



# History Snapshots

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## Black Gold: the Texas Oil Boom

The discovery and development of Texas oil and natural gas fields was and is a continuing economic boon to Texas. It allowed economic diversification, establishing a Texas industrial base with the construction of oil fields, pipelines, refineries, railroads, port facilities, and their attendant support industries. The Texas “oil boom” also wove itself indelibly into the fabric of Texas culture and myth.

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# History Snapshots



Spindletop :  
The Lucas Gusher,  
January 10, 1901

Oil “black gold” erupted 150 feet in the air from the Lucas Gusher near Beaumont, Texas. The well was not capped for nine days and lost an estimated 850,000 barrels of oil. It produced an estimated 75,000 barrels of oil a day. Peak annual production was 17.5 million barrels in 1902.

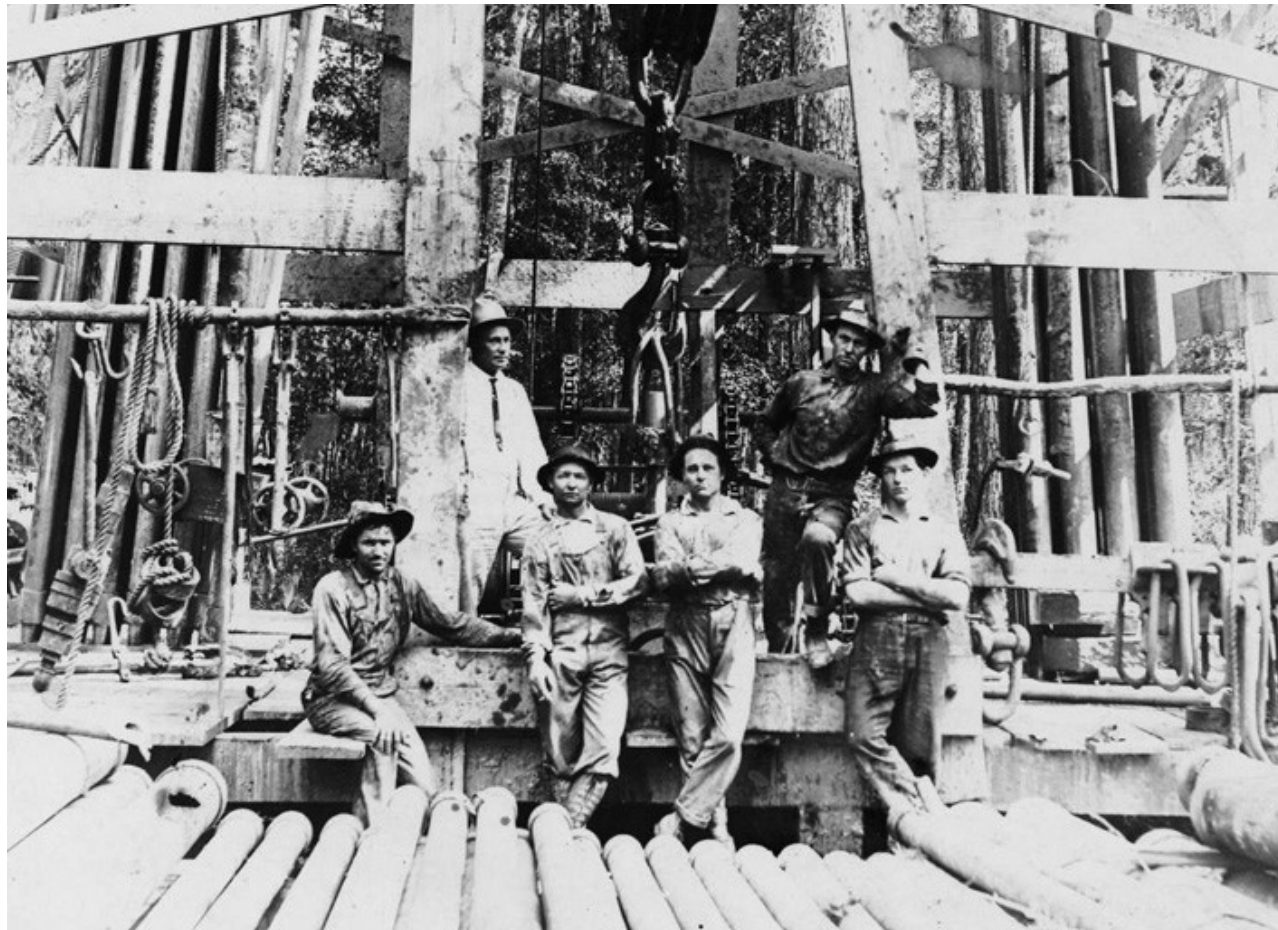
The Lucas Gusher, 1901. Photograph 11.25 in. x 14 in. University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, 1901.

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-41398>

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# History Snapshots



Oilmen at the Orangefield during the 1910s.

Oilmen posing in front of a wooden oil derrick surrounded by pipes and tools.

"Men with Oil Derrick." Photograph B&W: 5.25in. X 3.5 in. Heritage House Museum.

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-37097>



# History Snapshots



Humble oil well in Orange, Texas in 1920

Oil flowing from the Humble well to storage facilities. Note the rather crude pipe and sluice design used to funnel oil from the well to holding facilities. The Humble well yielded 428,000 barrels oil in 42 days.

“Oil Flowing from Humble Well” Postcard B&W: 3 3/8 in. x 5 1/2 in. Heritage House Museum.

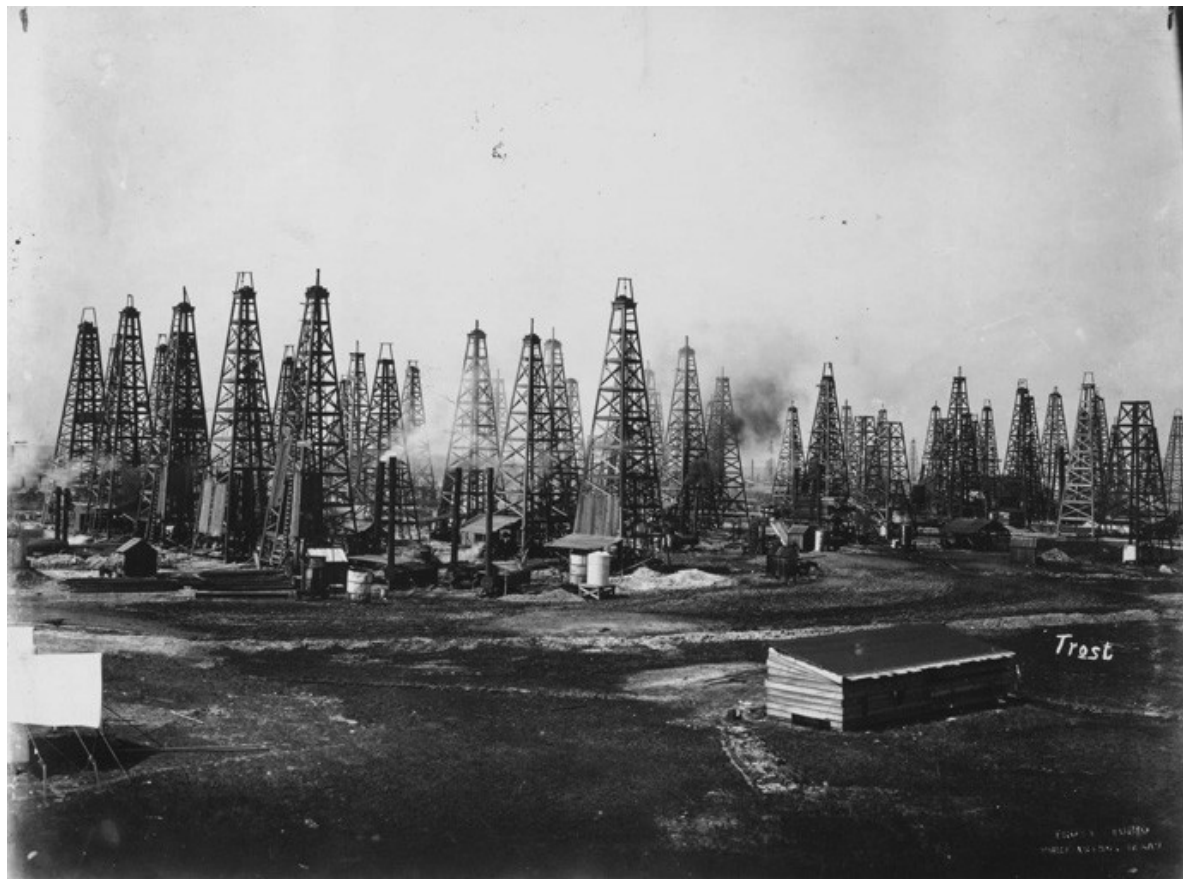
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# History Snapshots

Spindletop Oil Field during the boom years of 1910s.

A depiction of the crowded nature of oil fields during the Oil boom. 500 wells were drilled on 144 acres. Large and small businessmen wanted to make their fortune. The burgeoning oil industry was the Texas equivalent of the California gold rush.



Oil Field in Beaumont, Texas 1901. Photograph B&W 14 in. x 10 in. University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.  
Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-41397>



# History Snapshots



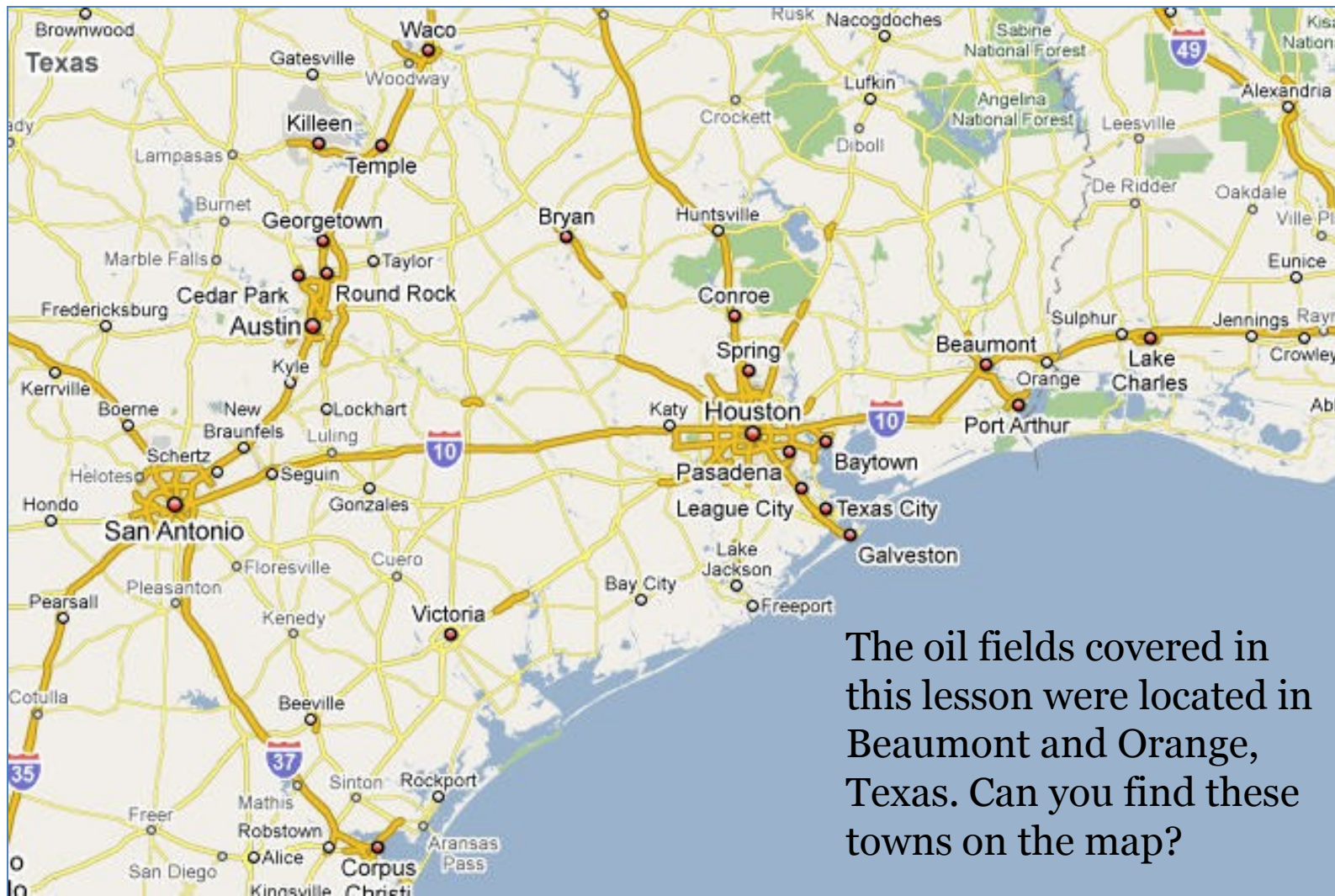
## Fire at the Petrolia Oil Field

The 1910 fire at Mitchell-Jones oil well in Petrolia, Texas. Fires and Explosions were a constant danger in oil fields.

Petrolia Oil Fire. Photo. Clay Country Historical Society. 1910 Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptH-16913>



# History Snapshots



The oil fields covered in this lesson were located in Beaumont and Orange, Texas. Can you find these towns on the map?

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