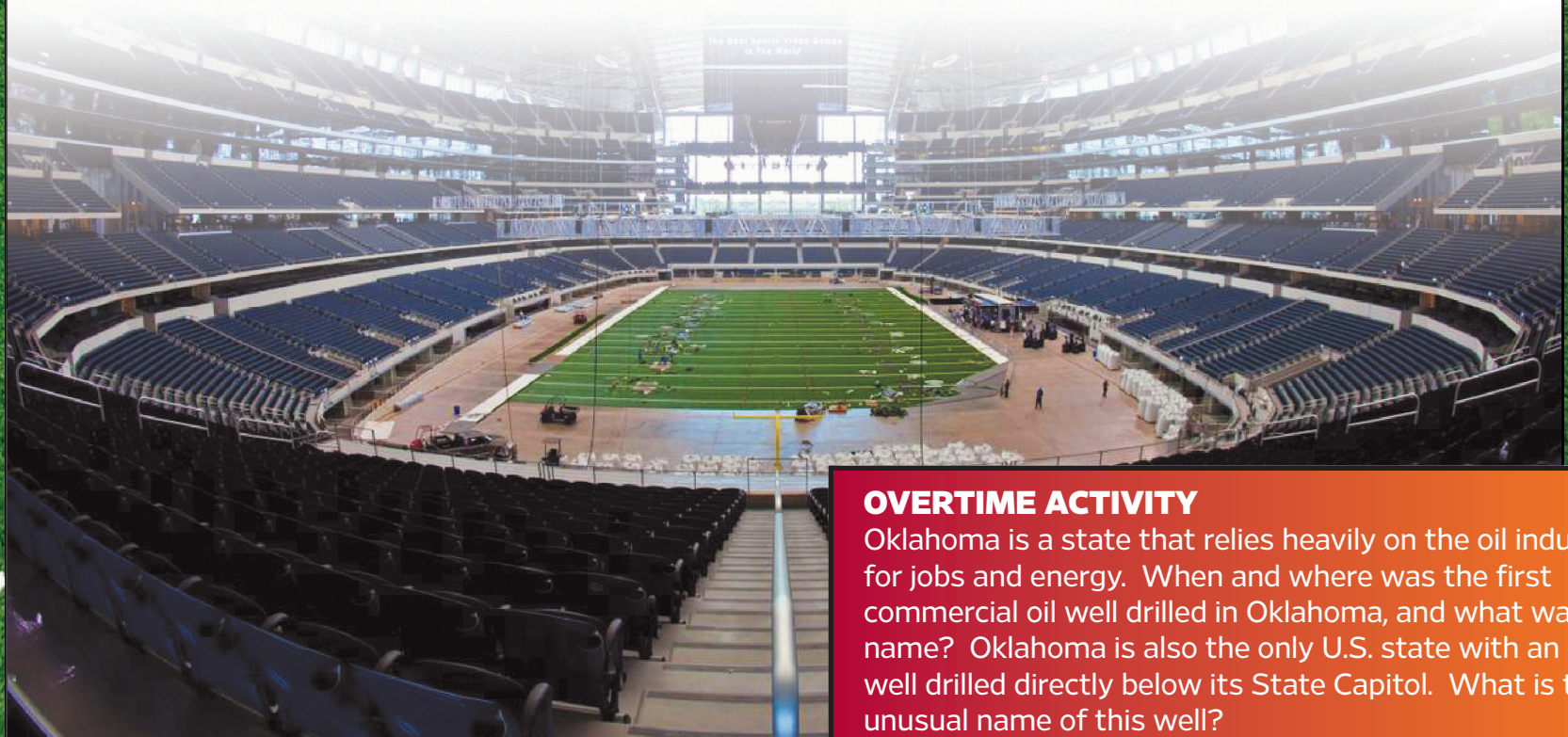
TCU at Texas  
Oklahoma State at Oklahoma

**1.** Baylor University will be playing Texas Tech University on a neutral field: Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. If you were planning to drive from Baylor's location to Arlington, which interstate highways would you take and in which general direction would you travel?

**2.** Texas has 15 major rivers that flow through or originate in the state. Two of the rivers serve as borders as well. What border river separates Texas from another Big 12 state? What border river separates Texas from its former "owner"?

**3.** Iowa is the site of a group of prehistoric American Indian burial and ceremonial mounds. What makes them unusual is their shapes. In which shapes were they constructed?

**4.** Although all fifty states in the Union sometimes experience severe and hazardous weather, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration decided to locate one of its laboratories in a Big 12 state. Which state is it and where is the laboratory located?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Oklahoma is a state that relies heavily on the oil industry for jobs and energy. When and where was the first commercial oil well drilled in Oklahoma, and what was its name? Oklahoma is also the only U.S. state with an oil well drilled directly below its State Capitol. What is the unusual name of this well?



# WEEK 14 GAMES

Darren Purcell, Professor of Geography,  
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma State at Baylor  
Oklahoma at TCU

Texas at Kansas State  
Kansas at West Virginia

**1.** According to the official Census figures, which of the Big 12 teams' home cities grew fastest in terms of percentage change between 2000 and 2010?

**2.** The states of Kansas and West Virginia occupy about the same latitudes. Which state's boundary extends farther south? What is the approximate latitude of the southernmost point in each state?

**3.** West Virginia University's mascot is the Mountaineer and the terrain in that state is part of the Appalachian Mountain range. Most people probably think of Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma

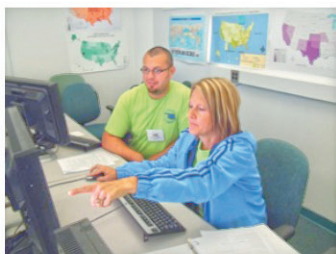
and Texas as relatively flat states. Which of the five Big 12 states actually has the highest high point? Which has the lowest high point?

**4.** Agriculture is an important employer and source of income in all of the Big 12 states. Which Big 12 state produces the most corn? Which one harvests the most wheat? Which one raises the most cattle? Which one produces the most pork? Only one of the Big 12 states raises rice -- which one? (Note: Try to find the most recent statistics available.)

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

When King James I of Great Britain granted charters to the London Company to establish the Jamestown colony (later called Virginia), the northern and southern boundaries were defined by latitude, but the eastern and western boundaries were the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Visit the American Memory web site at the Library of Congress [<http://memory.loc.gov/>], type "British Hinton" in the Search box at the top of the page, click the SEARCH button. Then click on "A Map of the British and French settlements in North America". Compare this map with a current map of the United States. Which Big 12 states were included (completely or partially) in what was claimed by the British in early day Virginia?





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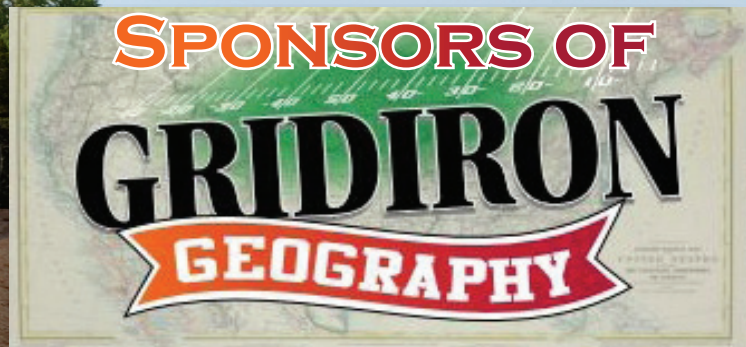


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