Texas Cattle, Cotton, and Railroads

WebQuest Description: This webquest is intended to assist students with understanding the historical development of the cattle, cotton, and railroad industries from its beginnings. Students will research key events that will give them insight into the many phases of the cattle, cotton and railroad industries. Through these they will learn what life was like in Texas during this important period. After they have finished exploring the websites and answering questions they will complete a level two activity.

Grade Level: 6-8
Curriculum: Social Studies
Keywords: Daniel Webster Wallace, Bose Ikard, Oliver Loving, Charles Goodnight, Maria del Carmen Calvillo, Elizabeth Johnson Williams, James Hogg, Quanah Parker, Buffalo Soldiers, Native Americans, cattle trails, barbed wire, windmill, Range Wars, open range, military posts, Reconstruction, European settlements, westward expansion

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Introduction

Hello friends! Close your eyes and imagine that we are getting in a time machine heading to 1850 Texas. We are going to examine how Texas' cattle, cotton and railroad industries have changed and developed. What have you noticed and what has improved within these Texas industries throughout history?

Tasks

Use available technology to explore and research how different aspects of Texas cattle, cotton and railroad industries have changed and advanced. While researching, you will analyze and examine the economic impact of the development of Texas after the close of the frontier. In order to complete this project you will: First, you will answer six of the following questions: How did cattle first arrive in Texas in the 1500s? What were cattle trails? List three famous cattle trails that passed through Texas. What was the impact of cattle trails on Texas? Who was Daniel Webster “80 John” Wallace and what is he known for? Who was Bose Ikard and what is he known for? Who was Oliver Loving and what is he known for? Who was Charles Goodnight and what is he known for? Who was Maria del Carmen Calvillo and what is she known for? Who was Elizabeth “Lizzie” Johnson Williams and what is she known for? What were three effects in Texas of the growth of railroads? How did James Hogg contribute to Texas railroads? Who developed barbed wire and what was it used for? Who developed the windmill (also called the windpump) and what were they used for? What were the Range Wars? What were the main reasons the open range was closed? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why was there an increase of towns in the western part of Texas after Reconstruction? Where did most Europeans settle in Texas? Why did they settle there? Why did the population increase before and after the Civil War? Why did very few Texans live out west? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans? Who was Quanah Parker and why is he important in Texas history? Who were the Buffalo Soldiers? What was their relationship with the Native Americans? Lastly, you will construct a foldable to organize and summarize the information you have found during your research.

Process

First you will be assigned six questions from the task section. These sections will be assigned randomly by the teacher. Visit the websites that are provided. Write down relevant information in your social studies notebook. Write at least 4 important pieces of information from each site for each question. To present your findings you will create a foldable. Do not forget to add pictures and color. Use the rubric to see if you have met all the requirements for the foldable. When other students are presenting, students will fill out a worksheet that allows them to explain 3 things they learned from other student presentations.

Question Assignment for Sections:

Section 1: How did cattle first arrive in Texas in the 1500s? Who was Daniel Webster “80 John” Wallace and what is he known for? Who developed the windmill (also called the windpump) and what were they used for? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why was there an increase of towns in the western part of Texas after Reconstruction? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

Section 2: List three famous cattle trails that passed through Texas. Who was Bose Ikard and what is he known for? Who was Elizabeth “Lizzie” Johnson Williams and what is she known for? Who developed the windmill (also called the windpump) and what were they used for? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why did very few Texans live out west? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

Section 3: List three famous cattle trails that passed through Texas. Who was Daniel Webster “80 John” Wallace and what is he known for? Who was Elizabeth “Lizzie” Johnson Williams and what is she known for? Who developed the windmill (also called the windpump) and what were they used for? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why did very few Texans live out west? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

Section 4: What was the impact of cattle trails on Texas? Who was Charles Goodnight and what is he known for? Who developed barbed wire and what was it used for? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why was there an increase of towns in the western part of Texas after Reconstruction? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

Section 5: What were the Range Wars? What were the main reasons the open range was closed? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why was there an increase of towns in the western part of Texas after Reconstruction? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

Section 6: How did James Hogg contribute to Texas railroads? Who developed barbed wire and what was it used for? Who developed the windmill (also called the windpump) and what were they used for? Why were military posts expanding west in Texas after the Reconstruction? Why were they needed? Why was there an increase of towns in the western part of Texas after Reconstruction? How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?
Welcome back to the classroom and the current time. You have now traveled to the past in the state of Texas. From this WebQuest you have explored another era by looking at the progress in Texas’ cattle, cotton, and railroad industries. Looking back at where they started and where you are now, you can compare your knowledge and experience to theirs. You now have a better understanding of another time in Texas. So spread the word and have an open mind to those that are curious about the Lone Star State. The next time you eat a steak or a hamburger you might think about ranching in Texas. Are you wearing a T-shirt or jeans right now? Maybe your clothing is made from cotton that is grown in Texas or the next time you take a trip you might want to hitch a ride on a train! You have explored another era by looking at the progress in Texas’ cattle, cotton, and railroad industries. Looking back at where they started and where you are now, you can compare your knowledge and experience to theirs. You now have a better understanding of another time in Texas. So spread the word and have an open mind to those that are curious about the Lone Star State. The next time you eat a steak or a hamburger you might think about ranching in Texas. Are you wearing a T-shirt or jeans right now? Maybe your clothing is made from cotton that is grown in Texas or the next time you take a trip you might want to hitch a ride on a train!

In grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, in this WebQuest students will focus on the cattle, cotton, and railroad industries. The focus is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students should complete this WebQuest in approximately 4 hours or 4 one-hour class periods, this includes the research, documentation, finished product, and presentation.

**Standards**

*7b.1A Identify the major eras in Texas history; Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads.*

*5B Analyze the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.*

*5A Identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century; American Indians, the buffalo soldiers, and Quanah Parker.*

*5B Identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century; development of the cattle industry from its beginnings; cowboy way of life.*

*5C Identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century; effects of growth of railroads and the contributions of James Hogg.*

*6D Explain the political, economic, and social impact of the agricultural industry and the development of West Texas resulting from the close of the frontier.*

*22A Student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms; use social studies terminology correctly.*

*22B Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and proper citation of sources.*

*22C Transfer information from one medium to another, including written to visual and statistical to written or visual.*

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**Conclusion**

Welcome back to the classroom and the current time. You have now traveled to the past in the state of Texas. From this WebQuest you have explored another era by looking at the progress in Texas’ cattle, cotton, and railroad industries. Looking back at where they started and where you are now, you can compare your knowledge and experience to theirs. You now have a better understanding of another time in Texas. So spread the word and have an open mind to those that are curious about the Lone Star State. The next time you eat a steak or a hamburger you might think about ranching in Texas. Are you wearing a T-shirt or jeans right now? Maybe your clothing is made from cotton that is grown in Texas or the next time you take a trip you might want to hitch a ride on a train!
**22D** Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.

**23A** Use problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information.

**23B** Use decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision.

### Credits

**References**


### Other