

How do we know what we know? *Foundations*

Unit 10: Cotton, Cattle, & Railroads

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

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

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, Texas experienced many significant changes in politics, economics, and society. The **population** of Texas in 1870 was 800,000. By 1900 it had climbed to 3 million as people flooded into the state for new opportunities. Many Texans **migrated west to settle along the frontier**, while **hunters** traveled 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. Later, **large ranches** were established in the Plains to raise cattle for the profitable **beef industry**. While some people moved to the cities and some found work as cowboys during this era, **most Texans still lived in the countryside and worked as farmers, often growing cotton**.

During this era, **cotton prices fell**, and farmers were paid less for their crops. Farmers and other struggling workers formed organizations like the **Farmer's Alliance** to help struggling farmers. Later they 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.

Directions: Choose all statements that correctly identify major themes of this era. Choose up to SEVEN.

- People moved out of Texas for opportunities in northern states.
- The population of Texas increased.
- People moved toward the Texas Plains.
- The cotton industry became the most profitable industry in Texas.
- Hunters hunted bison on the Plains.
- Cowboys drove cattle to northern markets.
- Large ranches were established in the Plains.
- The majority of Texans became cowboys in west Texas.
- Texas cotton farmers struggled.
- Farmers and laborers formed organizations.

Part II: Primary Source Analysis

Directions: Choose four 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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Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material.	In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population Increase• Industrialization• The frontier• Bison Hunting• The cattle industry• Agriculture and Cotton• Jim Crow laws• Other _____	

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