

# GRIDIRON

## GEOGRAPHY



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THE OKLAHOMAN

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Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education



# WEEK 1 GAMES

Written by Janet Hall  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Bethany Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas Christian at Baylor  
Miami (Ohio) at Missouri  
Louisiana Lafayette at  
Oklahoma State

Rice at Texas  
Northern Iowa at Iowa State  
Eastern Kentucky at  
Kansas State

McNeese State at Kansas  
Texas State at Texas Tech  
Tulsa at Oklahoma  
Southern Methodist at Texas A&M

- 1.** One team playing this week is from a city that was settled primarily by Acadian immigrants. What team is it and what term is commonly used to describe people of Acadian descent?
- 2.** Oklahoma State plays the University of Louisiana-Lafayette this week. Both states have at least one border that is formed by a body of water. Name these bodies of water and the borders they create.
- 3.** One of this week's games is taking place in a city that is also a state capital. Which game is it and where is it being played?
- 4.** Eastern Kentucky University fans driving interstate highways to Manhattan, Kansas for the Kansas State game will pass through a major U.S. city that has often been called "the Gateway to the West." What is the name of this city and on what major river is it located?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Why did the Acadians leave their homeland and move to the United States?



# WEEK 2 GAMES

Written by Lyndal Caddell  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Noble Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Arizona at Oklahoma State  
Missouri at Arizona State

Iowa at Iowa State  
Brigham Young at Texas

Northern Illinois at Kansas  
Southern Methodist at Texas A&M

**1.** This week, rivals Iowa State and Iowa play each other. Both schools are located on major interstate highways which intersect at the state capital. Name the state capital, the highways, and the relative direction of each university from the capital city.

**2.** The University of Kansas, located in Lawrence, will host Northern Illinois University this week. Lawrence was founded by abolitionists and was burned by pro-slavery forces as a result of the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Who was the Illinois senator who created this bill?

**3.** Oklahoma State University will host Arizona in a game played at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater. Where was Boone Pickens born and in what industry has he made his fortune?

**4.** Texas plays Brigham Young University this week. BYU was named in honor of the man who led the Mormons westward in the 1840's. The largest Mormon settlement in Utah was formed on what large inland body of water?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Absolute location uses latitude and longitude to give an exact place on the earth's surface. Use an atlas or other resource to give the absolute location, rounded to the nearest whole degree, for the five games being played this weekend. Which three teams will be traveling in a westward direction, and which two teams will be traveling eastward?





# WEEK 3 GAMES

Written by Lyndal Caddell  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Noble Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Iowa State at Connecticut  
Kansas at Georgia Tech  
Texas at UCLA

Texas Tech at New Mexico  
Stephen F. Austin at Baylor  
Idaho at Texas A&M  
Oklahoma at Florida State

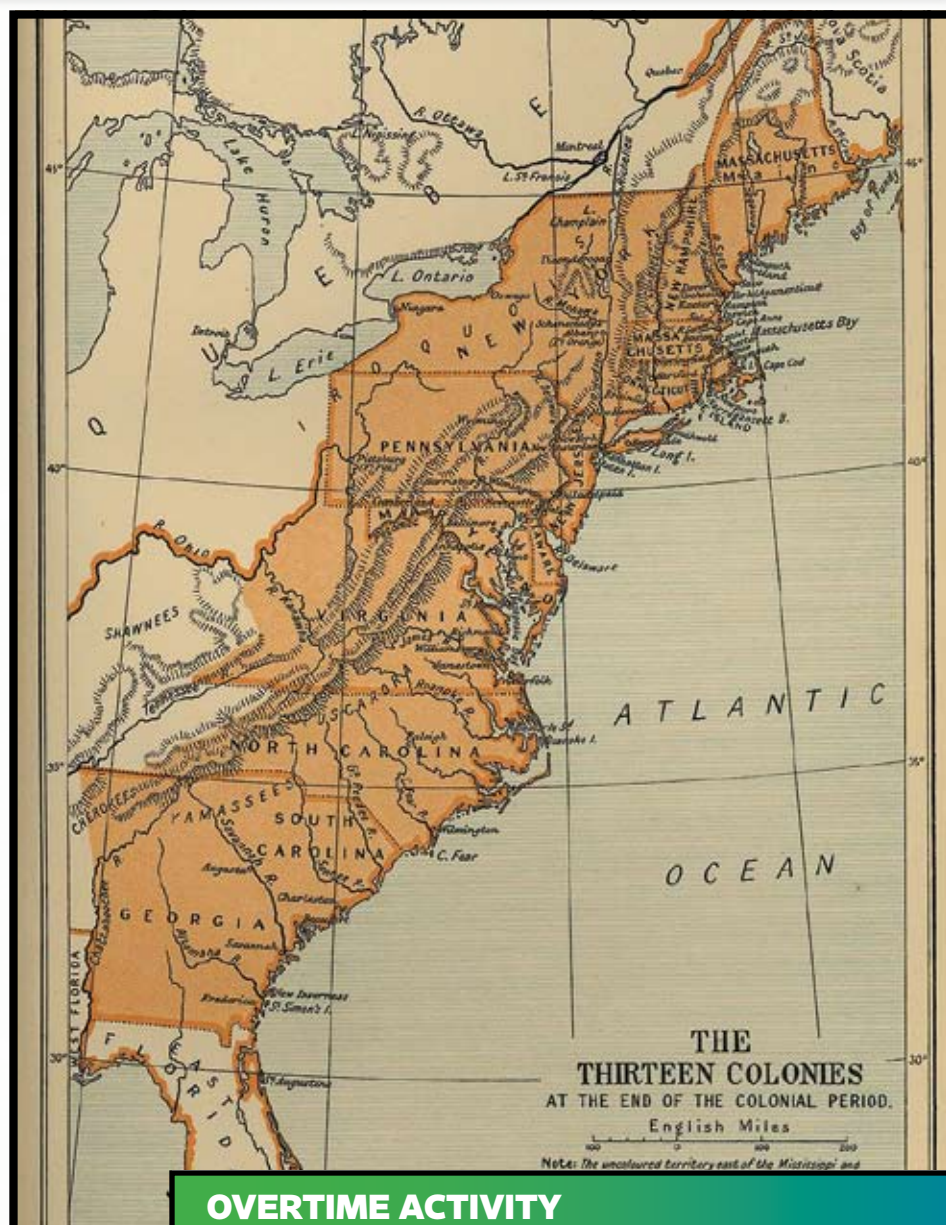
Kent State at Kansas State  
Western Illinois at Missouri  
Oklahoma State at Tulsa

**1.** Among the games being played this weekend, two involve universities located in two of the original thirteen states. Name these two universities and in what states they are located.

**2.** The University of Oklahoma plays Florida State University this week. Explain how the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 is important to both states geographically and historically.

**3.** In 2010, one of the non-conference universities playing this weekend granted honorary degrees to a group of students forced to leave the University in 1942 under Executive Order 9066. What was Executive Order 9066 and what group of students was forced to leave?

**4.** Fans driving from Stillwater to the OSU-Tulsa game will have a choice between driving on a turnpike or a state highway. Use a state highway map to give the names of these two roads and use the mileage chart to list the driving distance from Stillwater to Tulsa.



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Five of the games being played this weekend are at locations that were part of Spain's colonial empire. Use a historical map showing the expansion of the United States to identify the five locations.



# WEEK 4 GAMES

Written by Glenda Sullivan  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Lawton, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Rice at Baylor  
Oklahoma State at Texas A&M

Nevada at Texas Tech  
Missouri at Oklahoma

Kansas State at Miami

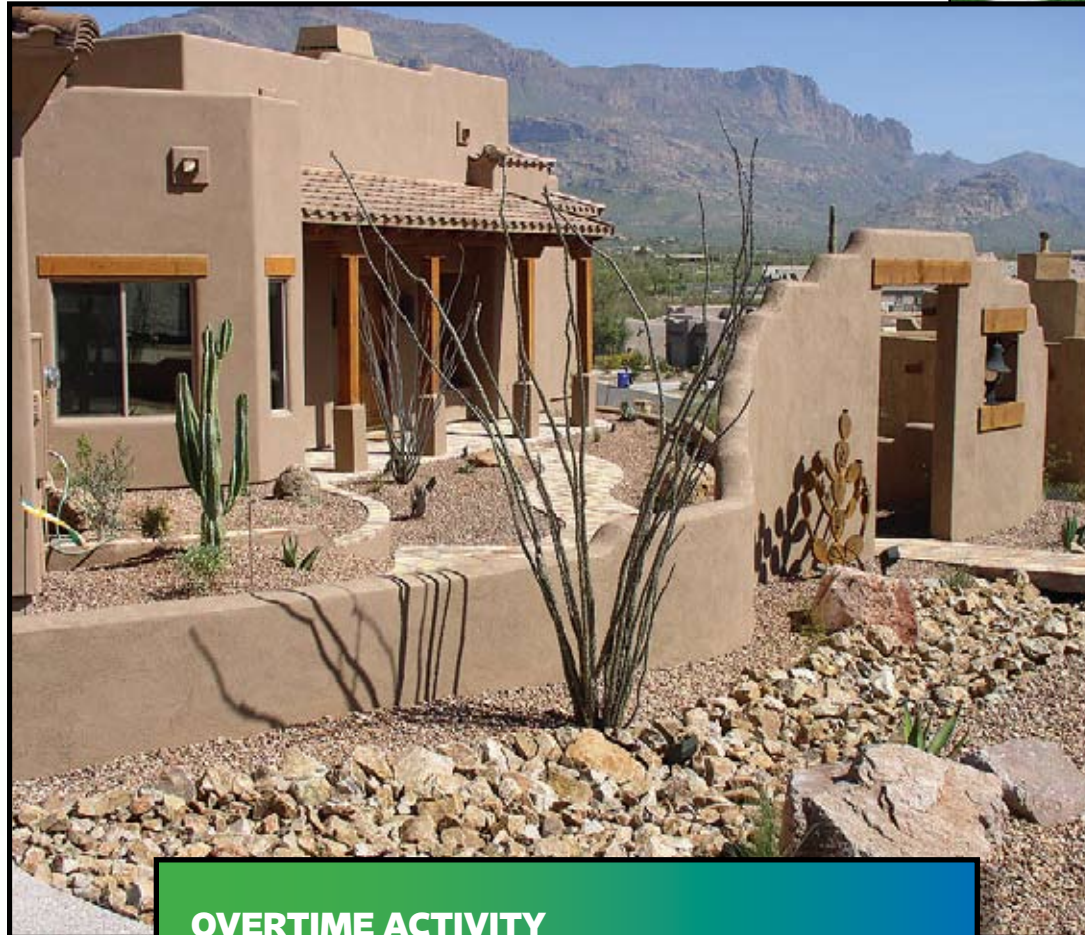
**1.** Rice University plays Baylor University in Waco, Texas, this week. Rice is located in the fourth largest city in the United States, the absolute location of which is  $30^{\circ}\text{N}$ ,  $95^{\circ}\text{W}$ . What is the name of this city and how many miles will the Rice team travel to get there?

**2.** Kansas State University is located in a region which has North America's largest remaining tract of tall grass prairie. The latitude and longitude is  $38^{\circ}\text{N}$   $97^{\circ}\text{W}$ . What is this region called?

**3.** The University of Nevada is located in Las Vegas whose water supply and hydroelectricity come from Lake Mead. Las Vegas has strict limits on water use in this arid region, and even pays homeowners to replace grass with rocks and drought-tolerant plants. What is this landscaping method called?

**4.** The University of Oklahoma plays Missouri this week. Missouri is known as the Cave State because it has more than 6,000 surveyed caves. Meramec Caverns, near St. Louis, is the largest commercial cave in Missouri. Oklahoma has the largest gypsum cavern in the world open to the

public called Alabaster Caverns. Using the scale of miles on a map, determine the approximate distance between these two caverns.



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Oklahoma has more than 200 lakes with more miles of shoreline than the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coasts combined. On an Oklahoma road map, highlight the ten lakes nearest your home town.



# WEEK 5 GAMES

Written by Brad Bays  
State Coordinator, National Geographic Bee  
Stillwater, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas at Iowa State  
Baylor at Kansas State

Texas Tech at Kansas  
Ball State at Oklahoma

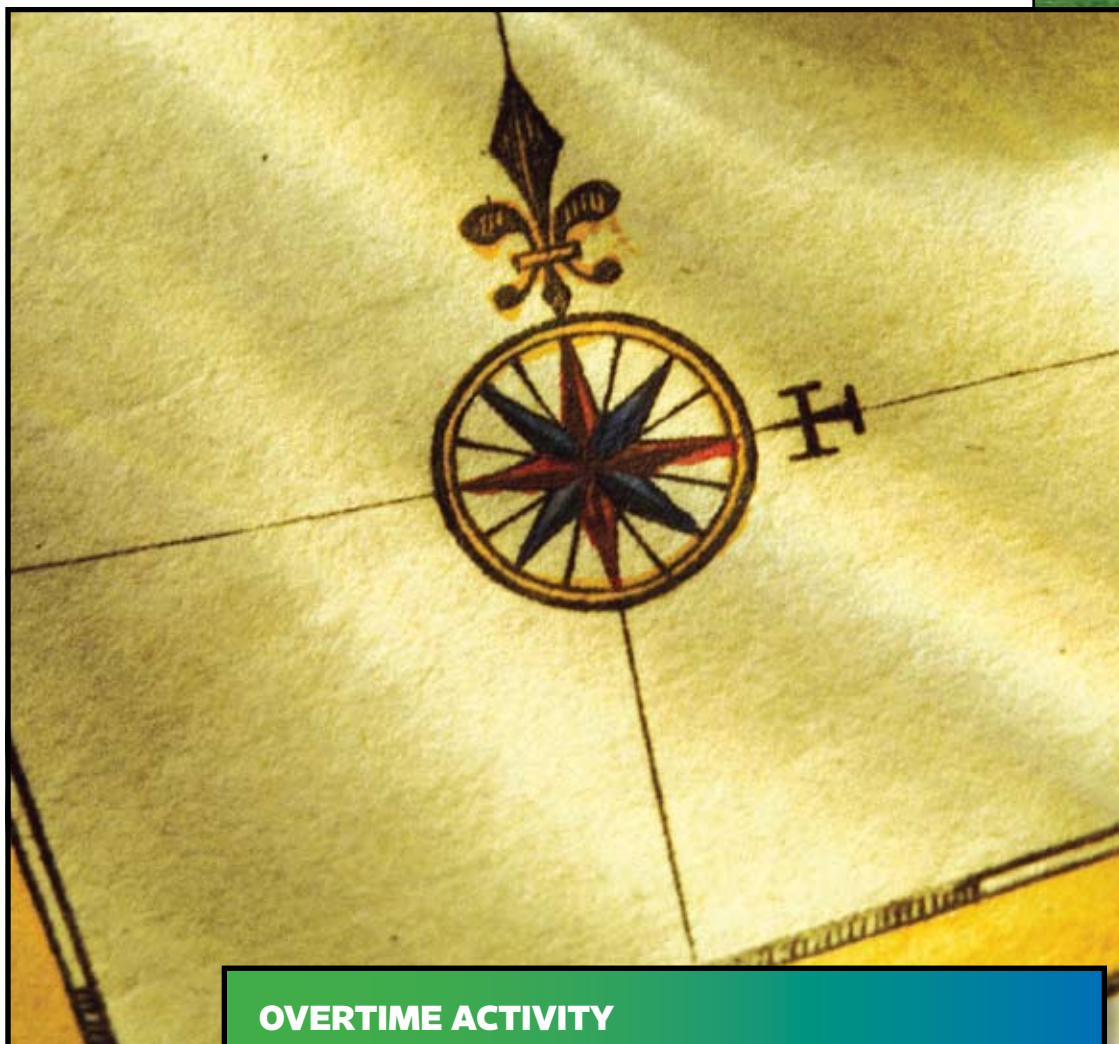
Arkansas at Texas A&M

**1.** The University of Missouri, founded in 1839, is the Big 12's oldest member school. Which university playing this week is by far the conference's youngest school?

**2.** How many of this week's five Big 12 games may generate weekend traffic on Oklahoma highways as fans drive to and from game locations? Use the "Directions" module on a virtual globe or online map to investigate possible routes between venues and visiting university towns and their "fan sheds" (areas where fans of a particular team predominate).

**3.** This week the most northerly team in the Big 12 hosts the most southerly member of the conference. Identify this game and calculate the approximate difference, in degrees of latitude, between these universities.

**4.** Which Big 12 team playing this week is based in the largest city and has a home stadium with the largest seating capacity? Use an online encyclopedia to look up population and stadium seating capacity information.



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Using an online encyclopedia, almanac or other source to find city populations and stadium capacities, make a table comparing populations of cities housing the ten universities playing in this week's five games with the capacities of their football stadiums. Which of this week's home facilities could seat the largest proportion of the population of the college town in which it is located? Hint: It is one of the four home facilities hosting a game this week.



# WEEK 6 GAMES

Written by Patricia Anduss  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Bartlesville Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma at Texas  
Iowa State at Baylor

Missouri at Kansas State  
Kansas at Oklahoma State

Texas A&M at Texas Tech

**1.** While in Stillwater for this week's game, the University of Kansas team might see a lot of Oklahoma's distinctive red dirt. What makes our dirt this color?

**2.** While in Waco, Texas for their game this week, Iowa State fans might want to visit a museum dedicated to which soft drink?

**3.** This week, the University of Oklahoma plays Texas. To travel to Dallas, the location of this game, the Sooners have to cross a river that is also a tributary to the Mississippi River. What is the name of this river and what is a tributary?

**4.** The Red Raiders of Texas Tech are playing Texas A&M in Lubbock. The city of Lubbock, incorporated in 1909, is named after Thomas S. Lubbock. What two jobs is Mr. Lubbock known for?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Football games are played in many different cities with varying weather and climates. What is the difference between weather and climate? What are some ways in which climate might affect the game of football?



# WEEK 7 GAMES

Week 7 & 8 Written by Ann Kennedy  
Southeast High School  
Oklahoma City, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma at Kansas  
Iowa State at Missouri

Baylor at Texas A&M  
Kansas State at Texas Tech

Oklahoma State at Texas

**1.** The University of Kansas will play the University of Oklahoma this week. Kansas is home to many different geological regions. One of these was once a prehistoric Inland sea and has provided a number of important fossils finds; the most famous of these is a fish within a fish that can be seen at the Steinberg Museum in Hays, Kansas. Which geological area region is this?

**2.** All the Big 12 games will be played this week in stadiums located between

100° W and 90° W longitude. Name the Big 12 states which are located within at least part of these longitudinal markers.

**3.** Three of this week's games will feature teams from Texas. The Caddo Indians were some of Texas' original inhabitants. The name "Texas" is derived from a Caddoan word meaning what?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Tourism is important to the economy of Oklahoma. Choose a state park that you have never been to, but would like to visit. On an Oklahoma state road map, highlight the park you would like to visit. Using a highlighter, trace the route you would travel from your hometown to your chosen state park.



# WEEK 8 GAMES

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas A&M at Iowa State  
Kansas State at Kansas

Oklahoma State at Missouri

Texas Tech at Oklahoma

**1.** The Mizzou Tigers will be hosting the OSU Cowboys this week in Columbia, Missouri. Missouri shares a border with eight other states. What are they?

**2.** The Mississippi River serves as a major waterway for many of the states with Big 12 teams. What two U.S. state capitals are located directly on this river?

**3.** The Red Raiders of Texas Tech will play in Norman this week. The Red River serves as a shared border

between Texas and Oklahoma, as does this controversial body of water. What is the name of this body of water and why was it controversial in the past?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

The Missouri River and the Mississippi River are the two major rivers in Missouri. The Mississippi is the longest river in the U.S. and plays a role in the economies of all 10 states it borders. What states are these?



# WEEK 9 GAMES

Written by Glenda Sullivan  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Lawton, OK

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma at Kansas State  
Baylor at Oklahoma State

Missouri at Texas A&M  
Iowa State at Texas Tech

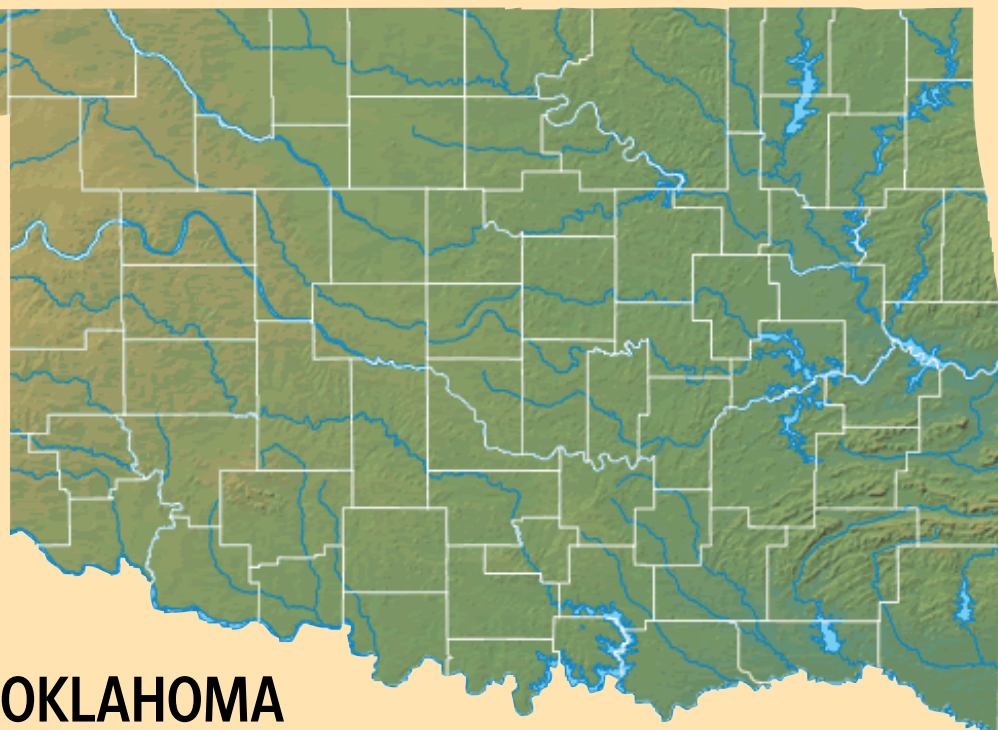
Kansas at Texas

**1.** Iowa State University is located in the heart of the Corn Belt Region of the United States. Hot days, warm nights and well distributed rainfall in this region during the growing season provide ideal growing conditions for corn. Use an atlas to name the other Big 12 teams that are located in states within the Corn Belt Region.

**2.** The Kansas Jayhawks will travel to Austin, Texas to play the Texas Longhorns this weekend. Using a highway map, determine which interstate highways Jayhawk fans will take from Lawrence, Kansas to Austin, Texas. How many miles is it from Lawrence to Austin?

**3.** Three of the ten largest United States cities by population are located in state with a Big 12 team. The latitude and longitude coordinates for these U.S. cities are as follows: 29°N, 95°W for the 4th largest city, 29°N, 98°W for the 7th largest city, and 32°N, 96°W for the 9th largest city. Use an atlas or other reference to find the names and locations of these three cities.

**4.** Oklahoma has more than 200 man-made lakes and reservoirs. Use an Oklahoma highway map to discover what rivers were dammed to create the following prominent lakes in Oklahoma: Lake Eufaula, Lake Texoma, Grand Lake o' The Cherokees, Keystone Lake and Lake Oologah?



OKLAHOMA

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Many of our service men and women are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq from military bases throughout the United States. Find the names and locations of at least two military installations in each state where a Big 12 team is located.



# WEEK 10 GAMES

Written by Bill Amburn  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Bartlesville Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Missouri at Baylor  
Kansas at Iowa State

Kansas State at Oklahoma State  
Texas A&M at Oklahoma

Texas Tech at Texas

**1.** The Big 12 Conference has ten teams that must travel to play football this season. In which direction(s) will the Oklahoma State Cowboys travel to get to the other Big 12 universities when they play away games this season?

**2.** Many Big 12 schools have special and unique traditions. Which Big 12 university has a dog named “Reveille” for a mascot, has the “12th man” tradition, and says “howdy” for their official school greeting?

**3.** The OSU Cowboys and the OU Sooners have their own nicknames and traditions. Which of these nicknames refers to the Oklahoma Land Runs of the 1800s? What is the meaning of the nickname?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Before the Panhandle became part of the State of Oklahoma, it was part of what other Big 12 state? What three counties now make up the Panhandle?



# WEEK 11 GAMES

Written by Janet Hall  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Bethany Public Schools

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas A&M at Kansas State  
Baylor at Kansas

Texas at Missouri

Oklahoma State at Texas Tech

1. One of this week's Big 12 teams is located in an area originally populated by Native American mound-builders. Which team is it? What was the name of this mound-builder culture group and after what geographic feature was it named?
2. Lines of longitude run from the North Pole to the South Pole. They tell us how far east or west of the Prime Meridian a place is located. Of the four Big 12 games played this weekend, which game is farthest from the Prime Meridian?

is home to one of this week's teams and home to the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame?

4. All of this week's teams are from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, or Texas. Which of these states did not officially take sides in the Civil War (1861-1865), and why? Which states remained loyal to the Union and which joined the Confederacy?



3. Kansas and Oklahoma were both called "Indian Territory" at different times in our nation's history. Three of this week's teams are from Kansas or Oklahoma and one is in a city that is home to the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. Which city

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Ancient mound-builder communities were located in many states. Find and map the locations of five major mound-builder settlements in the prehistoric North America. Be sure that at least one of the settlements you choose is in present-day Oklahoma.



# WEEK 12 GAMES

Written by Denise Rhodes  
OKAGE Teacher Consultant  
Quapaw High School

## GAME SCHEDULE

Oklahoma State at Iowa State  
Oklahoma at Baylor

Texas Tech at Missouri  
Kansas at Texas A&M

Kansas State at Texas

**1.** Three teams from Texas play this week. What is the largest geographical region in Texas and how many square miles is it?

**2.** The University of Kansas and Kansas State University both play away games this week. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to limit the

production of sand and gravel operations in the state of Kansas. Why?

**3.** What Big 12 state is the only producer of iodine in the United States and what percentage is produced for the needs of the country?

## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Use a reliable source to find the highest points in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Rank them from the highest to the lowest with the correct elevation.



# WEEK 13 GAMES

Written by Eugene Earsom  
OKAGE Program Director

## GAME SCHEDULE

Texas at Texas A&M

Missouri at Kansas  
Texas Tech at Baylor

Iowa State at Oklahoma

**1.** Two of the three Big 12 games this week will be played on "neutral" fields meaning neither team has a "home field" advantage. Which games are these and in what cities and stadiums will they be played?

**2.** To go to the Texas Tech-Baylor game this Saturday, you could take the Heartland Flyer train from Oklahoma City. What time does the train pull out of the station and in what other cities could you board?

**3.** The Iowa State Cyclones blow into Norman to play the OU Sooners on Saturday. What is a cyclone and what do meteorologists call these today? How did the Iowa State football team get its nickname?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Many members of the Oklahoma National Guard are deployed to Iraq. If these Sooner fans want to listen "live" on their computers or cell phones to the Iowa State vs. OU game, which is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Saturday, in Norman, what time should our service men and women "tune in" in Iraq?



# WEEK 14 GAMES

Written by Eugene Earsom  
OKAGE Program Director

## GAME SCHEDULE

Iowa State at Kansas State

Texas at Baylor

Oklahoma at Oklahoma State



**1.** The first “bedlam” football game between Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma occurred before statehood on a Sunday (November 6), but it was played neither in Stillwater nor in Norman. What was the date of the game and where was it played?

**2.** When Texas travels to Waco this Saturday to play the Baylor Bears, they could be said to be on “holy ground.” This is because Baylor is a private college founded by a group of religious leaders. What is their religion and when was Baylor organized?

**3.** Sooner fans from the western half of Oklahoma who go to OSU for the Bedlam game this week will probably drive into Stillwater on State Highway 51. On this highway between I-35 and Stillwater, they will pass an historical marker that identifies the “Indian Meridian.” What is the Indian Meridian and what is its significance to the geography of Oklahoma?



## OVERTIME ACTIVITY

Between 1855 and 1866, most of what makes up Oklahoma today belonged to a group of five Native American tribes who were moved from the southeastern United States to an area called Indian Territory. The lands where Norman and Stillwater are now located belonged to two of these tribes. Which tribes were they?





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*\*National Geographic - Roper Survey  
of Geographic Literacy (2006)*

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