Texas Today Stations Activity *Advanced*

Unit 4: The Mexican National Era

Name: ☐ Date: ☐ Period: ☐

Cotton & the Lone Star State

Cotton has played an important role in the Texas economy since the first cotton crops were introduced by Spanish missionaries near San Antonio in 1745.

During the Mexican National era, cotton cultivation in Texas exploded with the large-scale farming that began with the arrival of Anglo-American immigrants from the United States. In this unit, we've seen how cotton production helped improve the Texas economy and grow the non-Indigenous population of the state.

Today, cotton is the leading cash crop cultivated in Texas. It generates approximately $2 billion for the state's economy each year. Texas is the largest producer of cotton in the United States. Nearly half of all cotton cultivated in the U.S. comes from Texas!

Most Texas cotton makes its way into the global market after it is harvested. Texas exports its cotton to countries around the world including Turkey, Japan, South Korea, and China. Texas' largest market for its cotton is its southern neighbor and former home country: Mexico.

The significant role cotton plays in Texas today traces its roots back to the Mexican National Era. This is an important reminder that the events of our history may be in the past, but their effects can often be seen in our lives today.

1. Based on the passage, explain one way we can see the significance of the Mexican National Era in modern Texas?

Station 1

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of this chart: What does it show us? What can we learn from the information it presents?

2. Based on the information provided in the chart, how does cotton production in Texas compare to other top cotton-producing states in the U.S.? Give specific evidence from the chart to support your answer.

3. What trend do you observe in the production of cotton in Texas during the three years shown in the chart? What might be one explanation for this trend?

Station 2

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of the map at this station: What does it show us? What can we learn from the information it presents?

2. What do you notice about the geography of cotton production in the United States based on this map?

3. What do you notice about the geography of cotton production in Texas based on this map? Which region or regions produce the most cotton? Does this information surprise you? Why or why not?

Station 3

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of this chart: What does it show us? What can we learn from the information it presents?

2. Based on the information in this chart, is farming or ranching more profitable in Texas? Explain your answer using data from the chart.

3. How does the data on cattle and calves compare with the data on cotton?

Station 4

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of this chart: What does it show us? What can we learn from the information it presents?

2. Based on the data in the chart, how would you describe the relationship between the amount of cotton planted compared to the amount of cotton harvested each year?

3. Does the relationship between the amount planted and the amount harvested seem logical? Why or why not? What might have caused the results in this chart?

Station 5

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of this chart: What does it show us? What can we learn from the information it presents?

2. What trends do you notice in the information presented in this chart? What kind of patterns, if any, do you notice in the data?

3. What can you infer about cotton farming in Texas from 2018 to 2022 based on the information in this chart? Explain your answer.