

# How do we know what we know? *Advanced*

## *Unit 10: Cotton, Cattle, & Railroads*

Name:

Date:

Period:

### **Part I: Texas at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, Texas underwent many significant changes in politics, economics, and society. The population of Texas climbed from 800,000 in 1870 to 3 million in 1900 as people flooded into the state for new opportunities. Many Texans migrated west to settle along the frontier, while hunters were drawn to the Texas Plains to hunt bison for their profitable hides.

The Texas economy experienced growth and development as well. Cowboys drove large herds of cattle to railroads in northern states and later, large ranches were established for the profitable cattle industry. Despite the rise in cowboy culture and the migration of some to larger cities, most Texans still lived in agricultural areas cultivating crops like cotton.

During this era, falling cotton prices caused farmers to struggle financially. Farmers and other struggling workers formed organizations like the Farmer's Alliance and later helped establish a new political organization called the Populist Party to work for the interests of laborers in Texas and across the country. At the same time, many state legislatures began to pass laws known as "Jim Crow laws" which restricted the rights of Black citizens.

All of these topics, changes, and developments of the era are visible in a number of primary sources throughout the era that we will examine in this lesson.

List as many changes and developments that occur during this era as possible.

## Part II: Primary Source Analysis

**Directions:** Choose eight of the ten available primary source materials. Read your chosen materials and complete the graphic organizers for each material.

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
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What is the main topic or topics addressed in this source?	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
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In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source	
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