



Texas Studies Weekly

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On the Texas Range

After the Civil War, Texas was in trouble. The state had very little money. In fact, it was just about broke. Texas didn't have any cash. But luckily, it did have plenty of something that was almost as valuable.

Texas was home to a lot of cattle. Semi-wild longhorn cows roamed all over the Texas prairies.

These animals were large and strong.

They could go for a long time with very little water. Their horns sometimes measured up to eight feet across. And what was better than anything else is

that these cattle provided beef that people could eat.

Everyone started thinking of ways to round up the cattle. They wanted to sell the cattle to people in other states who wanted to buy beef. In fact, people living east of the Mississippi River wanted to buy lots and lots of beef. From 1865 to 1885, more than five million cattle were sold in the East.

Life in Texas changed almost overnight for many people in the new cattle industry. Many Eastern cities demanded beef, so there were lots of opportunities for big profits. More than 35,000 men worked as cowboys, wranglers and cooks during the two decades after the war. These people worked long, hard hours driving, or guiding, cattle along trails. The cattle were then shipped on railroad cars to meatpacking plants in large cities like

Chicago. The cattle industry made some people very rich. Other people worked very hard to make a simple living. Some towns and cities grew and did very well because of the cattle industry. Other communities failed when the cattle industry slowed down.

In this issue, you will learn all about how ranching and the cattle industry grew in Texas. You will learn about how people's lives changed because of it. You will find out how towns along cattle trails grew and changed over time. And you will get to learn about people who lived and worked in Texas during this period. These Texans who made a living ranching and raising cattle were usually independent hard workers. They had to have courage and endurance. The story of the cattle industry in Texas is very fascinating.



Connections

Beating the Beef Bacteria

There is no doubt about it. Americans like to eat beef. Americans eat about 26 billion pounds of beef per year. This averages out to about 83 pounds of beef per person per year. That's a lot of beef! But beef is one type of food that can make people very sick if it is not processed and cooked properly.

A certain type of bacteria known as E. coli is why people can get sick from beef. This bacteria is naturally found in a cow's digestive system and is needed to help them digest food. But for humans, the bacteria can make you very sick. In rare cases, the bacteria can even cause death. Scientists are

working to find ways to keep the beef supply in the United States safe. They have spent millions of dollars experimenting with ways to keep the dangerous bacteria out of the food supply. The answer may be a vaccine for cows.

Researchers at Kansas State University and West Texas A & M University have developed a special medicine for cows. The vaccine prevents the dangerous E. coli bacteria from reproducing and leaving the animal's body. Researchers recently began giving the vaccine to beef cattle, and they hope to see a decrease in the number of E. coli cases soon.





Ranching and a Changing Frontier

Cattle Barons

After the Civil War, many people in Texas began ranching, or raising cattle. These people, known as cattle barons, knew they could raise cows on the good Texas land. They also knew they could make a lot of money selling the cows. They built large ranches on the Texas prairies. They hired men to take care of the cattle. These men were known as cowboys and wranglers. They worked on the ranches every day and took the cattle to be sold at a market.

The cattle barons used the money they made to buy more cattle. They also made their ranches larger and better. Some of these ranches are still running in Texas today. Richard King, an Irish-American born in New York City, bought large tracts of land in south Texas between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers. By using cattle drives to get his animals to northern markets, King revolutionized ranching and made enormous profits. The King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, has been around since Richard King started it in 1852. Today this is the largest cattle ranch in the United States. The ranch is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Life on a Ranch

Most ranches in Texas were located on plains and prairies. Usually there were no neighbors for many miles around. Until the 1880s, ranchers kept their cattle on the grassy plains, or the open range.

These ranches had enough food and supplies to last for up to a year at a time. They got water from windmills that pumped water from underground wells.

Most ranches had several buildings. The ranch owner usually lived in the main house. Cowboys, wranglers and ranch cooks usually lived in a nearby bunkhouse. The owner might build different buildings or fences depending on the climate and the ranch's size.

Cowboys

The work done by cowboys on the ranch was very hard. They were responsible for the daily jobs on the ranch. They also were responsible for getting the cattle ready to sell. The cowboys had to brand, or mark, each cow so they knew which ones were theirs. Many ranchers brought their cattle to the markets. And each rancher had his own brand design that they burned into the hide of each of his cows.

The cowboys drove, or guided, the cattle to railroads. From there, the cattle would be taken to a market and sold. These trips were called cattle drives. They were often long, dusty and dangerous journeys. One famous cattle rancher and cowboy, Charles Goodnight, blazed (laid out) a cattle trail with his friend Oliver Loving. The Goodnight-Loving Trail stretched from Belknap, Texas to markets in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. It was used by cowboys for many years to come. Cowboys depended on their horses. These horses had to be hardworking and have great endurance. Cowboys trained their horses to help keep the cattle moving along the trail safely.

Texas Trails

The trails of Texas were often very crowded. Sometimes the cattle even had a difficult time finding enough food on the trail. There were several trails that led from south Texas to the beef markets in Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The Chisholm Trail carried two million cattle to Kansas from 1867 to 1871. The Goodnight-Loving Trail was established in 1866. Cattle on this trail were headed to Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

Trail Drives

In order to make money, ranchers had to drive, or guide, the cattle down trails for hundreds and hundreds of miles. The trip was always hard work. It was sometimes boring. Many times it was dangerous. The cowboys rode near the herd of cows to keep them from wandering off. The men faced wild animals, harsh weather and sometimes even angry American Indians.

But there were two dangers that were always on the cowboys' minds. The first was running out of drinking water on the hot, dusty trail. The second was the chance of a stampede. The wild cattle might be easily scared. They might burst off running for miles. A cowboy caught in the middle of a stampede could easily be hurt or killed.

Barbed Wire

At the beginning of the cattle boom, ranchers let their cattle roam anywhere they wished. But farmers did not like that animals could wander onto their land. Soon these farmers put up barbed wire fences. They wanted to be able to grow crops without wild, roaming animals destroying their fields or eating their crops. Ranchers could no longer let their cattle wander over the open range. The animals had to be kept in pens. Even though the new fencing cost money, it seemed to be a good idea. Ranchers were able to keep wild animals away from their herds. The health of all the animals improved. The farmers' fencing, however, made it impossible to lead the cattle down the trails on drives. Ranchers now had to use nearby railroads to get their animals to market.

The End of the Trail

After only 20 years, the cattle-driving business came to an end. Nobody wanted cowboys to cross their land with thousands of cattle. Many farmers and ranchers put up fences around their land to keep the cowboys away. American Indian tribes wanted to be paid for letting the cattle cross their lands.

At the same time, many cattle on the trails caught a disease called Texas fever. This disease was quickly spreading between the cattle on the trails. Many of them died. To help keep the disease from spreading, many towns did not allow cattle to pass through. Soon the price of beef dropped. Cattle barons were no longer making huge profits.

The cattle-driving business ended, but the trails left their mark on Texas and America. During those two decades, Texans built many new ranches. People also built many new towns along the trails. Many of these communities continued to grow. People began to think about using the railroads more to transport all kinds of goods. Although one period of history was ending, another exciting period was just beginning.



Lizzie Johnson Williams: The Texas Cattle Queen

Lizzie Johnson was born in Missouri in 1845. She moved to Austin, Texas, with her parents when she was a very young girl. Lizzie was very well educated. She studied at Chapel Hill College in Georgetown, Texas, and became a teacher and a writer. Everyone always noticed how elegant she looked in her diamond jewelry and fancy clothing.

During the Civil War, Lizzie took over her older brother's job while he fought in the Confederate army. Lizzie worked for cattle barons. Her job was to do the math and keep up with the money for the trail drives. Lizzie was smart and learned a lot during this time. She began buying her own land and cattle and made money for herself. Even after she married and became Lizzie Williams, she always kept track of her own money.

Lizzie earned her nickname, the Texas Cattle Queen, during the last days of the trail drives. Unlike most women of the day, Lizzie went with her cattle on the trail drives to market. Some people used to joke that she wanted to protect her investment all the way to the bank.

After the days of cattle driving ended, Lizzie stayed in the cattle industry. She and her husband even owned a very large ranch in Cuba. After her death in 1924, Lizzie's family found a small fortune in jewels, fabrics and cash in her home. Today, Lizzie Johnson Williams is remembered as one of the most important women in Texas history for helping women blaze the trail in the cattle industry.

American Character



Joseph Glidden and his Invention that Changed the West

During the long cold winter of 1872 in DeKalb, Illinois, Lucinda Glidden noticed something strange. The large wire hairpins she kept in a glass dish on her dresser were disappearing. Lucinda asked her daughter about the missing pins. Elva Frances did not know anything about the mystery. Day after day, the hairpins continued to disappear.

One evening Lucinda was sitting at the dinner table with her husband, Joseph, when the mystery was suddenly solved. Joseph took two hairpins from his shirt pocket and began bending and twisting them. Lucinda wanted to know what in the world her husband was doing with her pins. Joseph calmly explained that he had an idea to build a new type of fence. Lucinda was excited. She had complained all last spring and summer when the livestock from their farm got into her yard and crushed her plants.

Joseph worked on his idea all winter long. He tried many different designs. Finally Joseph and a blacksmith friend found a way to wrap short pieces of thorny wire around a

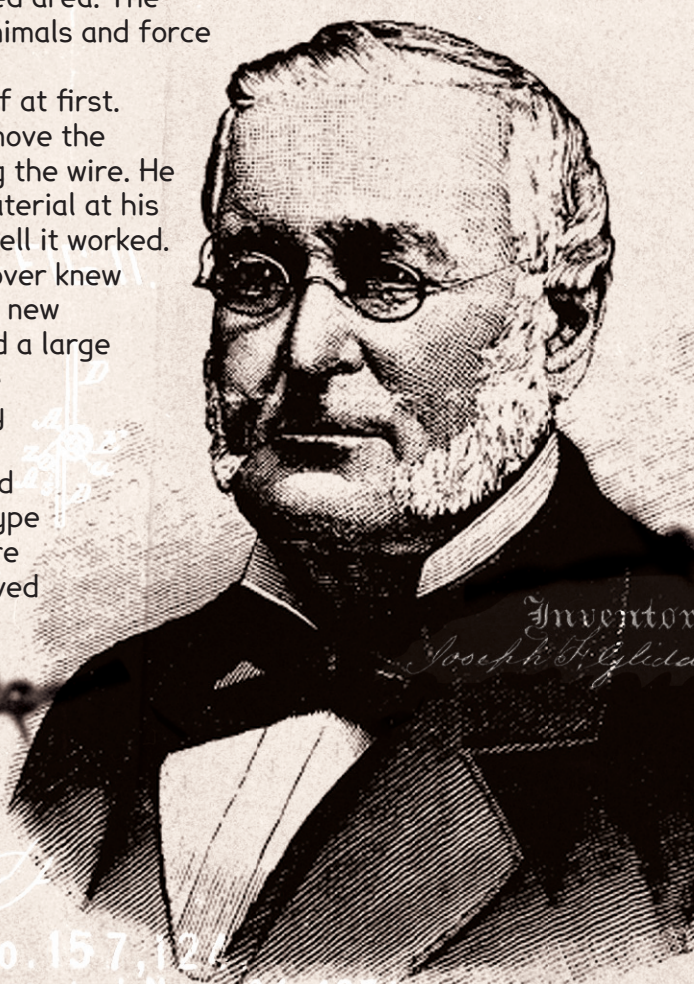
longer piece of wire. The pointed "barbs" would keep animals in or out of a fenced area. The points would push against the animals and force them away from the fence.

Glidden made the wire himself at first. He used one horse to help him move the equipment he needed for making the wire. He even began using the fencing material at his own home to show people how well it worked.

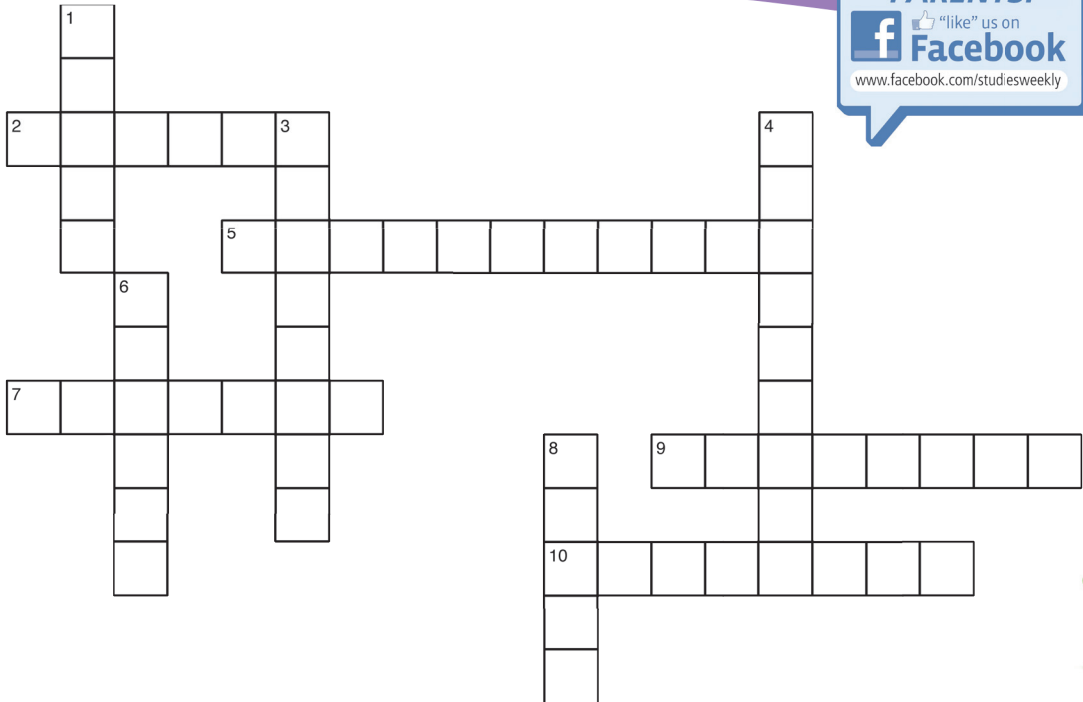
Within two years, people all over knew about Joseph Glidden's amazing new fencing material. Glidden opened a large manufacturing plant to make the material. Soon, he and his family became very wealthy.

Now farmers on the plains and prairies of America had a new type of fencing material – barbed wire – that changed the ways they lived and worked.

Technology



Name _____



- ACROSS**
- 2. wealthy cattle ranchers
 - 5. a nickname of Lizzie
 - 7. invented a new type of fence
 - 9. pumps water from wells
 - 10. raising cattle
- DOWN**
- 1. to mark with a symbol
 - 3. wild, running group of cattle
 - 4. largest cattle ranch in the U.S.
 - 6. long, dusty and dangerous journeys
 - 8. short, pointy pieces of wire



As you read this week’s lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week’s test.

Solving a Problem of the Open Range

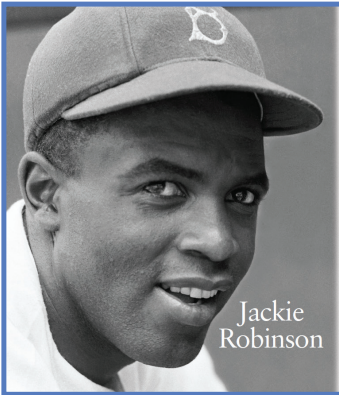
Activity

By the mid 1870s, farmers and ranchers in Texas disagreed about whether cattle should be allowed to roam on the open range. Many farmers thought their crops would do better if cattle were kept in pens so they could not eat the plants. Some ranchers believed the cattle should be allowed to graze and eat anywhere they could find food. The two groups had to work together to solve their problem. They had to work as good citizens. Good citizens can use a process to help find solutions, or answers, to problems. Use the process steps below and information from this issue to identify ways that the fencing/roaming problem on the Texas open range could have been solved.

- **Identify the problem** – What was the problem the Texas farmers and ranchers faced?
- **Gather information** – Get all the facts. List three facts about the problem in Texas.
- **Think about all the options** – What were all the possible ways the problem could have been solved? Think about options both ranchers and farmers might have suggested. List them.
- **Consider each option** – What were the good and bad things about every possible solution? Write a sentence about each idea.
- **Choose a solution** – What solution did the farmers and ranchers finally agree upon? Explain that solution below.
- **Think about the results** – Did the plan work? Do you think the farmers and ranchers thought about changing the plan? What could they have done differently? Explain.

Pretend you are a farmer in Texas in 1875. Your crops have been eaten and destroyed by cattle that are roaming on the open range. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Explain why you think ranchers should keep their cattle in pens. Write about the new type of wire fence you will put around your farm. How will the fencing be helpful to both ranchers and farmers? Explain your ideas in detail. Be sure to edit your final work for capitalization, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Let's Write



Jackie Robinson

Here's to you, Mr. Robinson.

CHARACTER
Pass It On.
VALUES.COM THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE

Name: _____

Date: _____

**Studies Weekly
Week 25 Test**

1. What job did Lizzie Johnson prove that women could do while her brother was fighting in the Civil War?

- a - Drilling for oil
- b - Being the mayor of a large town
- c - Running a cattle drive
- d - Owning a factory

2. When solving a problem, what should you do just before you choose a solution?

- a - identify the problem
- b - gather information
- c - consider each option
- d - think about the results

3. Which Texas inventor designed a barbed wire fence?

- a - Gail Borden
- b - Joseph Glidden
- c - Michael DeBakey
- d - Millie Hughes-Fulford

4. What job did Lizzie Johnson prove that women could do while her brother was fighting in the Civil War?

- a - drilling for oil
- b - being the mayor of a large town
- c - running a cattle drive
- d - owning a factory

5. When solving a problem, what should you do just before you choose a solution?

- a - identify the problem
- b - gather information
- c - consider each option
- d - think about the results

Answer question 6 after reading the article "Lizzie Johnson Williams: The Texas Cattle Queen."

6. From what the reader learns about Lizzie Johnson Williams, which of the following would she probably NOT do?

- a - use her money to purchase a new dress
- b - ride with a cowboy down a dusty cattle trail
- c - ask a fellow rancher to buy and sell her cattle at market
- d - buy a ranch in a foreign country

Answer this question after reading the article "Ranching and a Changing Frontier."

7. The reader can tell that barbed wire fencing

- a - was too expensive for most farmers to buy
- b - should have been against the law
- c - caused the death of many wild animals
- d - improved both ranching and farming

Answer this question after reading the article "Ranching and a Changing Frontier."

8. Why were horses so important to cowboys on a trail drive?

- a - Horses provided the cowboys with fast transportation.
- b - Horses were also sold at market along with the cattle.
- c - Horses were trained to help keep the cattle under control.
- d - Horses could go long distances without food or water.

Answer this question after reading the article "Ranching and a Changing Frontier."

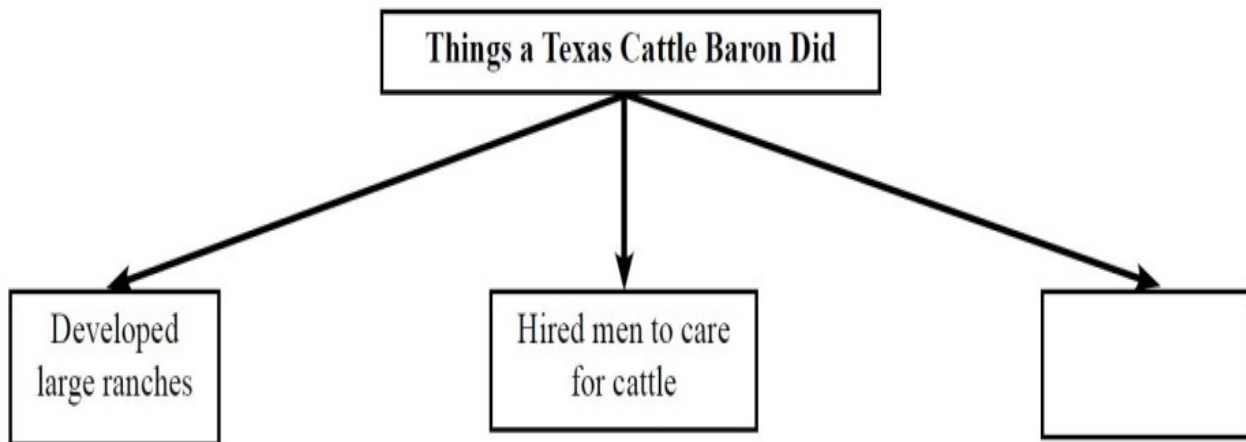
9. Why did most ranches in Texas have supplies and food to last for long periods of time?

- a - Ranch workers liked to cook all their own food.
- b - The ranches were located many miles from the nearest town.
- c - Food would not grow on the plains and prairies near the ranches.
- d - Water pumped from wells could not be used to grow crops.

Answer this question after reading the article "Ranching and a Changing Frontier."

10. Look at the chart below. Use it to answer the question.

Which idea belongs in the empty box?



Which idea belongs in the empty box?

- a - worked day to day on the ranch
- b - took cattle to be sold at a market
- c - cooked for the cowboys and wranglers
- d - used money they made to buy more cattle

Answer this question after reading the article "On the Texas Range."

11. The reader can tell that after the Civil War the cattle industry probably—

- a - brought a lot of money to the state of Texas
- b - was not as popular as before the war
- c - was not a way people earned money
- d - was an easy job for people who did not like to work hard

12. What is paragraph 2 mainly about?

- a - how people near the Mississippi wanted to buy cattle
- b - why longhorns are good to eat
- c - how longhorn cattle were raised and sold by Texans
- d - why longhorn cattle grow big and strong in Texas

Answer this question after reading the article "On the Texas Range."

13. In paragraph 3, what does it mean to "round up the cattle"?

- a - selling cows
- b - gathering cows
- c - marking cows
- d - moving cows