Flat Stanley’s Adventures
In Austin, Texas
(And Beyond The Border...)
Flat Stanley climbed out of the envelope and opened his eyes. The trip from Virginia had been a long one but now it was time for adventures in Texas. His new friend, Jeff, was there to greet him. “Howdy Flat Stanley,” he said, “Welcome to Texas!”
It’s also very hot in Texas. People in Austin like to have fun and enjoy the warm weather so Jeff gave Stanley some clothes to go adventuring in: some shorts to stay cool, some sandals for walking, and a new t-shirt. His t-shirt had a picture of a Texas Longhorn on it. The Longhorns are the mascot of the University of Texas. Now Stanley looked like he lived in Austin too!
Now that he was dressed, it was time to go see the city. Jeff and Stanley loaded up the truck. They were headed out on their first trip in Austin and it was a beautiful day! “I hope I have some great adventures!” Stanley said as they started on their way.
Their first stop was the Texas State Capitol building where Stanley waved his Texas flag! In the capitol, the legislature meets to write laws for the people of Texas. The State Capitol building is made of pink granite, was opened in 1888, and is taller than the US capitol building!
Austin, Texas is home to President George Walker Bush. 43rd President of the United States.

Stanley waved his Texas flag by a portrait of President Bush made when he was Governor of Texas. The painting hangs in the rotunda of the capitol building.
Also inside the capitol building, Stanley posed next to a famous statue of Sam Houston.

Sam Houston was Governor of Tennessee before becoming President of Texas and then Governor of Texas.

Like many famous Texans, Sam Houston was born in Virginia.
On the lawn of the capitol is a special garden filled with Tyler Roses.
Even though the Bluebonnet is the Texas state flower, the Yellow Rose remains one of the most popular flowers.
Here, Stanley poses with one of the yellow roses growing at the capitol.
Austin is a big city with lots going on! From the capitol building, you can see downtown. Stanley poses on the front steps for a photo with the city of Austin behind him.
Stanley visits the Governor’s mansion where the Governor of Texas lives. He waves his Texas flag, just in case the Governor is watching!
Texas is known as the “Lone Star State” and the Seal of the State of Texas contains a star surrounded by an oak branch to represent strength, and an olive branch representing peace. Stanley poses by a state seal on the gate to the Governor’s Mansion.
After his visit to the capitol and the Governor’s mansion, it was time to visit the University of Texas. One of the most famous symbols of the University, in addition to the Longhorn, is The UT Tower. Stanley posed for a photo by the tower and looked like many of the students who also get their photos here.
Now it was time for a very special adventure. Jeff’s friend Darlene was becoming a lawyer today and Stanley had been invited to her “swearing in.” That’s where attorneys take an oath to obey the law and be good lawyers. Stanley took a picture with Darlene and Justice Nathan Hecht, a justice on the Texas Supreme Court!
After the ceremony, Stanley took the opportunity to sit on the “bench” – the special place where judges sit in the courtroom – and to try his luck at being a judge! Hear ye! Hear ye! Judge Flat Stanley is presiding! He had lots of fun with the microphone!
Austin was built on the banks of the Colorado River. In many places, the river has been dammed to generate electricity and to create lakes for recreational activities. Stanley took his picture in front of Lake Austin where people love to boat.
Austin is known as the “Live Music Capital of the World” and Stanley wants to do his part to keep the reputation alive. After a long day, he plays his guitar for Jeff and his friends!
Austin is also famous for the bats that live there. The bats are a very important part of the environment and help farmers by controlling pests. Stanley poses next to a statue of a bat!
“We’ve had a long day it’s time to sleep,” Jeff said. “Good night Stanley!”

Stanley closed his eyes and drifted off to sleep. It had been a very long day and his trip was far from over. What other exciting things would he do while he was in Texas?
Jeff woke Stanley up early in the morning. He wanted to go on a road trip to one of Texas’ neighbors, Mexico! “Let’s go to Mexico!” said Stanley. And they were on their way!
Stanley studied the map. They would travel south from Austin, through San Antonio, through Laredo and into the Mexican city of Nuevo Laredo. It was a long way through the desert and brush country. It was a good thing that they were able to get an early start.
When they got to the border with Mexico, Stanley’s friend Michelle held him so he could see the Rio Grande river. It was so interesting. One side of the river was the United States of America and the other side was Mexico.
Many bridges connect Texas and Mexico. Stanley and his friends started walking across the International Bridge between the United States and Mexico. Thousands of people cross the bridges each day to work or to shop in the two countries.
As they walked across the bridge together, Stanley said hello to one of the friendly policemen in Laredo, Texas. "Good luck, Stanley," he said. "Have a great time in Mexico!"
When they reached the top of the International Bridge, Stanley had a friend hold him up to the sign marking the border. He was in two countries at one time!
Mexico was very different. All of the signs were in Spanish. Stanley smiled and said hello to the people he met. “Buenos dias!” he said to them. “Buenos dias,” they replied.
Mexico is a fascinating country with beautiful flowers.

And prickly cactus! Watch out Stanley!
After some exploring, their trip to Mexico was complete and they started on their way home. “Adios, Mexico!” Stanley yelled as they crossed the bridge. They began driving north and home to Austin.
As they drove, they came across some cowboys on a trail ride. They stopped to say hello, to wish the cowboys and vaqueros luck, and to admire their horses.

“Vaqueros” are cowboys from Mexico.
“Don’t get too close, Stanley!” Jeff yelled. Stanley was not afraid. He knew how to be safe around the horses. He offered the horse some sugar and the horse became his friend too! Stanley would be a great cowboy!
Stanley even jumped up in the saddle and posed for a photo with one of the cowboys and his horse! After a ride, they continued driving home.
One last stop was in San Antonio which is located between Austin and Mexico. Stanley posed in front of the Alamo, a famous Spanish mission where one of the most important battles of Texas independence was fought.
Their trip was coming to an end but Jeff had one last thing for Stanley to do.

“Before you go back to Virginia, you have to eat some good Mexican food.”

“Yum!” said Stanley as he gobbled it up.
Texas gets its name from the Indian word “tejas” meaning “friendship.” Flat Stanley had many new friends from Texas but now it was time to go home to Virginia.
Stanley climbed into his envelope so that he could ride home to provide a report on all that he had seen and done in Texas.

“Adios amigos!” Stanley shouted and he was on his way home to Virginia with many stories to tell his friends.
THE END