

Texas Today Stations Activity *Grade Level*

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 agriculture 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 grown in Texas. It produces 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 farmed in the U.S. comes from Texas!

Most Texas cotton is shipped to other countries 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 began during 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, what is one way we can see the significance of the Mexican National era in modern Texas?

- International trade that began between Texas and Mexico during the Mexican National era continues to this day.
- Cotton agriculture became a valuable part of the Texas' economy during the Mexican National era and is still significant to the economy of Texas today.
- Texas is still primarily populated by Anglo-American cotton farmers from the southern U.S. states.
- Mexico remains Texas' only international trading partner for agricultural goods like cotton.

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.?

- a. Texas cotton farmers produce less cotton than the other top-producing states in the U.S.
- b. Texas cotton farmers are paid significantly more per bale than cotton farmers in the other top-producing states.
- c. Texas cotton production has decreased over the three years displayed in the chart while the other cotton-producing states all saw an increase in production.
- d. Texas produces more than double the amount of cotton than the other top-producing states in the U.S.

3. What trend do you observe in the production of cotton in Texas during the three years shown in the chart?

- a. Cotton production in Texas remained largely the same over the three years shown in the chart
- b. Cotton production increased in Texas over the three years shown in the chart.
- c. Cotton production decreased in Texas over the three years shown in the chart.
- d. There is not enough information in the chart to provide an accurate observation of trends in cotton production.

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?

- a. Most cotton production in the United States is located in the northern states.
- b. Most cotton production in the United States is located in the southern states.
- c. Most cotton production in the United States is located in the eastern states.
- d. Most cotton production in the United States is located in the western states.



3. What do you notice about the geography of cotton production in Texas based on this map?

- a. The Coastal Plains region contains the largest concentration of cotton farms.
- b. The North Central Plains region contains the largest concentration of cotton farms.
- c. The Great Plains region contains the largest concentration of cotton farms.
- d. The Mountains and Basins region contains the largest concentration of cotton farms.

4. Consider your answer to question number three. Does the location of most Texas cotton farms surprise you? Why or why not?

The location of most Texas cotton farms surprises me // does not surprise me

because _____

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. Consider the products displayed in this chart. Based on these items, which industry is more profitable in Texas?
 - a. Cash crop agriculture
 - b. Ranching
 - c. Technology
 - d. Fabric and textiles



3. How does the data on cattle and calves compare with the data on cotton?
 - a. While cattle and calves make up a larger portion of the Texas economy, cotton makes up a larger portion of the U.S. economy.
 - b. While cotton makes up a larger portion of the Texas economy, cattle and calves make up a larger portion of the U.S. economy
 - c. Cotton, cattle, and calves make up similar ratios in the Texas and U.S. economies
 - d. There is not enough information in the chart to compare these categories of commodities

4. Cattle and calves make up _____% of the U.S. economy, while cotton makes up _____% of the U.S. economy. Therefore, _____ is a larger percentage of the U.S. economy than _____.

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?
 - a. The amount of cotton planted is equal to the amount of cotton harvested each year.
 - b. The amount of cotton planted is much greater than the amount of cotton harvested each year.
 - c. The amount of cotton planted is much less than the amount of cotton harvested each year.
 - d. There is not enough information in the chart to describe the relationship between cotton planted and harvested.
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?

The relationship between cotton planted and cotton harvested seems logical //

does not seem logical because _____

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?

- a. Drought conditions have primarily increased during the time period shown in the chart.
- b. Drought conditions have primarily decreased during the period of time shown in the chart.
- c. Drought conditions have primarily remained constant during the period of time shown in the chart.
- d. There is not enough information in the chart to determine trends in the information about droughts in Texas.

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

- a. Cotton production likely decreased during the period of time presented as a result of conditions demonstrated in the chart.
- b. Profits from cotton agriculture likely increased during the period of time presented as a result of conditions demonstrated in the chart.
- c. Cotton farmers likely invested more in transportation for exporting their product to foreign markets.
- d. Consumers (people who buy a product) likely bought more cotton products during the years demonstrated in the chart.