

Answer Key: How do we know what we know?

Warm-up

1. C
2. E

Lesson

Note: Responses recorded below were taken from options provided in the Foundations work. They should serve as a guide for Grade Level and Advanced work.

PART I: Texas at the End of the 20th Century

- The population of Texas increased
- People moved toward the Texas Plains.
- Hunters hunted bison on the Plains.
- Cowboys drove cattle to northern markets
- Large ranches were established in the Plains
- Texas cotton farmers struggled
- Farmers and laborers formed organizations

PART II: Primary Source Analysis

Note: Responses were provided based on the requirements of the Advanced work. The Grade Level work requires less writing, and the Foundations work does not require the list of quick notes about each excerpt.

The responses below should serve as a guide, though responses will vary among students.

Excerpt 1: “The End of the World: The Buffalo Go”

- Primary Topic(s): Bison hunting; The frontier
- Quick Notes:
 - Anglos had been hunting bison before this time
 - Now, professional hunters were hunting bison and killing them in large numbers
- Summary: Professional hunting was depleting the bison population of the Plains.

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Excerpt 2: “Adobe Walls: A Hunter’s Paradise”

- Primary Topic(s): Bison hunting; The frontier
- Quick Notes:
 - The Plains had bison, chickens, turkeys, deer, antelope, and quail.
 - The Plains were excellent for hunters
 - Few Anglos had explored or hunted the Plains according to the author
- Summary: Anglo hunters viewed the Plains as a great location for hunting.

Excerpt 3: “The Importance of the Railroad”

- Primary Topic(s): Industrialization; Agriculture and Cotton; The Frontier
- Quick Notes:
 - Railroads will help develop land
 - Railroads will help protect the frontier by moving troops more easily
 - Railroads will help expand agriculture and farming in Texas
- Summary: Railroads will bring about economic development and safety in Texas.

Excerpt 4: “New Innovations – The Windmill”

- Primary Topic(s): Industrialization; Agriculture and Cotton; The Frontier
- Quick Notes:
 - Windmills perform tasks on the farm like pumping water, grinding grain, and sawing wood.
 - Windmills helped develop the frontier by allowing for irrigation in the more arid region.
- Summary: Windmills helped develop land, settle the frontier, and make agricultural work easier.

Excerpt 5: “New Innovations – Barbed Wire”

- Primary Topic(s): The Cattle Industry;
- Quick Notes:
 - Barbed wire was used to fence in the properties of large ranches like King Ranch
 - The Texas government passed a law to criminalize cutting someone’s fence without permission.
- Summary: Barbed wire helped the establishment of large ranches and was so important that the government passed laws to protect fences.

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Excerpt 6: “Cattle Drives”

- Primary Topic(s): The Cattle Industry; Population Increase
- Quick Notes:
 - Thousands of cattle were being taken on cattle drives to northern states like Kansas.
 - Trails in eastern Texas in areas near Fort Worth had to be abandoned because there were so many people settling in that area.
- Summary: Cattle drives increased, and cattle drivers had to abandon trails in east Texas because of the rapid increase in population.

Excerpt 7: “The Farmer’s Alliance”

- Primary Topic(s): Agriculture and Cotton; Reform
- Quick Notes:
 - Farmers and workers need to organize and work together to protect themselves.
 - Farmers need to fix the political system to work for common people.
 - The rich people of the country won’t reform the government; change has to come from the workers.
- Summary: Farmers and workers need to make changes to protect workers and regular people.

Excerpt 8: “The Populist Party”

- Primary Topic(s): Reform
- Quick Notes:
 - The Populist Party was growing because people were dissatisfied, and many were poor.
 - The dissatisfied people can work to make political changes and break away from the two main political parties.
- Summary: When people are upset, they work to make things better, and the Populist Party is how they are doing that now.

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Excerpt 9: “The Challenges of Farming Cotton”

- Primary Topic(s): Agriculture and Cotton;
- Quick Notes:
 - Cotton farmers should not only grow cotton; they also need to grow things to take care of themselves.
 - Cotton farming is difficult and often leaves farmers in debt.
- Summary: Farming cotton is challenging work that often leaves farmers in debt if they only grow cotton.

Excerpt 10: “Segregation and Jim Crow”

- Primary Topic(s): Jim Crow Laws
- Quick Notes:
 - The Texas Legislature was considering a law to segregate railroad cars.
 - The author states the Legislature does not have the constitutional power to create this kind of law
 - This kind of law goes against progress and upholds prejudice.
- Summary: Segregation laws are unjust and unconstitutional.

Exit Ticket

- Responses will vary