

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

(11 Estimated Instructional Days; 4 Optional Extension Days; 3 Optional review days prior to assessment)

(Total Length of all materials in the Unit: 18 days)

(For a shortened “Just the Basics” view of lessons, see Pacing below)

### Era Overview

Texas was greatly impacted by the migration and settlement of Americans from the eastern and southern states in the years following Reconstruction. As settlers migrated west in the years between 1870 and 1900, they interacted with both the human and physical geography of Texas. The establishment of railroads in the state greatly impacted the rate of settlement, development of new industries, and displacement of Native Texans.

The American Indians suffered greatly at the hands of railway construction. Bitter wars with settlers resulted in the forced displacement of native tribes onto reservations and the destruction of the buffalo that they depended on for survival.

With more and more railroads constructed in and across Texas, cattle driving, ranching, and cotton farming became major industries in Texas during the late 1870s. During the period of Reconstruction and shortly after, more and more Texans took an interest in cattle driving and ranching. Young men rushed to Texas to drive cattle into the American Northwest, which led to a new “cowboy” culture. The cattle industry faced many challenges including Texas Fever and dangers along the cattle drives. The introduction of barbed wire led to the growth of large ranches, which eventually ended the cattle drives in Texas.

In addition to cattle driving, the expansion of cotton farming swept across the state. Texas became a major producer of cotton. The overproduction of cotton resulted in the cotton industry collapsing and many poor farmers falling into financial trouble. The farming population of Texas experienced many difficulties and challenges due to the overgrowth of cotton and the corrupt business practices of the railroad industry.

## Era Overview

### Pacing

**Just the Basics:** To meet the TEKS requirements while minimizing the amount of time spent in the unit, educators can focus solely on the following lessons (Approximately 7 - 8 class periods)

1. The Big Picture (1 class period)
2. Vocabulary (2 class periods)
3. What's the Story? (1 - 2 class periods)
4. Frontier Wars (1 class period)
5. Cattle and Cowboys (1 class period)
6. The Problem with Cotton (1 class period)

### Unit Pacing by Day

Minutes	Essential Questions	Description	Student Learning Experiences	Lesson
45 - 60	What were the major events and defining characteristics of the Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads era of Texas history?	In this one-day lesson, students will examine the main events and defining characteristics of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads.	<i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i>  Texas underwent significant changes due to a rapid increase in population, aided by the expansion of railroads due to industrialization. Texans moving to the western frontier and professional bison hunters overhunting the buffalo caused conflict with Plains tribes that led to their forced removal from the region. The open Plains allowed more Anglo settlement and industry, including increased cattle drives and the establishment of large ranches.	Lesson:  <b>The Big Picture</b>



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			<p>Innovations like the windmill and barbed wire helped the establishment of large ranches, which ultimately closed the Plains to cattle drives. The majority of Texans worked as cotton farmers at the time, and falling cotton prices caused financial hardship for cotton farmers in Texas who formed groups like the Grange and the Farmer's Alliance to support struggling farmers. The Populist Party was formed by farmers and workers to support labor in the U.S. and had a significant effect on politics. Southern state governments established Jim Crow laws to restrict the rights and freedoms of Black Southerners.</p> <p>Reading for key information, context, main ideas, and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Summarizing and paraphrasing key ideas in a text.</p> <p>Making observations, inferences, and predictions about a primary source image.</p> <p>Identifying the main idea and supporting evidence from a primary source text.</p> <p>Identifying and explaining the cause-and-effect relationship between significant events of the era.</p>	
45 - 60	What are the key topics and major themes of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads, and how were these topics recorded and discussed in the primary source materials of the era?	In this one-day, primary source lesson, students will analyze a set of ten excerpts related to major topics and events of the Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads era.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>Professional bison hunters killed large numbers of American buffalo on the Plains. Thousands of cattle were moved to northern markets via cattle drives through the Texas Plains. The railroad played an important role in developing industries in Texas, as well as transporting the military more quickly to the frontier to defend against Indian attacks. Windmills were a new innovation that allowed for the mechanization of a lot of agricultural work like pumping water, sawing wood, and grinding grains.</p>	<p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <p><b>How do we know what we know?</b></p>

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			<p>Barbed wire was a new innovation that allowed ranchers to enclose their property and resources, and the Texas legislature passed laws to criminalize the cutting of barbed wire fences. Cotton farmers were often trapped in a cycle of debt because of the low cotton prices that prevented them from being able to afford living necessities. Farmers and workers worked to organize with groups like the Farmer's Alliance and Populist Party to advocate for political changes to benefit farmers and other laborers. Jim Crow laws were passed to restrict the rights and liberties of Black Southerners.</p> <p>Analyzing primary source excerpts. Identifying points of view and bias in a primary source excerpt. Identifying the main idea of a primary source and creating a brief summary of each excerpt. Understanding challenging vocabulary in context.</p>	
<b>90 – 120</b> <i>Lesson</i>  <b>Additional</b> <b>30 – 45</b> <i>Optional Quiz</i>	What are the key terms we need to know to understand the era of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads, and what is the meaning of these terms in the context of our unit?	In this two-day lesson, students will be able to identify, define and give an example of each vocabulary term within the context of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>Industrialization helped develop Texas industries like lumber, coal, and ranching. Innovations like windmills helped the development of more arid regions like the Plains by transporting water resources to ranches, and barbed wire helped the development of large ranches by allowing farmers to fence in their property and resources. Texas's population increased, and some people began moving to cities, beginning a process of urbanization, though most Texans still lived in rural areas at the time. Financial challenges caused many farmers to become tenant farmers because they could not afford to buy or maintain their own land. The struggles of farmers and</p>	<b>Lesson:</b>  <b>Vocabulary</b>  <i>with optional Vocabulary Quiz</i>

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			<p>other laborers led to labor organizations like the Grange and the Farmer's Alliance. Jim Crow laws were established, including laws that required segregated public spaces like railroad cars.</p> <p>Reading for key information, context, main ideas, and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Identifying the definition and examples of key terms in the context of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads in short reading passages.</p> <p>Creating visual representations of key terms.</p> <p>Using the terms in the context of the unit</p> <p>Recognizing references to key terms in a primary source excerpt</p>	
90 - 120	What were the most significant events of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads? What were the details, causes, and effects of each event?	In this two-day lesson, students will examine six readings presenting significant events that took place during Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads and identify their significance to United States and Texas history.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The population of Texas dramatically increased during the era, with some beginning to move into larger cities, and many migrating west to the frontier. The increase of Anglo settlers, professional bison hunters, and the U.S. Army resulted in conflicts with Plains Indians which ultimately resulted in the forced removal of Plains tribes. Northern demand for beef led to the rise in cattle drives to Northern states, while population increases in the eastern part of the state and "Texas fever" caused more trails to be opened farther west. The success of the cattle industry gave rise to the establishment of large ranches in the Plains. Ranchers used barbed wire to close off large areas of the Plains, which decreased cattle drives. The majority of Texans were cotton farmers, and falling cotton prices caused a lot of financial hardship for farmers. Farmers organized groups to advocate for political reform and economic</p>	<p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <p><b>What's the story?</b></p>

Minutes	Essential Questions	Description	Student Learning Experiences	Lesson
			<p>relief. Southern states passed Jim Crow laws, which restricted the rights of Black Southerners. Black Southerners played a meaningful role in the era as cowboys, ranch hands, and cavalry soldiers known as "buffalo soldiers."</p> <p>Reading for context and significance information. Identifying and paraphrasing or summarizing main ideas and supporting evidence. Identifying and explaining the significance of historical events. Explaining cause-and-effect relationships between significant historical events.</p>	
<b>45 - 60 (Reduced lesson)</b>  <b>135 - 180 (Full Lesson)</b>  <b>100 - 130 (Additional Extension Activities)</b>	Who were some of the significant people during Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads, and how were they significant to the era?	<p>In this one or multi-day optional extension lesson, students will read passages about key people of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads to identify and summarize each person's significance to the era.</p> <p>This lesson includes multiple ways to interact with the materials including biographical fact sheets, a dinner party activity, "I have / Who has" and student worksheets.</p>	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>There were many people who played a significant role in Texas history during Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads including Quanah Parker, Charles Goodnight, Mary Ann "Molly" Dyer Goodnight, James "Jim" Hogg, Jesse Chisholm, Christopher Columbus Slaughter, Richard King, Henrietta Chamberlain King, the Buffalo Soldiers, Norris Wright Cuney, Los Kineños, Charles William Macune, William Robert Lamb, and Bose Ikard.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The only people from the list above who are specifically identified in the TEKS are Quanah Parker, the Buffalo Soldiers, and James Hogg. This lesson can be shortened by focusing solely on these people and their contributions to the era.</p> <p>Reading for context, main ideas, and key information. Summarizing and paraphrasing significant information from a passage. Identifying and making inferences about different points</p>	<p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <p><b>Who's Who of Cotton, Cattle, &amp; Railroads Extension</b></p> <p>With three additional optional Extension Activities</p>

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			of view based on historical evidence.	
45 - 60	What were the causes, key events, outcome, and significance of the conflicts between Plains Indian tribes and Anglos on the west Texas frontier?	In this one-day lesson, students will analyze the frontier wars, including their causes, key events, individuals involved, and their outcome and significance to Texas history.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>A number of factors contributed to conflicts between Indians and Anglos on the west Texas frontier including the overhunting of buffalo, pressure from the U.S. Army, and incursions by white settlers. The Medicine Lodge Treaty between Plains tribes (Comanche, Apache, Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho) and the U.S. government in 1867 had limited success. Conflicts broke out including the Salt Creek Massacre (Warren Wagon Train Raid), and the battle at Adobe Walls. These conflicts took place from 1874 to 1875 and are often referred to as the Red River War. The Red River War ended when the Plains tribes were no longer able to continue, and they were removed to reservations in Oklahoma, ending American Indian dominance of the Plains in Texas. Quanah Parker was a significant Comanche leader during this period.</p> <p>Reading for key information, details, and main ideas. Making a claim and providing evidence to support the claim. Identifying cause-and-effect relationships between key historical events. Summarizing and paraphrasing information from a reading. Creating short, constructed responses.</p>	<p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <p><b>Frontier Wars</b></p>

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45 – 60	What were some major topics, challenges, and developments that occurred during this era that affected cowboys in the cattle industry?	In this one-day stations lesson, students take part in a stations activity to examine various topics related to cowboys and the cattle industry in Texas.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The cattle industry in Texas changed dramatically during and after Reconstruction because of the increase of the cattle population in Texas and the shortage of cattle in the North. There were a number of significant cattle trails from Texas to railroad lines in Northern states including the Chisholm Trail, the Western Trail, the Goodnight-Loving Trail, and the Sedalia Trail. A tick-borne disease called Texas Fever affected cattle populations in Northern states and resulted in trails being moved farther west to avoid the more populated areas North of Texas. Life as a cowboy was challenging. Cowboys worked long hours doing difficult and often dangerous work for low pay. The growth of the cattle industry in Texas attracted out-of-state investors who established large ranches in the Panhandle, closing the open range and largely ending cattle drives. The windmill and barbed wire were two innovations that revolutionized farming and ranching during the era.</p> <p>Identifying the significance of topics in history. Recognizing and explaining cause-and-effect relationships. Geography and map skills. Making a claim and providing supporting evidence.</p>	<p>Lesson:</p> <p><b>Cattle and Cowboys</b></p>

Minutes	Essential Questions	Description	Student Learning Experiences	Lesson
45 - 60	What were the primary challenges facing farmers in Texas, and how did farmers work to address their concerns?	In this one-day lesson, students will identify the various economic challenges facing farmers during the period and examine different ways farmers attempted to address these challenges including the formation of groups like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>Falling cotton prices at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century caused farmers to struggle financially, receiving less pay for their crops and growing more cotton to compensate, which ultimately flooded the market and reduced prices further. Farmers organized groups like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party to address the economic challenges they faced. Some of the farmers' goals were to abolish the gold standard and embrace free silver, government regulation of communication and transportation, the subtreasury plan, and farmer cooperatives. The organizations were short-lived but instrumental in bringing the needs of farmers to the forefront of politics.</p> <p>Identifying and summarizing the main idea and supporting evidence Identifying cause-and-effect relationships. Forming an opinion based on historical facts and supporting the opinion with evidence. Comparing and contrasting topics in Texas history.</p>	<p>Lesson:</p> <p><b>The Problem with Cotton</b></p>
45 - 60	What is the Texas Railroad Commission, why was it established, and how have its responsibilities evolved over time?	In this one-day lesson, students will examine the origins, purpose, key details, development, and modern significance of the Texas Railroad Commission.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>Economic challenges including falling cotton prices, an oversupply of cotton, and railroad price gouging caused many cotton farmers in Texas to become tenant farmers, often trapping them in cycles of debt. Farmers established organizations like the Grange and the Farmer's Alliance to work for political reforms to benefit farm laborers. Governor James Hogg was elected with the help of farmers'</p>	<p>Lesson:</p> <p><b>Texas Today</b></p>

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			<p>organizations by promising to establish an organization to regulate the railroads – the Railroad Commission. The Railroad Commission's responsibilities have evolved over time to include the regulation of the oil and gas industries.</p> <p>Reading for and identifying main ideas and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Identifying and explaining cause-and-effect relationships between key historical topics and events.</p> <p>Identifying change over time.</p>	
45 – 60	What significant event occurred at Spindletop in 1901, and how did this event shape Texas history during the Age of Oil?	In this one-day lesson, students will be able to explain the significance of the 1901 discovery of oil at Spindletop and summarize the effects of this discovery in Texas, U.S., and world history.	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The discovery of oil at Spindletop near Beaumont in 1901 changed the economy and society of Texas and had a significant impact on the U.S. and the world.</p> <p>Reading for main ideas and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Identifying cause-and-effect relationships between the discovery of oil and economic and societal developments in Texas.</p> <p>Gaining information about an historical event from primary source materials.</p> <p>Organizing and formulating a long, written response to a prompt to identify the significance of the discovery of oil.</p>	<p>Lesson:</p> <p><b>Looking Ahead</b></p>
45 – 60  <b>Optional Review Lesson</b>	What is the key information we need to know to be successful on our Unit 10 test?	In this one-day review lesson, students will identify the significance of key terms, cause and effect relationships between significant	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The era was characterized by westward migration of Anglos into the Texas Plains and the overhunting of bison by hunters which led to conflicts with Plains tribes including the fight at Adobe Walls and the Red River War,</p>	<p>Lesson:</p> <p><b>Review Study Guide</b></p>

Minutes	Essential Questions	Description	Student Learning Experiences	Lesson
		events, and answer practice test questions to prepare for the unit 10 test.	<p>which ultimately led to the forced removed of the tribes from the Plains. The cattle industry grew after the Civil War due to the abundance of cattle in Texas and the high demand and prices for cattle in the North, leading to cattle drives and increasing westward expansion for trails and the establishment of ranches. Buffalo hunters were instrumental in westward expansion and the development of west Texas. Falling cotton prices and economic hardship caused many farmers to struggle financially and form organizations like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party to work for reform to benefit farmers and laborers. Texas underwent a dramatic increase in population, as well as a rise in urbanization and industrialization during the period. Innovations like railroads, windmills, and barbed wire influenced transportation of goods and people, and allowed ranching and agriculture to spread into the Texas Plains.</p> <p>Identifying the significance of key terms, people, places, and events in history.</p> <p>Identifying cause and effect relationships between historical events.</p> <p>Answering questions based on 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies STAAR question types.</p> <p>Analyzing primary sources.</p>	<b>and Flash Cards</b>
45 - 60	What key terms and concepts do we need to know to be successful on our unit 10 test?	In this optional one-day review lesson, students will review key terms, ideas, people, places, events, and major themes of Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The era was characterized by westward migration of Anglos into the Texas Plains and the overhunting of bison by hunters which led to conflicts with Plains tribes including the fight at Adobe Walls and the Red River War, which ultimately led to the forced removed of the tribes</p>	<b>Lesson:</b>  <b>Review Bingo Game</b>

Minutes	Essential Questions	Description	Student Learning Experiences	Lesson
		by playing Bingo using terms from the unit and clues about each term.	<p>from the Plains. The cattle industry grew after the Civil War due to the abundance of cattle in Texas and the high demand and prices for cattle in the North, leading to cattle drives and increasing westward expansion for trails and the establishment of ranches. Buffalo hunters were instrumental in westward expansion and the development of west Texas. Falling cotton prices and economic hardship caused many farmers to struggle financially and form organizations like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party to work for reform to benefit farmers and laborers. Texas underwent a dramatic increase in population, as well as a rise in urbanization and industrialization during the period. Innovations like railroads, windmills, and barbed wire influenced transportation of goods and people, and allowed ranching and agriculture to spread into the Texas Plains.</p> <p>Study and review of key concepts. Identifying information based on key words and phrases. Recognizing definitions, key information, and significance of key terms and information from the unit.</p>	
<b>Optional Review Lesson</b>	How do the key terms and concepts from Unit 10: Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads connect to each other?	In this one-day review lesson, students will create a visual representation of terms and concepts from the unit in the form of a mind map. Students will be able to identify how information from the unit is connected by	<p><b><i>Students will know the following information and develop the following skills based on TEKS standards:</i></b></p> <p>The era was characterized by westward migration of Anglos into the Texas Plains and the overhunting of bison by hunters which led to conflicts with Plains tribes including the fight at Adobe Walls and the Red River War, which ultimately led to the forced removal of the tribes from the Plains. The cattle industry grew after the Civil War due to the abundance of cattle in Texas and the high demand and prices for cattle in the North, leading to cattle drives and increasing westward expansion for trails and</p>	<b>Lesson:</b> <b>Review Mind Map</b>

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		making connections between terms on a mind map.	<p>the establishment of ranches. Buffalo hunters were instrumental in westward expansion and the development of west Texas. Falling cotton prices and economic hardship caused many farmers to struggle financially and form organizations like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party to work for reform to benefit farmers and laborers. Texas underwent a dramatic increase in population, as well as a rise in urbanization and industrialization during the period. Innovations like railroads, windmills, and barbed wire influenced transportation of goods and people, and allowed ranching and agriculture to spread into the Texas Plains.</p> <p>Connecting terms and concepts from across the entire unit. Justifying and providing rationalizations for those connections.</p> <p>Providing debate or arguments based on facts for the correct or best placement of terms that fit into several categories on student Mind Maps.</p> <p>Creating a visual representation of Social Studies information.</p>	