

LIFE ON THE TEXAS RANGE

Now that the Civil War is over, I've got a few fun facts to share with you to get you ready for life out on the Texas Range. I'll give you a clue, it's got a lot to do with **COWS!**



After the Civil War, Texas was broke!



Texas had A LOT of cows and ranchers.



Texas had lots of cowboys to round up the cows.



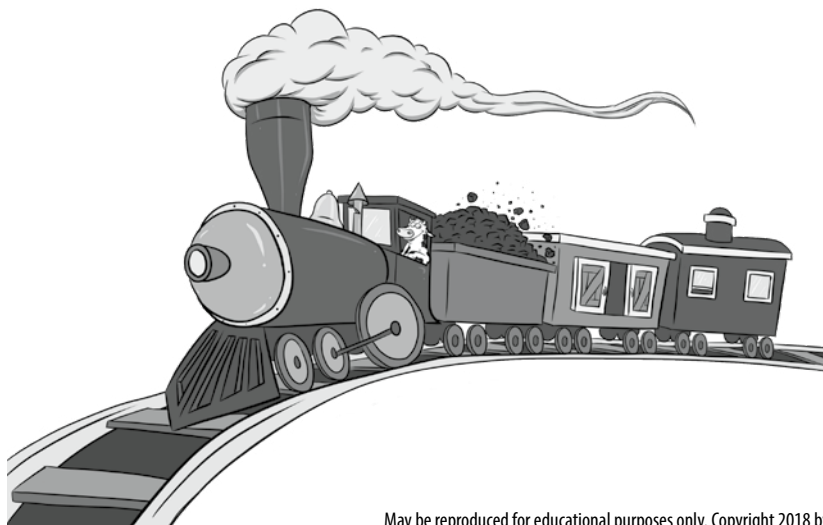
Cows taste good!



Texans drove the herds north to sell the beef at markets.



Cows got to travel on the railroads.



The Goodnight-Loving Trail

Charles Goodnight was a famous cattle rancher and cowboy. He and Oliver Loving were known for the cattle trail that they blazed in 1866 from Texas all the way to New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. The trail was named The Goodnight-Loving Trail. Eventually the cattle driving business came to an end. Check out some of the problems caused by the cattle drives.

PROBLEMS



Thousands of cattle crossing fields ruined farmers' land.



Texas fever: a disease carried by cattle on the trails.



Many towns would not let cattle cross because they didn't want to be infected with disease.



Barbed wire fences eventually closed the open range.



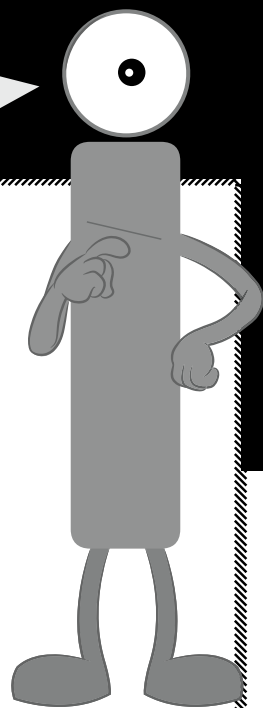
New railroads were built, which made the large drives unnecessary and decreased the cowboy industry.

Do you know the name of the largest cattle ranch in the United States today? It was nearly 825,000 acres big! Want to see a cool map of the cattle drive trails? Turn to page 123.

Answer: The King Ranch in Kingsville, started in 1852.

List a few problems you think a cowboy might have had during the cattle drives. I'll get you started. You should check out some of the cowboy gear on page 125.

Dust storms



List some possible solutions to the cowboys' problems. I'll get you started.

Cowboys wore bandanas over their nose and mouth, so they wouldn't breathe in dirt from the dust storms.

THE RAILROADS!!!

Did you know the very first railroads in Texas were near the Gulf Coast in the early 1800s? During the 19th century, hundreds of thousands of people had moved to Texas. By the early 1900s, Texas had more railroads than any other state. Eventually the population increased to over two million people.

How did Railroads help Texas become such a great state? Write about it. I'll start you off.

The railroads helped Texas...

