

Warm-up

- Student responses could include information about the problem being the post office raising its rates, students needing to raise what they charge to make up the difference, or students losing money to the increasing costs.
- Responses could include setting laws, limits, or regulations on the post office and what they can charge. Other responses possible.

Lesson

GRADE LEVEL and FOUNDATIONS

1. The Railroad Commission was established to regulate railroads.
2. It was established in 1891.
3. Governor James Hogg's administration established the Railroad Commission.
4. A, E
5. Taking part in organizations like the Grange, forming organizations like the Farmer's Alliance, putting pressure on Texas political leaders.
6. Originally, the responsibilities of the Railroad Commission were to regulate railroads to prevent them from charging too much. Over time, however, new responsibilities included regulating the oil and gas industry. Today, the Railroad Commission is significant because in its role in the oil and gas industry, it is one of the most powerful state agencies in the country.

FOUNDATIONS – B, C, E

Answer Key: Texas Today

ADVANCED

1. The Railroad Commission was established to regulate railroads.
2. It was established in 1891.
3. Governor James Hogg's administration established the Railroad Commission.
4. Farmers wanted the Railroad Commission to be established because railroads faced little competition and were able to charge whatever price they chose. They often raised their prices too high for farmers to afford, which hurt farmer and their ability to live off the sale of their crops.
5. In addition to advocating for railroad regulations, farmers also organized groups like the Grange and the Farmer's Alliance to advocate for issues important to farmers.
6. Most farmers were not satisfied with the job the Railroad Commission did because prices remained high, and farmers were still struggling.
7. Originally, the Railroad Commission's sole responsibility was to regulate railroads in Texas, however, over time its responsibilities grew to include regulating the oil and gas industry. This has made it the most powerful state agency in the U.S.

Exit Ticket

T / F	Statement	Correct the false information
F	1. The Railroad Commission was established to regulate the oil and gas industry in Texas.	<i>The Railroad Commission was established to regulate railroads in Texas.</i>
T	2. Governor James Hogg established the Commission to satisfy struggling farmers.	
T	3. Railroad companies had little competition, so they charged whatever they wanted.	
F	4. The Railroad Commission was powerful in the 1800s but does little today.	<i>The Railroad Commission is one of the most powerful state agencies in the country today because of its role in oil and natural gas.</i>