

The Big Picture *Foundations*

Unit 10: Cotton, Cattle, & Railroads

Name:

Date:

Period:

Part I: Analyze an Image



Figure 1: "The Texas Cattle Trade" Harper's Weekly, May 2, 1874.
The Portal to Texas History

1. What is one thing you observe about the image?

2. What can you infer about this era of Texas history based on the image? Choose THREE.

Conflict between Texas and Mexico will grow.	The cotton industry will grow in east Texas.	Political challenges over westward expansion will intensify.
Many Texans will start taking part in the cattle industry.	Trains will expand throughout Texas.	Commerce with eastern states will increase.

3. What do you predict we will see in this unit based on the image?

Part II: Essential Ideas Reading Passage

In the previous unit on Reconstruction, the United States faced the challenge of reuniting the country after the Civil War. The decades after Reconstruction brought significant economic, social, and political changes to Texas. The **population of Texas increased** rapidly during this era. In 1870, the Texas population was 800,000 people. By the end of the era, it had grown to more than 3 million people. This was also a period of rapid **industrialization**, which meant a growth in business and manufacturing. As a result, **railroads expanded throughout the state**, helping the rapid growth of the **population** during this time.

As the population of Texas increased, **many Texans began moving west** toward the Great Plains. At the same time, **professional hunters** also traveled to the Texas Plains to **hunt bison for their profitable hides**. The increase of Anglo settlers and the overhunting of bison caused many conflicts between Anglos and Plains Indians. As a result of these conflicts, **the Plains Indians tribes would be forced out of the Plains** and onto reservations in Oklahoma.

After the Indian tribes were forcefully removed from the Plains, **the region was open to more Anglo settlers and industry**. Some Texas **cowboys** gathered large herds of wild **cattle** and drove them through the Plains to major railroads in northern states like Kansas and Missouri, where high cattle prices meant greater profit. Soon, cattlemen established large **ranches** in the Great Plains. They used **new innovations** like **barbed wire** to fence in their land and **windmills** to pump water to their livestock. Large fenced in ranches **closed off the Plains** and brought cattle drives to an end, though cowboys would remain a popular image in Texas culture.

Despite the image of Texas as a western state of cowboys, **the majority of Texans** at the time still lived in the eastern part of the state working as **cotton farmers**. During this era, **the price of cotton dropped significantly**, and cotton farmers were paid less for their crop. Struggling farmers formed **organizations** like **the Grange** and **the Farmer's Alliance** to support farm workers.

Farmers and other struggling laborers would go on to establish a **political organization** called the **Populist Party** to advocate for all workers in the United States. The Populist Party was short-lived, but it brought **attention to the needs of farmers and other workers** and influenced state and national politics. At the same time, Southern state governments began passing new laws known as "**Jim Crow laws**," which restricted many of the rights and freedoms of African Americans in the South.

In this unit, we will examine how cotton, cattle, and railroads played a significant role in the development of Texas and the many changes Texans experienced in the late 19th century.

Part III: Cause and Effect

Directions: Read each statement in the middle column of the chart below. Read the given CAUSE or EFFECT. Then choose **TWO** correct responses from the multiple choice options provided.

Cause	Statement	Effect
<i>The expansion of railroads allowed people to travel more easily.</i>	People moved into Texas in large numbers after Reconstruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The population increased from 800,000 to 3 million. b) Many people moved toward west Texas. c) Many people moved toward south Texas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Foreign investment in railroads increased. b) The U.S. experienced rapid industrialization c) Business and manufacturing increased. 	More railroads were built in Texas throughout the era.	<p><i>People could travel more easily to Texas and within Texas into cities and toward the western frontier.</i></p>
<i>Professional bison hunters overhunted Plains buffalo, and more Anglo settlers moved into the region.</i>	American Indians were forcefully removed from the Texas Plains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Plains were open to more Anglo settlers and cattle drives. b) The government passed laws to protect bison. c) Cattlemen established ranches in the Plains.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) European powers refused to buy Texas cotton. b) The price of cotton fell significantly. c) Farmers struggled to afford living expenses. 	Cotton farmers in Texas and the nation struggled financially.	<p><i>Struggling farmers and laborers organized the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party to support workers.</i></p>