



CHAPTER  
**17**

# Ranching in Texas

## 1850–1890

**SECTION 1** The Beginning of the Cattle Kingdom

**SECTION 2** The Cattle Trails

**SECTION 3** The End of the Open Range



VIEW THE **Texas on Tape**  
CHAPTER 17 VIDEO LESSON.



L. Schloss, *The Quien Sabe Ranch*

*Other states were carved or born. . . .  
Texas grew from hide and horn.*

Texas poet Berta Hart Nance





# SKILL BUILDER

## Reading Social Studies



*African American ranch hands*



*Mexican American ranch hands*

### Before You Read

What comes to mind when you think about ranching in Texas? Do you imagine herds of longhorn cattle grazing on the open range? Perhaps you think about rugged cowboys sitting around a campfire after a long day of rounding up livestock. How did ranching begin in the state? How did Texas ranchers learn the techniques they use? Many different groups

contributed to the ranching techniques and ways of life on Texas ranches today.

#### Think about

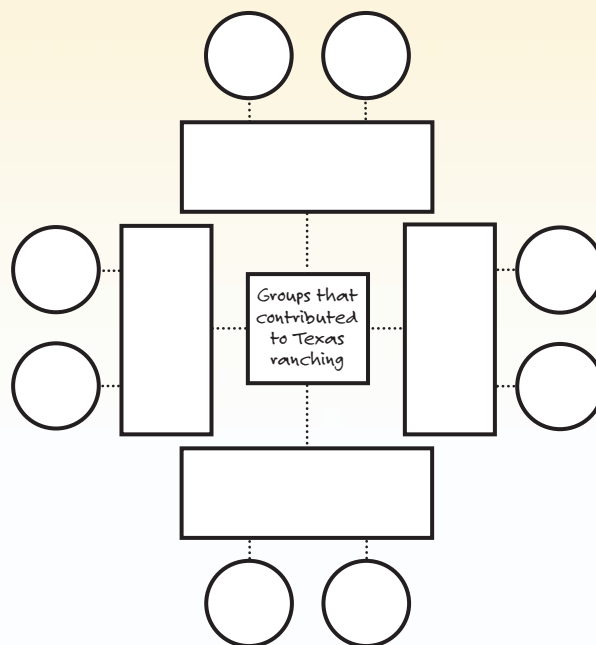
- how Texas ranchers are portrayed in books, movies, and on television
- who works on Texas ranches
- the techniques ranchers use to herd livestock

### As You Read

Ranching in Texas dates back to the 1700s, when Spanish priests began to raise cattle at the missions. Texas ranching grew and changed as other immigrant groups arrived in the state, bringing with them their own livestock-raising techniques. The combination of different techniques and styles resulted in Texas ranching as we know it today. Completing the graphic organizer for Chapter 17 will help you to understand the contributions of many groups to the growth of ranching in Texas.

- Copy the cluster diagram in your Texas Notebook.
- As you read, list in the rectangles four groups that contributed to ranching in Texas.
- In the circles, note the contributions that each group made to ranching.

### Organizing Information







## SECTION



# The Beginning of the Cattle Kingdom

## Why It Matters Now

The cattle industry remains an important part of the Texas economy.

### TERMS & NAMES

José de Escandón, **brand**, longhorn, James Taylor White, cattle drive, Texas fever

### OBJECTIVES

1. Trace the development of the cattle industry from its Spanish beginnings.
2. Explain how geographic factors affected the development of the cattle industry.
3. Analyze the economic effects of the Civil War on ranching.

### MAIN IDEA

Beginning in the Spanish era of Texas, cattle were raised on the grassy prairies of the state. These roaming herds were the beginning of the cattle kingdom.

#### WHAT Would You Do?

Write your response to *Interact with History* in your *Texas Notebook*.



## INTERACT WITH HISTORY

Imagine that you have been hired to work on a Texas cattle ranch. Your job will include working the herds of cattle. What do you expect life to be like on the ranch? What obstacles might you face?

## The Cattle Industry

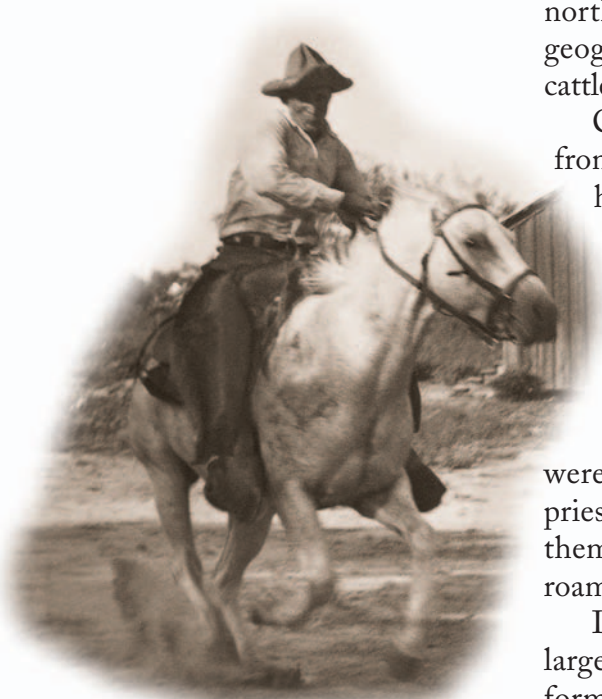
The early Texas cattle industry grew in a diamond-shaped area bordered by the Rio Grande, the Gulf of Mexico, the Nueces River on the northeast, and an imaginary line on the northwest. The climate and geographic features of this area were well suited for raising cattle. The cattle could roam the prairies, grazing on the nearly endless supply of grass.

Cattle ranching flourished in the late 1800s. With the close of the frontier, new opportunities for settlers opened. Once the buffalo herds had been killed and Native Americans had been moved onto reservations, settlers began moving into West Texas. There, they established towns, farms, and ranches. Many of these settlers took part in the cattle industry—an industry that has Spanish beginnings.

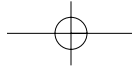
## Spanish Origins

Long before Europeans explored North America, cattle in Spain were raised for meat and hides. When the first Spanish explorers and priests came from Mexico to what is now Texas, they brought cattle with them. These animals were the source for the Texas longhorns that later roamed the plains of Texas, especially in South Texas.

In the 1700s Spanish colonizer José de Escandón established several large land grants along the Rio Grande. Those who received the grants formed ranches and led a way of life known as *charro* culture. *Charros* were Mexican cowhands who used horses and ropes to round up herds



Andres Robles, vaquero



of cattle. The Spanish ranchers raised cattle on the open range. Sometimes the *vaqueros*, who worked with the cattle, would use *reatas*, or ropes, to drive them into corrals, or pens. The cattle were then marked with their owner's **brand**.

## Longhorns

The Spaniards brought cattle with them when they began to settle North America. Some cattle strayed from the missions or ranches. Others were let go to see if they could live on their own. These cattle roamed wild in Texas and multiplied. Over time, the different breeds mixed to produce a new breed, the Texas longhorn.

The longhorns' most distinctive characteristics were their huge horns and their ability to adapt to almost any environment. They were able to survive on little water and food and in extreme hot and cold temperatures. The animals used their horns as protection from enemies.

### TEXAS VOICES

With their steel hoofs, their long legs, their staglike muscles, their thick skins, their powerful horns, they could walk the roughest ground, cross the widest deserts, climb the highest mountains, swim the widest rivers, fight off the fiercest bands of wolves, endure hunger, cold, thirst and punishment as few beasts of the earth have ever shown themselves capable of enduring.

J. Frank Dobie, *The Longhorns*

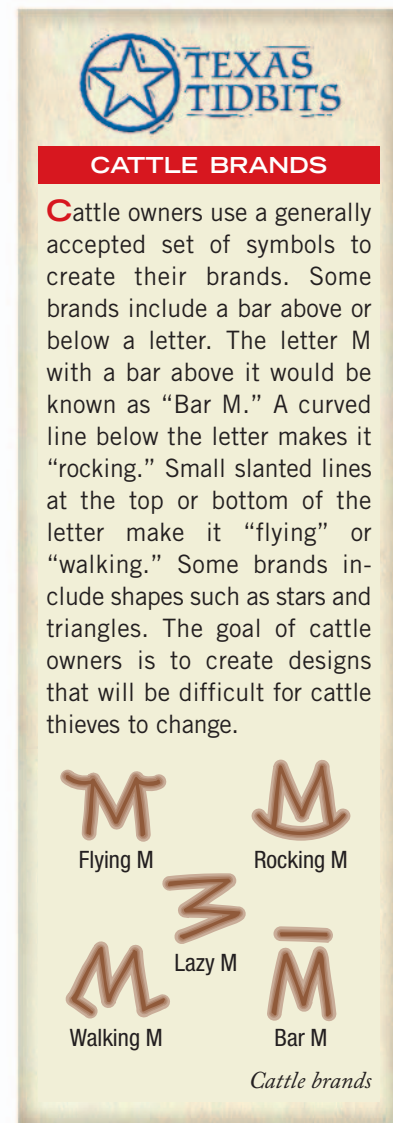
## Early Ranchers

Cattle raising increased after Mexico gained control of Texas in 1821. Settlers in Texas could receive more than 4,400 acres from the Mexican government if they raised cattle. Since unbranded cattle could be claimed to start herds, many settlers became cattle ranchers.

Ranchers who moved to Texas from the United States used a method of raising cattle with English origins. They worked with smaller herds that were fenced in. Most of the time, they also worked on foot rather than on horseback. Cowhands in Texas blended both Spanish and English methods to develop a style of their own.

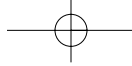


**brand** a mark burned on the hide of cattle or other livestock to show ownership



◀ Longhorns became a common sight on the Texas plains. • How did the longhorns' unique characteristics help them to survive in Texas?





▲ Each year Brownsville, together with the Mexican city of Matamoros, holds a Charro Days celebration. People wear traditional dress and demonstrate *charro* techniques for handling cattle. ● **Why is this kind of celebration important?**

James Taylor White, who owned a ranch in Liberty County, was considered Texas’s first cattle baron. White was among the first ranchers to take cattle to market in Louisiana. Some cattle were sold to pay for the cost of transport up the Mississippi River by steamboat. By the 1850s cattle could be herded, or “driven,” to Missouri for shipment by rail to Eastern markets.

The route to Missouri crossed settled areas of East Texas and Arkansas. Farmers in these areas were upset by the cattle drives. The trailing herds trampled crops and grazed on grass needed to feed the farmers’ livestock. Some of the herds carried a disease known as Texas fever. Transmitted by ticks, Texas fever remained a problem until ranchers learned to “dip” cattle in chemicals to kill the ticks.

Because it was costly to transport cattle to beef markets, ranchers raised cattle for other markets. Cattle were taken to the coast and killed for their hides, which could be shipped to cities where they were made into leather goods. The meat was boiled to separate out the tallow, or fat, which was used to make products such as soap and candles.

## Texas Herds During the Civil War

The great herds of cattle in Texas should have been a valuable resource for the Confederacy in need of food for its armies. However, by 1863, the Union controlled the Mississippi River. As a result, Texas cattle could not cross the river to reach hungry soldiers in the East.

The cattle industry declined in Texas during the Civil War. With so many people gone to fight in the war, much of the ranching work was left undone. Many herds of cattle roamed the state, and their numbers increased greatly. There were so many cattle by the end of the war and so few Texans with money to buy them that they were worth little. Texas ranchers would soon realize that the railroad lines held the key to their fortunes.

### SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

#### Terms & Names

##### Identify:

- José de Escandón
- brand
- longhorn
- James Taylor White
- cattle drive
- Texas fever

#### Organizing Information

Use a flowchart like the one shown to trace the development of the cattle kingdom from its Spanish origins to the Civil War.

↓

↓

↓

↓

#### Critical Thinking

1. How did the Spanish origins of the cattle industry affect cattle raising in Texas?
2. What geographical factors in Texas favored the growth of the cattle industry?
3. How was the cattle industry affected by the Civil War?

#### Interact with History

Compare your response to *Interact with History* in your Texas Notebook to the answers of other classmates. Did you anticipate similar problems with life on a cattle ranch?

### ACTIVITY

#### Culture

Design and illustrate a brand of your own. Use symbols that represent some aspect of your life. Have classmates “read” your symbols, and then infer the significance of your design.



Go to [www.celebratingtexas.com](http://www.celebratingtexas.com) to research the Activity topic.



## Summarizing Information

### LEARNING *the Skill*

Have you ever wanted to tell a person about a book you've read or a movie you've seen? You can't repeat every detail or retell every word—that would take too long. Instead, you summarize, or briefly restate the main points in words of your own. Summarizing is an important skill to apply as you read. It helps you organize information and remember what you read.

When you summarize text, you restate the main points of a passage in your own words. Whether a summary is oral or written, it should include only the main ideas and the most important details. In this way, you can focus on the important information and gain a better understanding of the passage.

#### To summarize written information, use the following steps:

- Read the passage carefully.
- As you read, identify topic sentences stating the main idea. These are often at the beginning or the end of a paragraph.
- Briefly restate each main idea in your own words.
- Distinguish between important facts and specific details. Include only the most important facts, such as names, dates, and numbers, in your summary.
- When you have finished, review your summary. Did you include any unnecessary information? Did you leave out any main ideas?

### PRACTICING *the Skill*

Read the following paragraphs from Section 1, *The Beginning of the Cattle Kingdom*. Then answer the questions that follow.

Long before Europeans explored North America, cattle in Spain were raised for meat and hides. When the first Spanish explorers and priests came from Mexico to what is now Texas, they brought cattle with them. These animals were the source for the Texas longhorns that later roamed the plains of Texas, especially in South Texas.

In the 1700s Spanish colonizer José de Escandón established several large land grants along the Rio Grande. Those who received the grants formed ranches and led a way of life known as *charro* culture. *Charros* were Mexican cowhands who used horses and ropes to round up herds of cattle. The Spanish ranchers raised cattle on the open range. Sometimes the *vaqueros*, who worked with the cattle, would use *reatas*, or ropes, to drive them into corrals, or pens. The cattle were then marked with their owner's brand.

1. What is the main idea of each paragraph?
2. What important facts are given?
3. Summarize these paragraphs in your own words.

### APPLYING *the Skill*

Research additional information on the origin of the cattle industry in Texas. Take notes, summarizing the information you find into several key points. Then share your findings with the class by reading your summary aloud.



Go to [www.celebratingtexas.com](http://www.celebratingtexas.com) to research this topic.



## SECTION



# The Cattle Trails

## Why It Matters Now

The cattle drives greatly influenced today's image of the American cowhand.

### TERMS & NAMES

**stockyard; packinghouse; cow town;** Abilene, Kansas; Chisholm Trail; Western Trail; Goodnight-Loving Trail; **roundup; wrangler; chuck wagon**

### OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the impact of national markets on the cattle industry in Texas.
2. Identify the significance of the cattle drive.
3. Describe life along the cattle trail.

### MAIN IDEA

As railroads expanded westward across the United States, markets for beef opened. Texas cattle owners drove their herds along cattle trails to the railroads.

## A REAL-LIFE STORY

Cattle drives made up an important part of the cattle industry. Cowhands led the herds over miles of terrain to railroads where they could be shipped east. Life on the trail required hard work and long days. One cowhand described the cattle drive experience.



*I believe the worst hardship we had on the trail was loss of sleep. . . . Our day wouldn't end till about nine o'clock, when we grazed the herd onto the bed ground. And after that every man in the outfit except the boss and the horse wrangler and cook would have to stand two hours' night guard. . . . I would get maybe five hours' sleep when the weather was nice and everything [was] smooth and pretty. . . . If it wasn't so nice, you'd be lucky to sleep an hour. But the wagon rolled on in the morning just the same.*

E. C. "Teddy Blue" Abbot, *We Pointed Them North*

**stockyard** *a pen where livestock is kept before being butchered or shipped to market*

**packinghouse** *a warehouse where beef is prepared for shipment*

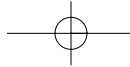
**cow town** *a town that serves as a market or shipping point for cattle*

## A Market for Beef

After the Civil War the demand for beef increased. The westward expansion of the railroads allowed beef to be shipped to markets in the North and East. **Stockyards** and **packinghouses** sprang up near Chicago and St. Louis. A longhorn that was worth about \$4 in Texas brought close to \$40 in the packinghouses. Cattle owners searched for a way to transport their cattle safely to the stockyards.

Joseph G. McCoy, a Chicago business leader, came up with a solution. McCoy built the first **cow town** in Kansas at Abilene, on the southern branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. Abilene featured holding pens





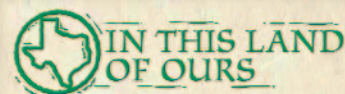
along the railroad tracks, wide streets so the cattle could be driven through town, and a means of entertainment for cowhands. McCoy also attracted buyers from eastern packinghouses to bid on the herds.

McCoy sent word south through Indian Territory, today known as Oklahoma, to alert Texans that a rail connection could be reached by driving their herds to Kansas. This route avoided the difficulties posed by trails that crossed settled areas of Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Cattle owners knew they might still experience conflicts with Native Americans while crossing Indian Territory, but the need to sell their cattle made the risk worthwhile. The trail opened by Cherokee trader Jesse Chisholm in 1867 was called the Chisholm Trail.

## The Development of Cattle Trails

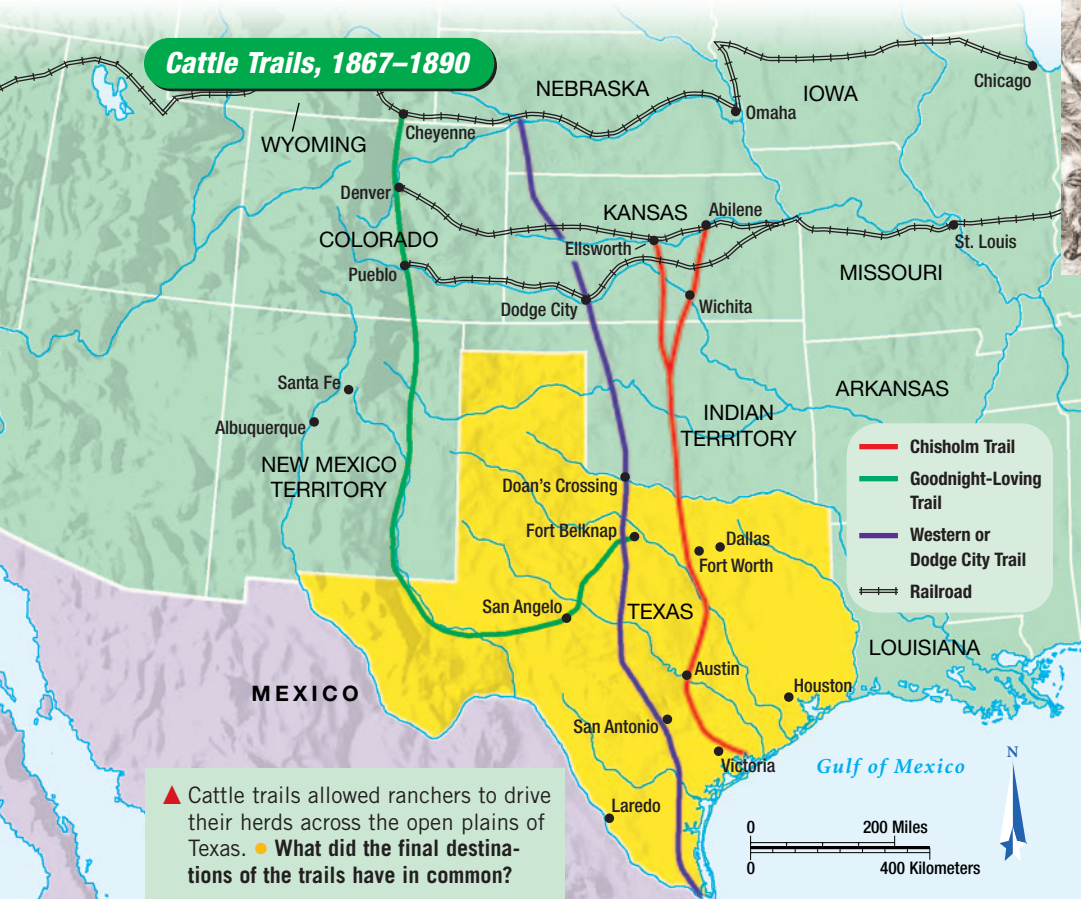
The Chisholm Trail was the first of the great cattle trails. Herds were started up the Chisholm Trail soon after the war. As many as 35,000 head of cattle reached Abilene, Kansas, in 1867, and the number increased to 350,000 by 1869. Over the next 20 years, more than 6 million longhorns were driven from Texas to Abilene and other Kansas cow towns.

As more railroads were built, more trails developed. The Western Trail, also known as the Dodge City Trail, became popular in the 1870s. The trail extended north from San Antonio, crossed the Red River at Doan's Crossing, and then headed to Dodge City in western Kansas. Other ranchers headed west into Colorado along the Pecos Trail, also known as the Goodnight-Loving Trail. This trail went up the Pecos River into New Mexico. It was later extended into Wyoming.



### HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Cattle need water to survive. The great cattle trails had to go where water was available. East and Central Texas had many rivers for cattle to drink from. The Goodnight-Loving Trail followed the Pecos River, which provided water for a large part of the way. But the Llano Estacado had few permanent water sources. As a result, no trails crossed this vast area. ● **In addition to plentiful water, what other factors do you think determined the location of a trail?**



Cattle being loaded onto railroad cars





- The Chisholm Trail, named for Jesse Chisholm, created a path for Texas herds to reach the railroads in the North. • **What dangers might cowhands have faced along the trail?**



**roundup** *the process of herding together cattle that are scattered*

**wrangler** *a ranch hand who cares for saddle horses*

**chuck wagon** *a wagon that carries cooking equipment and food for the cowhands*

## Life on the Trail

A trail drive began with a **roundup**, during which unbranded cattle were marked to prove ownership. The roundup often took several weeks and involved hundreds of cowhands from neighboring ranches. Once the cattle were herded together and branded, the cowhands separated them into herds. At first, the cattle owners drove the herds themselves. Later, the owners hired agents to drive the cattle to market for a fee, usually \$1 per head delivered to market. Large herds of more than 2,500 head of cattle went up the trail to Abilene, though many smaller herds made the journey as well.

Scouts rode in front of the herd to select the best route. The path would vary depending on the availability of water and grass. It also depended on the season of the year and how many herds had passed over the ground that year. Despite minor changes in the course, the herd always traveled north. Scouts also alerted the trail boss to dangers such as bad weather, hostile Native Americans, and outlaws. The trail boss had complete authority over all the cowhands and other employees on the trail.

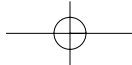
The cowhands had specific duties. Several highly skilled cowhands, known as pointers, rode at the side of the lead cattle to direct the herd. Flankers, who rode beside the herd, kept the cattle from straying too far. Other cowhands rode in the rear, or drag position, to keep cattle from straying behind. **Wranglers** took care of the extra horses. Each cowhand took along several horses. The men would switch horses a few times a day to keep the horses from tiring.

The camp cook rose early to prepare breakfast, usually coffee, sourdough biscuits, beef, and beans—the same as most other meals. Then the cook would ride ahead in the **chuck wagon** to the next campsite and have dinner ready for the cowhands.

Often the cowhands would gather around the campfire at night and sing songs. One of these songs tells of life on the Chisholm Trail.



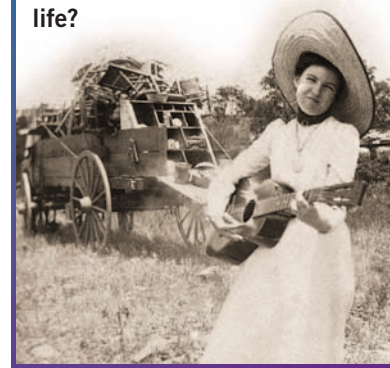
*Chuck wagon and tired cowhands*



To the Arts

The cattle range prompted a new type of song in Texas. Many cowhands moved to Texas from the southern United States and brought with them traditional Southern ballads and hymns. Living on the range, the cowhands adapted these songs to reflect their new way of life. For example, the song “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean” was rewritten as “The Cowboy’s Dream.” The sad ballads of the cowhands eventually contributed to the development of country and western music.

● How do you think the writer of “The Old Chisholm Trail” feels about trail life?



TEXAS VOICES

Come along, boys, and listen to my tale,  
And I’ll tell you all my troubles on the old Chisholm Trail.

(chorus)

Come a ti yi yippy yippy yay, yippy yay

Come a ti yi yippy yippy yay

I started up the trail October twenty-third,

I started up the trail with a Two-Bar herd.

On a ten-dollar horse and a forty-dollar saddle,

I started up the trail, punchin’ Texas cattle.

I woke up one morning on the old Chisholm Trail,

With a rope in my hand and a cow by the tail.

Oh, it’s bacon and beans most every day—

I’d as soon be eatin’ prairie hay. . . .

“The Old Chisholm Trail,” song of the cattle trail

An Expanding Cattle Range

For a while, cattle were driven each year to the railroad and sold, with those arriving earliest in the spring or summer bringing the highest prices. Eventually, the cattle owners who arrived late in the fall began to keep their herds on government land during the winter so they would be first at the market the next year. They lost some cattle during the harsh winter, but the higher prices made up for the losses.

These winter herds resulted in the spread of the cattle kingdom into western areas of the United States. Most cattle were still born in Texas and then brought north as young calves. They grazed for a year or two on the rich meadows of Wyoming and Montana before being shipped to meatpacking plants.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

Identify:

- stockyard
- packinghouse
- cow town
- Abilene, Kansas
- Chisholm Trail
- roundup
- wrangler
- chuck wagon

Organizing Information

Use a chart like the one shown to describe the various jobs of the cowhands on a cattle drive. Explain why each job was important.

Job	Duties	Importance

Critical Thinking

1. How did the demand for beef affect the cattle industry in Texas?
2. Why were cattle drives important to ranchers in Texas?
3. How did the cowhands work together to maintain control of the herd along the trail?

A Real-Life Story

Review *A Real-Life Story* on page 366. Summarize the conditions of life on the trail.

ACTIVITY

Culture

Charro Days is an annual festival celebrated in Brownsville to honor the charros. Research this festival or another event that celebrates cowhand culture. Report your findings to the class.



Go to [www.celebratingtexas.com](http://www.celebratingtexas.com) to research the Activity topic.





LONE STAR

# Literature



**T**he classic novel *Old Yeller* is set in Texas during the early days of the cattle drives. When it was time for the cowhands to trail the cattle north to the railroad, family members stayed behind. Women and children often assumed the men's regular duties while the cowhands made the long journey to Kansas and back. This excerpt from *Old Yeller* explains the reasons for the cattle drives and illustrates the hardships of life on a Texas ranch.

Text not available for use on CD-ROM. Please refer to the text in the textbook.



*Family outside their log cabin near Joplin, Texas*



## PRIMARY SOURCE NOVEL



Text not available  
for use on CD-  
ROM. Please  
refer to the text in  
the textbook.

### *Learning*

#### **About the Author**

Fred Gipson was born on a farm in the Texas Hill Country in 1908. After graduating from the University of Texas, he began his career working as a newspaper reporter. He later wrote for magazines and other publications. He published his first novel in 1946. Gipson published eight more novels before his death in 1973. *Old Yeller* was his most popular, selling more than 3 million copies.

### *Reading*

#### **the Literature**

Notice the use of dialogue in this selection. You can often tell a lot about the characters by what they say. What does the dialogue reveal about the characters' personalities and background?

### *Thinking*

#### **About Literature**

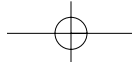
According to the selection, what was the primary reason for taking the cattle to Kansas? Why do you think this would have been important for a family on the Texas plains?

### *Writing*

#### **About the Literature**

Write a new scene that begins when the father returns from the cattle drive. Use dialogue and description to communicate the family members' feelings. Tell how Travis and his father each kept their promise.





## SECTION



# The End of the Open Range

## Why It Matters Now

Ranching greatly influenced the economy and culture of Texas.

### TERMS & NAMES

King Ranch, Charles Goodnight, XIT Ranch, **rustler**, Joseph F. Glidden, open-range ranching, barbed wire

### OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the political, economic, and social impact of the cattle industry.
2. Analyze the effects of barbed wire and the windmill on the ranching industry.
3. Identify the myths and realities of the cowhand.
4. Explain the social and economic impact of the development of West Texas resulting from the close of the frontier.

### MAIN IDEA

The expansion of large ranches, multiplying herds of livestock, and barbed wire all served to close the open range in Texas.

### WHAT Would You Do?

Write your response to *Interact with History* in your *Texas Notebook*.



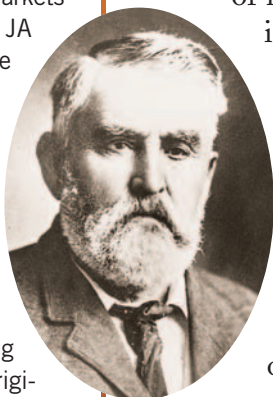
## INTERACT WITH HISTORY

Imagine that you are a rancher in Texas. You have raised cattle on the open plains of Texas for many years. You begin noticing fences on the range that section off large areas of land. How might these fences affect your method of ranching?



### Charles Goodnight

With friend Oliver Loving, Charles Goodnight created the Goodnight-Loving Trail, a new route for getting cattle from Texas ranches to beef markets in Wyoming. On his JA Ranch, Goodnight made advances in irrigation and bred cattle to improve the herds. He also crossbred buffalo and cattle, resulting in the "cattalo." Goodnight was honored for his contributions to cattle ranching by being named one of the five original members of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. • **What kind of qualities do you think would improve cattle?**



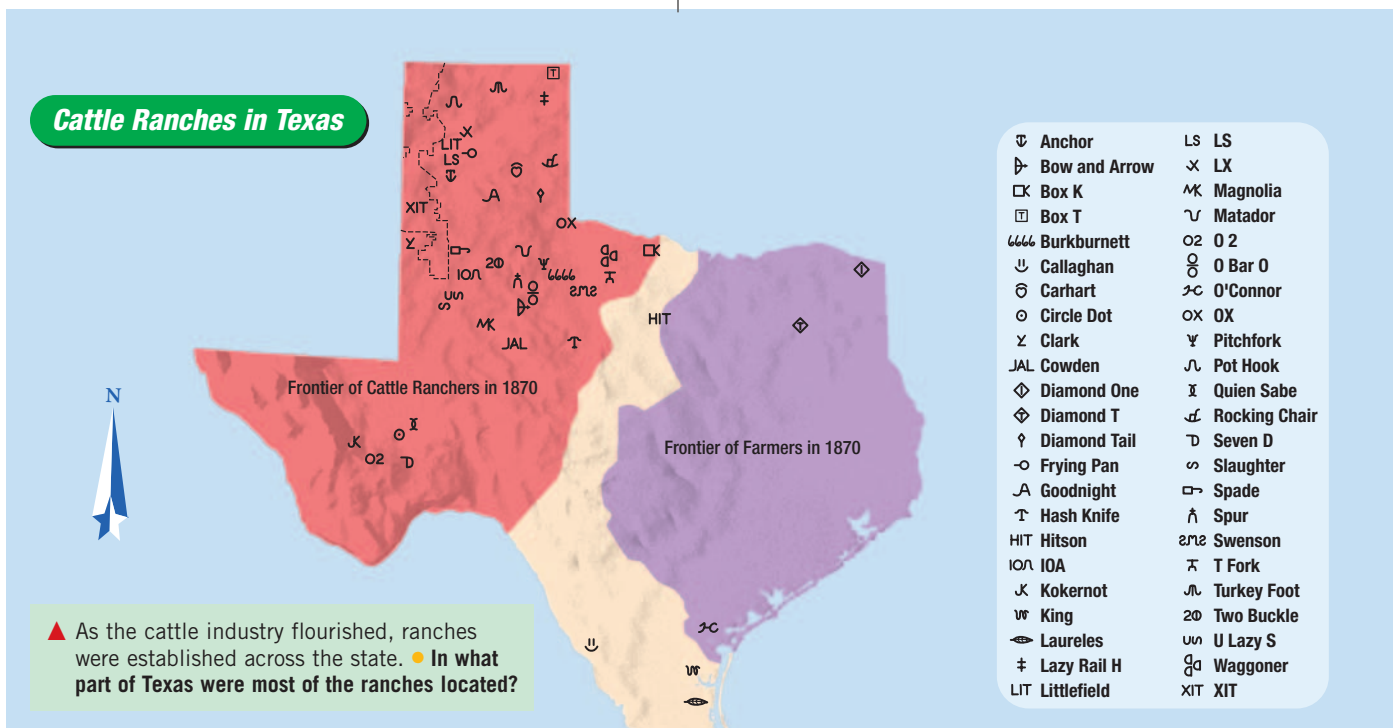
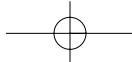
## The Great Spreads

Cattle ranching was big business in Texas. Several large ranches stood out in the cattle industry. Four of the best known were the King Ranch, the JA Ranch, the Matador Ranch, and the XIT Ranch.

The King Ranch was founded in 1852 by Richard King and his partner, Mifflin Kenedy, along Santa Gertrudis Creek in South Texas. In 1868 the partners divided their property. King developed his ranch with the help of his future son-in-law, Robert Kleberg. At the time of King's death in 1885, the King Ranch covered 614,000 acres of land. King's wife, Henrietta, inherited the ranch. With Kleberg's help, she expanded it to more than a million acres.

In 1876, after the Comanches in West Texas had been defeated, Charles Goodnight and his partner, John Adair, established the JA Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon. Goodnight used the canyon walls as part of the ranch's enclosure and the Red River as a source of water. The ranch included more than a million acres and 100,000 head of cattle. Goodnight's wife, Moll', was one of the first Anglo American women to live on the Texas plains.

The Matador Ranch was founded by investors A. M. Britton and H. H. Campbell on a homestead in Motley County in 1878. A Scottish company, The Matador Land and Cattle Company, purchased the ranch in 1882 and expanded it. Eventually, the Matador Ranch acquired land in several states and Canada.



The largest ranch in Texas—and one of the most famous—was the XIT Ranch. It was located in the Panhandle, along the New Mexico border, and covered over 3 million acres. According to one legend, the letters XIT stood for “ten in Texas” (X is the Roman numeral for 10) because the ranch spanned ten counties. More likely, the managers who operated the ranch chose straight lines for their brand because they would be difficult for cattle rustlers to change.

The land for the XIT Ranch was provided by the Texas government in exchange for the construction of a new capitol. The contractor who built the capitol turned the land over to a group of Chicago and British investors. The investors raised cattle on the land, later selling off the land in pieces to homesteaders and ranchers.

## Sheep and Goat Ranching

Cattle were not the only product of the ranching industry in Texas. Herds of sheep and goats were also raised on ranches across the state. Sheep, like cattle, were originally brought to Texas by Spanish explorers and settlers. In the 1850s George Wilkins Kendall established a sheep ranch near Boerne, Texas. He began raising sheep for their wool instead of mutton, or meat. Other ranchers soon followed his lead. After the Civil War the demand for wool increased, and the number of sheep ranches grew rapidly. By 1880 more than a million head of sheep grazed on Texas pastures. For a time, Texas was the leading wool-producing state in the nation.

Ranchers such as Charles Schreiner of Kerr County also began raising goats. Schreiner promoted mohair, a type of yarn made from the silky hair of the Angora goat. It could be used to make clothing and soon brought high prices. Goat raising was concentrated mostly on the Edwards Plateau. Even today, the Edwards Plateau is the leading mohair production area in the country.

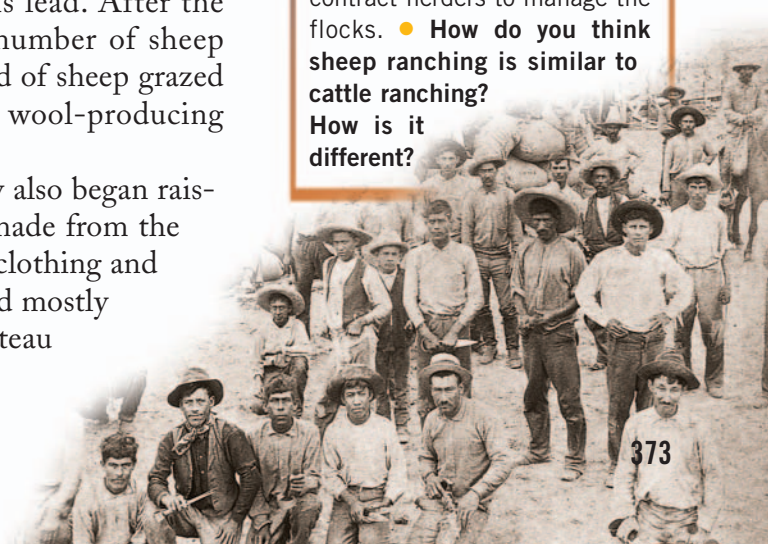
rustler *a cattle thief*



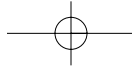
### Mexican American Sheep Ranchers

Mexican Americans were responsible for much of the sheep ranching in Texas. Several sheep ranches in Texas were owned by Mexican Americans, and most were operated by Mexican American *pastores*, or shepherds. Almost all of the *tasinques*, or shearers who cut the wool off the sheep, were of Mexican descent. Even Anglo American sheep ranchers often adopted the Spanish method of hiring contract herders to manage the flocks. ● How do you think sheep ranching is similar to cattle ranching?

How is it different?







▲ Joseph F. Glidden designed the popular "Winner" barbed wire consisting of S-shaped barbs wrapped around a single wire. Later inventors designed many more types. ● **Why was barbed wire so important for the cattle industry?**

## Barbed Wire and Windmills

The success of the ranching industry was also the cause of its decline. As more ranchers moved into Texas, the range became crowded. The grazing pastures could not support the growing number of cattle. Ranchers tried to keep track of their cattle and separate them from other herds, but this proved to be difficult. Also, farmers moved onto the range after Native Americans were confined to reservations. They farmed on the same lands the cattle needed to roam. A conflict over use of the land was unavoidable.

Cattle owners in West Texas had operated on the open-range method of ranching. They did so in part because fencing materials, such as wooden rails and rocks, were not easy to find. In 1873 Joseph F. Glidden changed this with his invention of barbed wire, which was inexpensive and effective. Glidden's design was just one of many patents that were eventually filed for barbed wire.

When ranchers and farmers first studied the thin strand of wire with barbed edges, they did not believe that it could confine large herds. Salesman John W. Gates convinced them otherwise. He built a wire pen in San Antonio and filled it with longhorn cattle. Spectators were amazed that the cattle moved to the center of the pen after charging the fence only once. Barbed wire soon spread across the state, fencing off individual farms and ranches. The XIT Ranch alone was surrounded by more than 6,000 miles of barbed wire. The open range soon became a thing of the past.

Many people in Texas were against fences on the open range. In the 1870s and 1880s fence cutting became a major problem. Fences were cut by rustlers and others who resented the closing of the range. In 1884 the state legislature passed a series of laws that outlawed fence cutting.

The introduction of windmills also encouraged ranchers to fence their land. Much of West Texas was dry, with few rivers or streams.

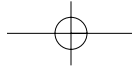


▲ This 1907 postcard shows both the dangers and the romance of the life of a cowhand. ● **Why do you think postcards like this one were popular?**

Cattle owners had allowed the livestock to roam the open range in search of water. The windmill made it possible for these cattle owners to pump water from underground sources. As a result, ranchers could contain their cattle in a certain area and use windmills to provide water.

In the late 1880s the ranching industry began to suffer serious problems. Too many cattle to feed, droughts, and severe winters on the range resulted in smaller herds. Problems also arose when foreign investors, hearing of money-making business deals, bought ranches in West Texas.

The owners did not live on the ranches and depended on others to carry out the day-to-day operations. By the 1890s the old ways of the cattle kingdom were gone. Cattle raising continued, but it was becoming more a business than a way of life.



## The Myth and the Reality of the Cowhand

Soon after the cattle industry experienced a time of economic growth following the Civil War, Americans became very interested in the life of the cowhand. Books portrayed a larger-than-life image of cowhands. The rugged heroes of these novels braved great dangers and had exciting adventures on the wild frontier. Plays, Wild West shows, and, later, movies and television shows often exaggerated life in the West.

The reality of being a cowhand was very different from the myth created by books and movies. The myth overlooked the different kinds of people involved in the cattle industry. Often the contributions of African Americans, Tejanos, and women were reduced or ignored. In addition, conflicts between Native Americans and white settlers usually focused on attacks by Native Americans. The misunderstandings, broken treaties, and violence that often led to these attacks were rarely mentioned in the folklore of the times.




## The Range of Cultures

People of many cultures contributed to the ranching industry in Texas. Anglo Americans, Tejanos, African Americans, Europeans and people of other heritages worked side by side on the cattle trails and ranches. They shared similar experiences and hardships on the range.

Many African Americans worked on Texas ranches and on cattle drives. On the range, they suffered less discrimination than in other industries of the time. Daniel Webster “80 John” Wallace was a former slave who served as trail boss on several cattle drives. He eventually owned his


▲ Nat Love and many other African American cowhands became well known on the Texas range. ● **Why do you think the image of the cowhand became so popular?**



*Early windmill used to pump water*

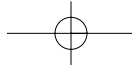
**THEN & NOW**

**WINDMILLS** Windmills began appearing on Texas ranches after the late 1870s. By drilling a well and using the windmill as a pump, ranchers could tap underground sources of water to support their livestock. By 1900 the XIT Ranch had 300 windmills, one of which—at 132 feet—was believed to be the tallest in the world. By 1900 most Texas farms and ranchers had windmills. Seventy years later, researchers began studying windmills for a different purpose. Scientists found that by harnessing wind, they could produce electricity. Even though wind farms with more than 100 windmills are used today to provide an alternate source of electricity, many windmills still are used to pump water. ● **How did windmills affect the expansion of the cattle range?**



*Modern windmill used to generate electricity*





# Lone Star Legends

## Elizabeth "Lizzie" Johnson Williams

After working as a bookkeeper for several ranchers, Lizzie Johnson understood the profit that could be made in the cattle industry. In 1871 she purchased a small ranch near Austin and a herd of cattle, and then registered her own brand. A "hands-on" owner, Williams personally drove her cattle up the Chisholm Trail and is thought to be the first woman to have done so. Before her death in 1924, Williams owned property in several counties and was worth almost a quarter of a million dollars. Her success as a rancher earned her the title "Cattle Queen of Texas." • **In what ways did women contribute to life on the cattle range?**



own ranch in Mitchell County, Texas. Bose Ikard worked on the JA Ranch and was one of Charles Goodnight's most trusted hands. Nat Love and Mathew "Bones" Hooks were also well-known African American cowhands. Some African Americans were highly skilled riders and ropers and showcased their skills in the rodeo.

Vaqueros worked on many cattle ranches in South Texas. In other parts of the state, one out of every ten cowhands was a Tejano. Tejanos owned several large ranches in South Texas, particularly between the Rio Grande and Nueces River.

Women also played an important role on the Texas range. They suffered the hardships of frontier life to establish their homes. Some worked alongside their husbands to ensure that the ranches operated smoothly. Other women, such as María del Carmen Cavillo and Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí, became independent ranchers. Margaret Borland operated her own ranch near Victoria with more than 10,000 cattle. Lizzie Johnson Williams, another Texas ranch owner, was well known and respected for her knowledge of ranching. Both Borland and Williams accompanied their herds up the cattle trails.

The men and women of the ranching industry have greatly influenced Texas's heritage. They were known for their bravery, toughness, and determination. The images of the rancher and the cowhand remain important symbols of Texas culture. Although the cowhand became a popular folk hero and a symbol of the West, other industries, such as cotton farming, were also important to the Texas economy.

### SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

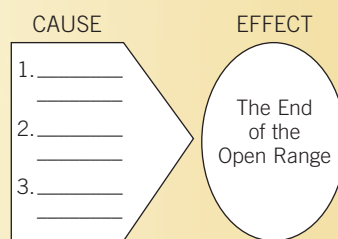
#### Terms & Names

##### Identify:

- King Ranch
- Charles Goodnight
- XIT Ranch
- rustler
- open-range ranching
- barbed wire

#### Organizing Information

Use a cause-and-effect diagram like the one shown to analyze the factors that resulted in the end of open-range ranching.



#### Critical Thinking

1. How did the growth of the cattle industry affect ranching in Texas?
2. How did barbed wire and windmills contribute to the end of open-range ranching?
3. How did the myth of the cowhand differ from the reality?
4. In what ways did the ranching industry reflect

the diverse population in Texas?

5. What was the economic impact of the development of West Texas after the close of the frontier?

#### Interact with History

Review your response to *Interact with History* in your Texas Notebook. How does your response compare to the effects of barbed wired discussed in the chapter?

### ACTIVITY

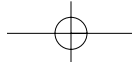
#### History

Imagine that you have been hired to sell barbed wire in Texas. Create an advertisement that illustrates the benefits of barbed wire over other fencing material.



Go to [www.celebratingtexas.com](http://www.celebratingtexas.com) to research the Activity topic.





# TALES OF *Texas*

## Bill Pickett, Bulldogger

**Many legends of Texas cowhands are exaggerated accounts of real people. Over the years, the everyday tasks these people performed evolved into unbelievable feats of courage or strength. However, one Texas cowhand truly lived up to his legendary status.**

**B**ill Pickett, the son of freed slaves, was born in 1870 near Austin. When he was ten years old, he watched some dogs working a herd of cattle. He noticed that when one of these dogs grabbed a cow by the lip, the cow immediately came to a halt and stood still. Bill went home and tried out the technique on a calf. It worked: the calf stood still. Bill found a use for his new skill as he watched a group of cowhands brand wild cattle. He grabbed a cow by the horns and twisted its head until he could clamp his teeth onto the cow's lip. He held the cow still while the other cowhands branded it. Bill Pickett had just perfected the technique now known as bulldogging.

Pickett grew up to be an expert cowhand. He was a skilled roper and a bronco buster, but he became

famous for bulldogging. In 1907 he joined the 101 Ranch Wild West Show and bulldogged his way across the United States and to Canada, South America, and England.


Pickett amazed spectators with his skill. He would ride beside a running steer, spring off his horse, and grab the steer by the horns. Digging his heels into the ground, Pickett would twist the steer's head so that he could grab its lip with his teeth. Then he would raise both hands while the steer skidded to a sudden stop. Pickett would then give the lip a twist, and the steer would fall onto its side. Bulldogging became a popular sport among cowhands. It eventually evolved into steer wrestling, now a popular event at most American rodeos.

Bill Pickett died at the age of 62 after being kicked in the head by a horse. Forty years after his death, Pickett became the first African American to be admitted into the National Rodeo Hall of Fame. Pickett is also in both the ProRodeo Hall of Fame and the Museum of the American Cowboy. In addition, a statue was built to honor this real-life legend. The statue stands in the Stockyard District of Fort Worth.


*Statue of Bill Pickett in Fort Worth Stock yards*



### LINKING TO HISTORY

Find out more about another legendary Texas rancher or cowhand, such as Lizzie Johnson Williams, Jesse Chisholm, or Nat Love. Then write a testimonial saluting that person's major accomplishments and contributions to the ranching industry in Texas. 

### LINKING TO TODAY

Like Bill Pickett before them, many men and women compete in American rodeos each year to demonstrate their riding and roping skills. As a class, research and create a chart of the events included at most rodeos. Then list the rules and requirements of each event. Discuss why you think rodeo remains a popular sport in Texas. 



## CHAPTER

## 17

## ASSESSMENT

**TERMS & NAMES**

Explain the significance of each of the following:

1. longhorn
2. cattle drive
3. Texas fever
4. Chisholm Trail
5. King Ranch
6. Charles Goodnight
7. XIT Ranch
8. Joseph F. Glidden
9. open-range ranching
10. barbed wire

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

*The Beginning of the Cattle Kingdom* (pages 362–364)

1. Who brought the first cattle into Texas?
2. Why were farmers in East Texas upset by cattle drives in that area?

*The Cattle Trails* (pages 366–369)

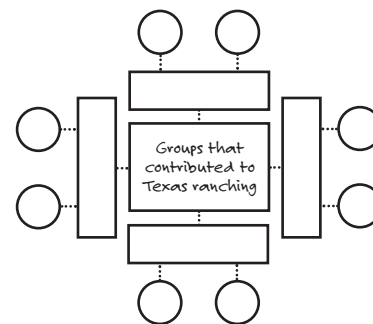
3. What caused the spread of the cattle market?
4. Why was Abilene, Kansas, called the first cow town?
5. What was the job of a trail boss?

*The End of the Open Range* (pages 372–376)

6. Name four well-known ranches in Texas.
7. In addition to cattle, what other types of livestock were raised on Texas ranches?
8. What two inventions changed open-range ranching?
9. What contributions did African Americans, Mexican Americans, and women make to Texas ranching?

**READING SOCIAL STUDIES***After You Read*

Review your completed cluster diagram. Does the information match your original ideas about ranching in Texas? Why do you think that many books, movies, and television shows fail to include the diversity of people who contributed to ranching? Use the information in your organizer to summarize the growth of ranching in Texas and include the contributions of these groups.

**CRITICAL THINKING***Recognizing Relationships*

1. How did barbed wire increase the cost of cattle drives?

*Analyzing Information*

2. Before the Civil War, Texas cattle were worth very little money. What kept the value of Texas cattle from increasing during this time?

*Identifying Cause and Effect*

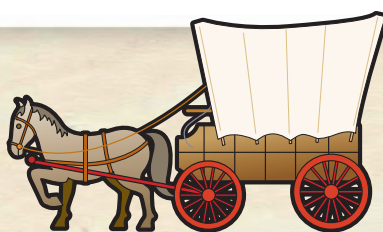
3. How did the westward expansion of the railroad change ranching in Texas?

*Drawing Conclusions*

4. The cattle industry resulted in political, economic, and social changes in Texas. Name two ways in which Texans were affected.

**VISUAL Summary****The Beginning of the Cattle Kingdom**

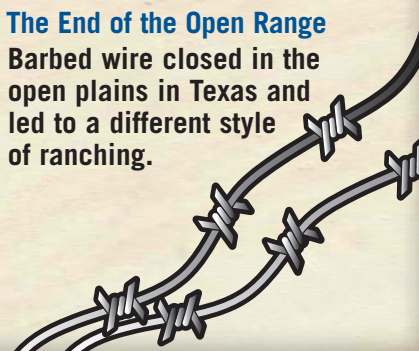
After cattle were brought to Texas by Spanish explorers, herds roamed the Texas plains and multiplied.

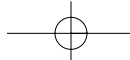
**The Cattle Trails**

Cattle trails provided Texas ranchers access to the railroads and beef markets in the East.

**The End of the Open Range**

Barbed wire closed in the open plains in Texas and led to a different style of ranching.





## MAP & GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

### Applying Skills



1. In what general direction did the herds move along the cattle trails?
2. Where did the Chisholm Trail begin and end?
3. How did rivers affect the path of the Goodnight-Loving Trail?

## SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLBUILDER

### Summarizing Information

*When the cattle are first started, the risk of stampede is great. They are nervous and easily frightened, the slightest noise may startle them into running. . . . A herd was more likely to run on a dark night than on a moonlight night. The remarkable thing about it was that the whole herd started instantly, jarring the earth like an earthquake. . . .*

*The cattle would run until they were tired and we gradually spread them and they would settle down. . . . Once settled they would generally be quiet. As a rule it took several days to rid the cattle of the effects of a stampede. The most successful way I found was to drive them all night.*

**Charles Goodnight**

1. What is the main idea of each paragraph?
2. Summarize the passage in your own words.



## CHAPTER PROJECT

**Cowhand Display** Conduct research to learn more about cowhands and ranchers across Texas's history. Then create a visual display representing life on the Texas range. Include one of each of the following in your display: a Texas folk song about life as a cowhand, a recipe for a meal cooked on cattle drives, a list of equipment used by cowhands on the trail, a drawing of a brand from a Texas ranch, photos of Texas cowhands during the 1800s, and a brief biography of a Texas rancher or cowhand.



Go to [www.celebratingtexas.com](http://www.celebratingtexas.com) to research this topic.



## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY ACTIVITY

**The Invention of Barbed Wire** The invention of barbed wire brought an end to open-range ranching in Texas. It provided an affordable way for farmers and ranchers to confine their livestock. Soon after their introduction in Texas, the thin strands of wire crossed the state. However, many people were opposed to the use of barbed wire. Create a two-column chart to compare the advantages and disadvantages of barbed wire fencing. Then analyze your chart to determine whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Explain your conclusion.



## CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITY

**Property Rights** Imagine that you are the sheriff of a Texas county. You hope to stop the recent outbreak of fence cutting in your county. Deliver a speech explaining a person's right to private property and how that right extends to fencing.