

# How do we know what we know? *Grade Level*

## *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 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.

List THREE major themes, topics, or events that occurred during this era, according to the reading.

## Part II: Primary Source Analysis

**Directions:** Choose six 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?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--

Source #:	What is the title of this source?
-----------	-----------------------------------

Circle or highlight the main topic or topics discussed in this material. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population Increase</li><li>• Industrialization</li><li>• The frontier</li><li>• Bison Hunting</li><li>• The cattle industry</li><li>• Agriculture and Cotton</li><li>• Jim Crow laws</li><li>• Other _____</li></ul>	Write a list of quick notes from the source about this topic:
---	---

In one complete sentence, summarize the main idea of this source
--