

CHAPTER 18

Ranching & Farming

Why It Matters

Vast grasslands and the number of wild cattle in southern and western Texas made possible the development of the Cattle Kingdom. These resources provided some Texans with wealth when the state was struggling with economic problems.

The Impact Today

Although the era of the cattle drives lasted only a few years following the Civil War, the cowboy culture, formed by a blending of Mexican and Anglo traits, continues to fascinate people.

1853

★ King Ranch established



1866

★ Major cattle drives to Sedalia began



Texas

United States

1850

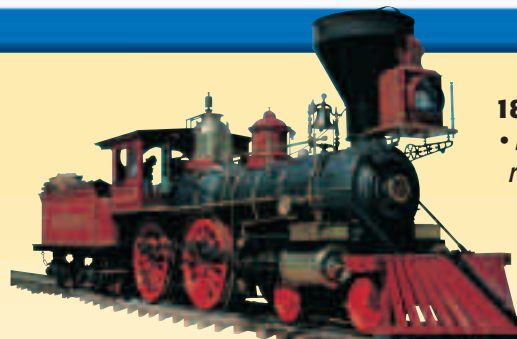
1855

1860

1865

1870

World



1869

• First transcontinental railroad completed



The Stampede by Robert Lindneux captures the excitement and tension of horses and cattle on the run.

Compare-Contrast Study Foldable

Make this foldable to help you analyze information by comparing and contrasting pre-war and post-war ranching and farming in Texas.

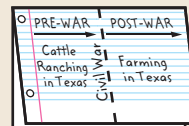
Step 1 Fold one sheet of paper in half from top to bottom.



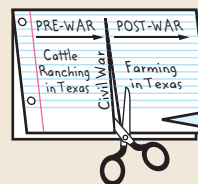
Step 2 Fold it in half again, from side to side.



Step 3 Unfold the paper once and label your foldable as shown.



Step 4 Cut up the fold of the top flap only.



This cut will make two tabs.

Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, write what you learn about cattle ranching before the Civil War and farming after the war under the appropriate tabs of your foldable. Think about how ranching and farming influence the economy and culture of Texas today, and also note this on your foldable.



1880s

★ Ranchers began to use barbed wire fences

1885

★ XIT Ranch established

1875

1880

1885

1890

1875

• First roller skating rink opened in London



1885

• Indian National Congress established

1883

• National time zones standardized

1889

• Oklahoma Land Rush occurred

TEXAS HISTORY
Online

Chapter Overview

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 18—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

CLICK HERE

Origins of the Cattle Kingdom

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

As farming and railroads developed, the days of the open range ended, and the cowhand image became an important part of American culture.

Key Terms

open range, vaquero, rancho, tallow, stockyard, drive, drover, wrangler, quarantine

Preview of Events

1853

Richard King buys Santa Gertrudis, later named King Ranch

1866

First cattle drive to Sedalia, Missouri

1886

End of trail driving

Reading Strategy

Locating Information As you read this section, create a chart like the one shown and fill in the missing information.

Trail Name	Where It Ended
	Abilene, Kansas
Great Western Trail	
	Colorado

Read to Learn

- who brought the first cattle to Texas.
- what made the cattle industry turn profitable after the Civil War.
- about the cattle drives.

Section Theme

Economic Factors The value of cattle changed due to supply and demand and the arrival of railroads.



African American cowhand

A Texas Story

Many African Americans, including Tom Mills, chose to live in West Texas after the Civil War. He came from Alabama and became a cowhand on a ranch in Uvalde County. "That was the life I loved . . . We had the choicest of meats, we parched our own coffee, we drank from our own hats, we broke our own horses and done our own fightin'! We had the coffee pot hangin' 'round the hoss' neck. But we had fun, I can tell you!"

—Tom Mills, WPA Oral History

The Spanish Introduce Cattle

The cattle first brought to America arrived on the ships of Spanish explorers in the 1500s. Some of the cattle escaped from the range, and herds of wild cattle eventually grazed throughout parts of Texas.

Spanish settlers brought more cattle into the area of South Texas in the 1690s. By the late 1700s, two Spanish missions near Goliad together contained 25,000 head of cattle. Spaniards built cattle ranches along the Rio Grande, San Antonio, and Nueces Rivers. The climate, abundant water supply, and nutritious grass made Texas ideal cattle country.

The first Spanish cattle were tall, rangy, hardy animals that survived and multiplied in the semi-arid brush country. They had horns that grew six feet or more across. In time, ranchers bred these cattle with other types, giving rise to the famous Texas longhorns.

Raising cattle began on the **open range**, public land that could be used by anyone. **Vaqueros**, or cowhands, herded and drove cattle into pens they called *corrales*. Cattle were then branded with a hot iron to show ownership. The brands of early Spanish **rancheros**, or ranchers, were large designs. Later Anglo American brands were simpler and often were developed from the initials of the rancher or the name of the ranch. Spanish ranchers often drove herds to market in Louisiana.

Reading Check Identifying What about Texas geography made the region ideal cattle country?

Early Ranchers Use the Open Range

Anglo American ranchers moved from the southern United States into the Gulf Coast region of southeast Texas, the Piney Woods of East Texas, and the Red River region in northeast Texas. Ranchers who moved into Texas before the Civil War already were accustomed to many practices of the open range. However, they had not relied on horses, developed roping skills, worn chaps, or used saddles equipped with horns. They quickly adopted these ways and often used Spanish terms for equipment and practices. The popular image of the cowhand had its origin with the Spanish and Mexican *vaqueros*.

The ranching industry in South Texas flourished in the late 1700s and early 1800s, especially between the Nueces and the Colorado



History Through Art

On the Trail by J.L.T. Gentilz Cattle driving on the open range began in Spanish Texas. *Vaqueros* branded and controlled the herds. **How did Spanish brands differ from later Anglo brands?**

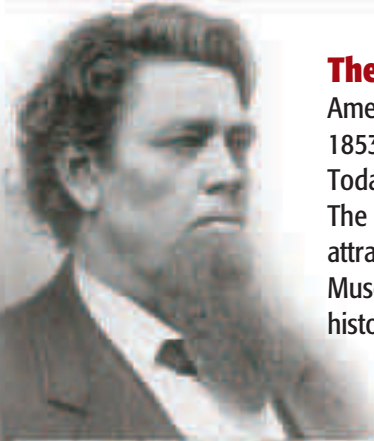
Rivers. Mexican rancheros in the region south of the Nueces River continued to operate large ranches after the Texas Revolution and the war with Mexico. Anglo American ranchers later claimed some of their lands. **Richard King**, a native New Yorker, came to Texas with **Mifflin Kenedy** during the Mexican–American War. By 1850 they had become partners in a steamboat business on the Rio Grande. In 1853 King bought the Santa Gertrudis, an old Spanish land grant of 15,500 acres in the southern Gulf Coast area, from the widow of Juan Mendiola. Eventually this holding would become the famous **King Ranch** south of the Nueces River.

Although the cattle continued to multiply, early Anglo ranchers still faced many challenges. Theft and drought were common. The major problem, however, was the lack of markets. Texas ranchers knew well a basic principle of free enterprise: a product without a market is of little value.

Most cattle were slaughtered for their hides and **tallow**, or fat, which could be shipped easily. These products brought little profit



★ ONLY in TEXAS



The King Ranch in southern Texas calls itself “the birthplace of American ranching.” Richard King (*left*) first started the cattle ranch in 1853. The King brand (*above right*) became a well-known symbol. Today, the King Ranch produces cattle, leather goods, citrus, and grains. The ranch also breeds quality quarter horses and thoroughbreds that attract numerous buyers (*bottom right*). Visitors to the King Ranch Museum (*bottom left*) learn about the history of ranching in Texas.



compared to what beef would bring in an eastern city. Some cattle were driven to Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, and California in the 1840s and 1850s in an effort to find better markets.

Trail Driving Opens the Cattle Market

Several changes made trail driving profitable just after the Civil War. Cattle herds, neglected during the Civil War, roamed wild on the plains and multiplied. While the price of cattle in the Southwest was about \$4 a head, people in the North and East paid \$30 to \$40 a head.

The expansion of the railroads after the Civil War played a major role in Texas’s cattle industry. Texas ranchers needed to get their cattle to Chicago and St. Louis **stockyards**, or holding pens. When the railroads expanded westward, ranchers saw their opportunity. They would **drive**, or move, the cattle in large herds to the

railroad towns, which were connected to the stockyards by rail.

Trail driving was very economical. Twelve or fewer cowhands could drive more than 2,000 head of cattle at a cost lower than \$1 per head. The longhorns were driven north in the spring, when grass was plentiful, so the animals could feed off the natural vegetation.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** How did the railroads increase profits for the cattle industry?

Drovers Follow Major Cattle Trails

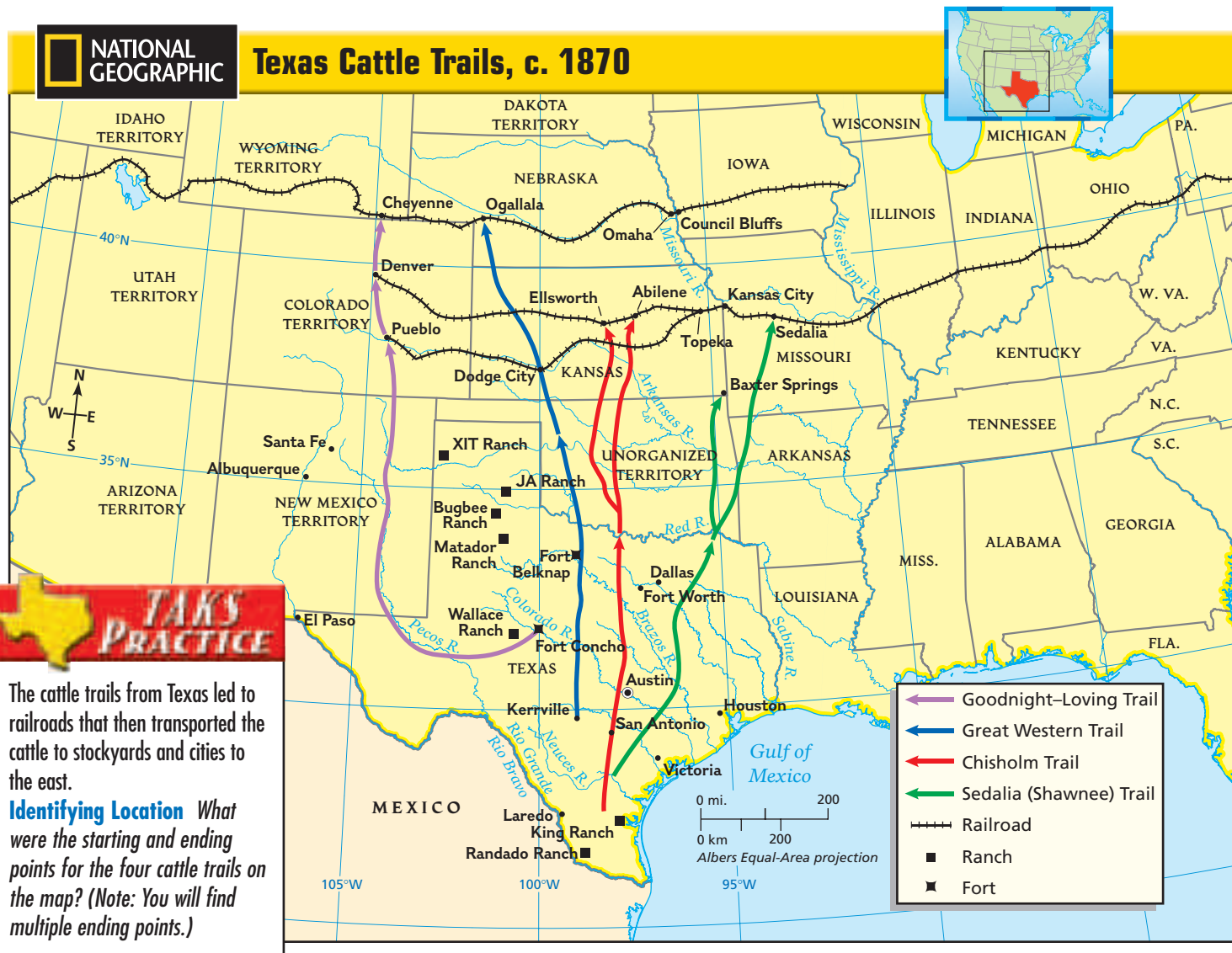
In the spring of 1866, about 260,000 head of cattle were rounded up in Texas and driven north—many to Sedalia, Missouri, where the railroad ended. The cattle path became known as the **Sedalia** or **Shawnee Trail**. All along the trail, **drovers**, or people who move cattle, found trouble. Missouri farmers complained that the

herds destroyed their crops. The farmers also were afraid that the Texas cattle had a disease known as Texas Fever. The longhorns were immune to the disease, but the ticks they carried spread the deadly disease to other cattle. Angry farmers blocked the trails by building fences and barricades.

Joseph G. McCoy, from Illinois, devised a way to get cattle to market. McCoy persuaded the railroads moving westward to build towns with everything necessary to house drovers and their herds. He then persuaded Texas drovers to turn their cattle drives farther west to avoid Missouri. Thereafter, the drovers used the **Chisholm Trail** and headed their cattle for the newly built towns. For a time the trail—named after the Native American trader **Jesse**

Chisholm—was the most popular cattle trail. It began in South Texas; headed north past Austin, Waco, and Fort Worth; crossed the Red River near Nocona; and ran north to Abilene, Kansas.

The drovers later used the **Great Western Trail**, which was formed at Kerrville where the **Matamoros Trail** from Brownsville met the Old Trail from Castroville. It ran northward through Fort Griffin near present-day Albany, crossed the Red River, and headed northwest to Dodge City, Kansas. The **Goodnight–Loving Trail** moved cattle to the ranges of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. It ran west from north central Texas along the Middle Concho River, turned north along the Pecos River at Horsehead Crossing, and continued northward into Colorado.





Life Along the Trail Drives

The days, which began at sunup, were long and hard. Two especially skillful cowhands rode in front of the herd to lead the cattle. Other cowhands rode on each side of the herd, while two or three had the dusty drag position behind the herd. A brief noon meal interrupted the day's travel, which ended just before sundown. The chuck wagon cook was called a "coosie," from the Spanish word for a male cook "*cocinero*," or at times was referred to as "cookie," "old lady," or "gut robber." He was usually an aging cowhand hired for his ability to drive a wagon rather than his culinary skills. He was paid more than the other hands because the success of the camp and the drive depended greatly on him.

The distance traveled each day was usually 10 to 12 miles (17 to 19 km). At night the cowhands took turns "riding herd." This meant that they each stood guard to prevent stampedes or raids by Native Americans or rustlers. Though confrontations with Native Americans were seldom violent, trail drivers often had to pay tolls to cross the Indian territory. The tolls were usually paid in the form of old, tired cattle that could not keep up with the rest of the herd.

The size of the herd could vary considerably. Sometimes only a few hundred head of cattle

Picturing History

Cowhands relax around the chuck wagon after working cattle. Meals were usually hearty. [About how many miles did the cowhands travel in one day?](#)

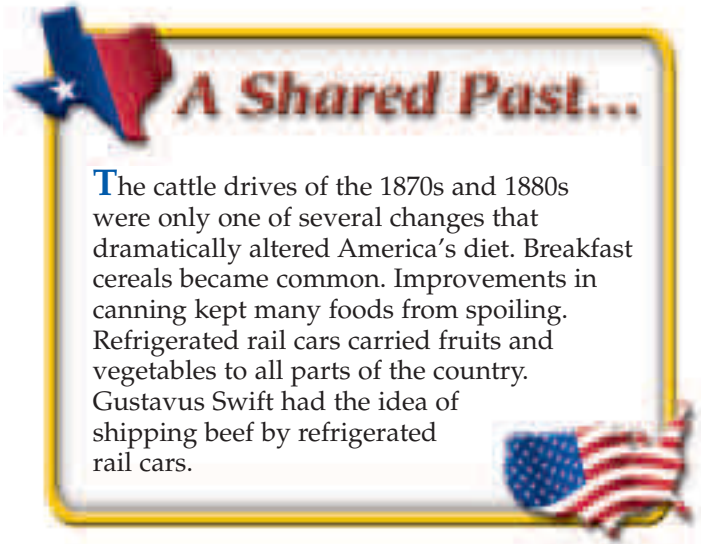
were driven. Herds of 2,000 to 3,000 were also common. For herds of this size, usually 8 to 12 cowhands were needed, plus a trail boss, a cook, and a **wrangler**, or ranchhand, to take care of the horses. Each cowhand had several horses because the same horse usually could not work every day.

The cattle towns of Kansas were rowdy places where cowhands "let off steam" after being paid. Many cowhands wisely saved their wages so they could buy a ranch of their own.

Charles Goodnight, one of the best known drovers, later wrote of the difficulties and dangers involved in trail driving:

“On my first drive across the ninety-six-mile desert that lies between the Pecos and the Concho Rivers, I lost three hundred head of cattle. We were three days and nights crossing this desert, and during this time we had no sleep or rest, as we had to keep the cattle moving all the time in order to get them to the river before they died of thirst. I rode the same horse for the three days and nights, and what sleep I got was on his back.”

Trail driving ended shortly after 1885. The supply of cattle became greater than the demand for them, so cattle prices fell. The low prices meant that cattle drives were no longer profitable. Barbed wire fences more frequently blocked the drovers' paths. Cattle that were suspected of carrying disease were kept out of Kansas and Missouri by **quarantine** (enforced isolation) laws, making trail driving almost impossible. By the late 1800s, railroads were built in Texas, eliminating the need for long cattle drives.



A Shared Past...

The cattle drives of the 1870s and 1880s were only one of several changes that dramatically altered America's diet. Breakfast cereals became common. Improvements in canning kept many foods from spoiling. Refrigerated rail cars carried fruits and vegetables to all parts of the country. Gustavus Swift had the idea of shipping beef by refrigerated rail cars.


Ranching Fact and Fiction

Although the era of open range cattle ranching was brief, the cowboy became an important figure in art, literature, music, and movies. So many stories were penned about ranching that it is sometimes difficult to separate myth from reality.

At least two Texas cowboys published accounts of ranching based on experience rather than imagination. **Andy Adams** in *The Log of a Cowboy* (1903) and **Charles Siringo** in *A Texas Cow Boy, or Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony* (1885) told stories based on their years as working cowhands. The reality of ranching was that it was hard, unglamorous work. Cowhands worked long hours. During roundups

and trail drives, they often spent 18 hours a day in the saddle. Yet when winter came, many found themselves unemployed. They survived by doing odd jobs in the nearest towns or by shooting wolves for bounty. (Wolves were killed because they attacked cattle.)

The typical cowboy was young and single—and poor. A fortunate few made money by performing in rodeos, but these were the lucky exceptions. Nearly one-sixth of all cowhands of this period were Mexican or Mexican American. Others were African American.

 **Reading Check Analyzing** What factors led to the end of cattle drives after 1885?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

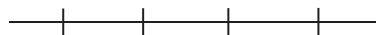
- Using Key Terms** Explain the difference between a **drover** and a **wrangler**. Use the terms **drive** and **stockyard** in your explanation.
- Reviewing Facts** Why was South Texas considered ideal cattle country?

Reviewing Themes

- Economic Factors** What changes made cattle ranching profitable after the Civil War?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Create a time line like the one shown, and place the following events in correct order:



- Cattle raised on ranches.
- Farmers along cattle trails feared Texas Fever.
- Spanish explorers brought cattle to Texas.
- Early ranchers used the open range.

Critical Thinking

- Decision Making** Why would a Missouri farmer decide to fence his crops?

TAKS Practice

Identifying Two primary sources relating to life as a cowhand are mentioned. Many movies have been made about life on the open range. Is a movie a primary or secondary source? Do movies give accurate information?

Critical Thinking TAKS Skillbuilder



Making Generalizations

Why Learn This Skill?

When studying history, it is important to learn how to make generalizations, or general statements, from many facts and details. Making generalizations lets you use your knowledge of specific situations to understand larger concepts.

Learning the Skill

To make generalizations, follow these steps:

- Identify the subject matter.
- Gather facts and examples related to this subject.
- Identify similarities or patterns and form general ideas.
- Test your generalizations against other facts and examples.

Practicing the Skill

Read the passage below and the generalizations about the life led by a cowhand. Then answer the questions that follow.

"On one occasion we gathered eleven hundred cattle . . . [I]t fell my lot to be placed between the [strays] and the herd, which is a very hard place. One old wild cow . . . tried to run over me and get aback into the herd . . . I ran that old heifer for thirty minutes. All at once she made a break . . . I slapped my spurs into Grand Pap and wheeled around to head her off when my saddle turned under his belly and I fell . . . Jack and the boys came running to me . . . They fixed my saddle and I went on duty again . . .

"At sundown the cook prepared supper, which consisted of chili beans . . . fried calf meat, . . . biscuit bread, . . . black coffee, stewed dried apples, and molasses."

On a cattle drive

—Mrs. Jack Miles,

Texas Cowboys: Memories of the Early Days

Generalizations About Cowboy Life:

- Cowboys were excellent riders.
- Cowboys looked after the cattle no matter what.
- Cowboys ate very little fresh fruit, vegetables, or dairy products.
- Cowboys cooked their own meals.

- 1 Which of the generalizations above are supported by the details in this passage?
- 2 Write one or two statements that support each generalization mentioned in Question 1.
- 3 Which of the generalizations are not supported by the passage? Explain.



TAKS PRACTICE

Making Generalizations Think about each member of your family. In what ways are they the same? Think about some positive qualities they all share. What are some generalizations you can make about them?

Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



SECTION 2

The Days of the Big Ranches

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Large cattle ranches spread throughout West Texas and the Panhandle, but open-range ranches declined as ranchers fenced their lands.

Key Terms

mustang
felony

Reading Strategy

Problem Solving As you read this section, complete a chart like the one below, showing the invention that solved the problem.

Problem	Solution
Cattle herds trampled crops	
Fences blocked access to water	

Read to Learn

- about the big ranches.
- about the use of barbed wire.
- about Europeans in ranching.

Section Theme

Continuity and Change Huge ranches formed, new types of ranching spread, and farming developed. Mexican Americans contributed to these changes.

Preview of Events

1876

Charles Goodnight and John Adair establish JA Ranch

1883

Most open ranges are fenced in



Mustangs

A Texas Story



A cowhand had to have a good horse. Wild horses called “mustangs,” from the Spanish *mesteño*, roamed South Texas. According to cowhand Tom Mills, mustangs were so wild that a cowhand could rarely get close enough to lasso one. “There used to be lots of wild hosses in that country below Pearsall. It was open country down there and there was thousands of mustangs runnin’ over that sand . . . About the most vicious hoss I ever rode tried to eat me up . . . This horse would reach around and bite my legs. I sure had to watch ‘im.”

Big Ranches Bring Big Profits

Huge ranches sprawled throughout South Texas and on the rangelands to the north. When Richard King died in 1885, his ranch included 614,000 acres of land and tens of thousands of cattle, horses, mules, and sheep.

King's former partner, Mifflin Kenedy, had established another ranch of several hundred thousand acres. **Henrietta King** and King's son-in-law, **Robert Kleberg**, expanded the King Ranch to more than 1 million acres and 100,000 head of livestock by 1925.

After the buffalo were wiped out and Native Americans were removed from the Great Plains, West Texas and the Panhandle became open to ranchers. In 1876 Charles Goodnight and an Irishman named **John Adair** established the JA Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon. A former Texas Ranger, scout, and military guide, Goodnight also proved to be a skilled rancher. The partners expanded their holdings to 1 million acres (405,000 hectares) and more than 100,000 cattle. Goodnight experimented with crossbreeding his cattle and raised some of the best beef cattle in the United States. **Molly Goodnight** rescued and raised baby buffalo left to die by commercial hunters, ultimately producing the Goodnight buffalo herd.

Also in 1876, **Thomas Bugbee** began herding cattle on the Canadian River in the Panhandle. He later moved south and built his **Shoe Bar Ranch** into a spread of 450,000 acres (183,000 hectares). In 1878, H.H. Campbell and others founded one of

the most famous of the large ranches, the **Matador**, in the rugged country to the east of the High Plains in present-day Motley County.

The high profits of ranching attracted the attention of outside investors. The Matador Ranch was bought by the **Matador Land and Cattle Company** of Dundee, Scotland. The **XIT**, the largest ranch of the period, was financed in part by British investors. The state of Texas had granted the 3,000,000-acre (1,215,000-hectare) ranch to a Chicago company originally. In return, the company promised to build a new state capitol in Austin. To finance the building of the capitol, and to develop the ranch, the company turned to British investors.

 **Reading Check** **Drawing Conclusions** In what way did ranching play a part in building the state capitol in Austin?

Mustangers Catch Wild Horses

Horses also were valuable products on the ranching frontier. Catching and training **mustangs**, the hardy wild horses of the western plains, was the occupation of the mustangers—many of whom were Mexican American. The *mesteños*, or mustangs, were wild descendants of horses brought by the Spaniards. Before the Civil War, mustangers captured large numbers of wild horses, tamed them, and sold them to the U.S. Army or to ranchers. J. Frank Dobie wrote about an African American mustanger by the name of Bob Lemmons:

“The most original mustanger I ever met or heard of was an ex-slave named Bob Lemmons . . . He always mustanged alone . . . After locating a bunch, he made no effort to keep up with it. He followed tracks . . . After he began following a herd of mustangs, he changed neither horse nor clothing until he led the herd into a pen. This was to keep the mustangs from getting a “foreign” scent . . . Within a week the herd he was after would usually allow him to direct their course.”

Picturing History

Almost one-sixth of the cowhands during this time were African American or Mexican American. [How does this information relate to Hollywood movie portrayals of cowhands?](#)



Selling wild mustangs was an important part of the livestock industry of West Texas until the 1870s. After that, the expansion of cattle ranching significantly reduced the number of mustangs.

The Sheep Industry Booms

Sheep raising became an important part of the ranching industry about the time that catching mustangs was no longer profitable. Sheep had been raised, mostly in South Texas, for many years. There, colonists bred heavy sheep from the East with the lighter Mexican variety. This doubled the sheep's weight and tripled the amount of wool they produced.

The real boom in the sheep industry began just before the Civil War. **George Wilkins Kendall**, a newspaper reporter, set up a 5,000-acre (2,025-hectare) ranch east of Boerne. Although he had problems with disease, drought, and Native Americans, he encouraged people to come to Texas to raise sheep. Sheep ranchers came from Northern states as well as from Europe.

After the Civil War, a growing demand for wool brought even more sheep ranchers to Texas. In the 1870s ranchers west and north of San Antonio began to acquire large herds.

Ranchers who raised sheep faced the hostility of cattle ranchers and farmers. Cattle ranchers complained that sheep cropped the grass too short, ruining the range. Farmers claimed that their crops were trampled. Ranchers and farmers began to fence in their lands to protect them.

Barbed Wire Ends the Open Range

By 1873 several inventors had perfected different kinds of barbed wire fence. Small barbs that were twisted on the wire fencing pricked but did not harm the animals who came into contact with it. Barbed wire could be made cheaply and installed easily. **J.F. Glidden** was the most successful inventor.

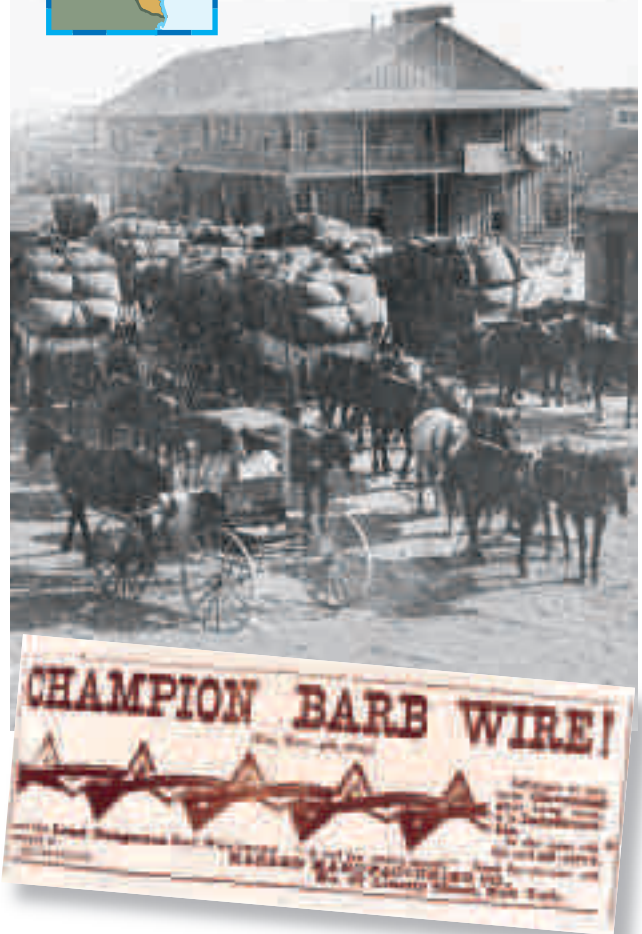
Sales were slow at first, but by 1880 barbed wire fences were built in several Texas counties. Barbed wire, however, was a threat to law and order for a time. Cattle and sheep raisers began fencing their land, sometimes enclosing

Picturing History

Wagons in Sonora, Texas, are loaded with freshly sheared wool to be sold at local markets. As ranching became more profitable, farmers and ranchers found



uses for barbed wire. **Why did sheep ranchers face hostility from cattle ranchers and farmers?**



the land of others. Some ranchers cut off the water supply to other ranchers' herds. Fence-cutting wars between farmers and ranchers soon followed. Ranchers who owned no land but depended on open country for rangeland also participated in the fence cutting.

Restoring law and order required great effort. In Coleman County, landowner **Mabel Day** led the fight against those who stripped off the wires and broke the posts of newly built fences. Even the Texas Rangers found their law-enforcement skills severely tested. They

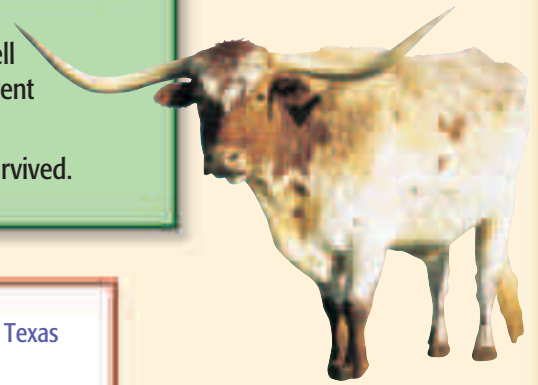
Causes and Effects of Cattle Ranching Decline

Causes

- Large profits caused ranchers to overexpand.
- Overgrazing ruined rangelands.
- Severe drought and blizzards occurred in the mid-1880s.

Effects

- Cattle prices fell.
- Ranchers forced to sell herds at low prices went bankrupt.
- Few cattle ranches survived.



Graphic Organizer Skills

Due to overproduction and weather, the huge cattle ranching industry in Texas declined rapidly in the late 1880s.

Making Inferences Why do you think some of the larger cattle ranches survived?

were often called on to protect the fences. In a special session, the legislature made fence cutting a serious crime, or **felony**.

By the mid-1880s most ranges in South and central Texas were fenced. Panhandle and North Texas ranges rapidly were being enclosed as well. Windmills, which pumped water from wells, helped to make fenced pastures possible. Earlier the cattle had to be driven to water holes.

Reading Check Identifying Who was the most successful inventor of barbed wire?

The Ranching Industry Declines

The ranching industry declined rapidly in the later 1880s. The large profits earned for several years had led ranchers to expand and produce too many cattle. Too many cattle meant that rangelands were ruined due to overgrazing. Surplus cattle also caused prices to fall.

Even nature seemed to turn against Texas ranchers. A number of severe blizzards and long droughts caused many ranchers to sell their herds. Ranches were divided into smaller units or sold as farmland. Many ranchers went bankrupt.

TEXAS HISTORY Online

Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 18—Student Web Activity** to learn more about barbed wire.

CLICK HERE

Nevertheless, some large cattle ranches prospered—the King Ranch in South Texas and the Matador, Pitchfork, 6666, Spur, Spade, and Waggoner Ranches in northwest Texas.

Ranching became more dependent on scientific and modern management techniques. Hereford, Angus, Shorthorn, Brahman, and other breeds of cattle replaced the rangy longhorn. Many modern ranchers today depend on computers to assist them in their ranching operations.

Cultures Meet in the Ranch Country

People of many cultures met and mingled in the dusty ranges of West and South Texas. Mexican American *vaqueros* were found most often on the ranches of South Texas. Some large ranches, particularly on the land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, were held by Mexican Americans. **Hipólito García's** Randado Ranch in Jim Hogg County supported 25,000 cattle on 80,000 acres (32,500 hectares). The present-day town of Randado is situated on land that was once part of García's spread. Macedonio Vela's Laguna Seca and Dionisio Guerra's Los Ojuelos holdings were two additional ranching operations of significant size owned by Mexican Americans.

Mexican Americans also did much to make sheep raising possible. Most of the shepherds, or *pastores* (pahs•TOH•rays), were Mexican Americans. Practically all of the shearers, or *tasinques* (tah•SEEN•kays), who cut the wool

from sheep, were also of Mexican heritage or from Mexico. Many sheep ranches were owned by Mexican Americans.

African Americans also participated in the ranching industry. Cattle drives sometimes included African American cowhands and trail bosses. **Daniel Webster “80 John” Wallace** was an African American who began life as a slave, became a trail boss, and eventually owned his own ranch near Colorado City. **“Bones” Hooks** was a pioneer African American cowhand in the Panhandle. **Bose Ikard**, an African American, was a skilled cowhand who worked for Charles Goodnight.

People of German ancestry established prosperous ranches in the Hill Country of Texas. In addition, because of the cattle-raising tradition in their homelands and the British consumer’s love of beef, English, Scottish, and Irish investors used their fortunes to establish ranches on the High Plains and nearby rangelands.

Women Ranchers

Life on the ranching frontier was not only for men. Women worked with their husbands to settle the frontier and build ranches. They faced isolation and loneliness as they performed chores in the dry, dusty environment. In addition to performing ranching duties, many women would maintain a household garden. They would preserve and store the fruits and vegetables harvested from these gardens for use throughout the year.

Some women were independent ranchers. **Elizabeth Johnson Williams** was an experienced rancher whose knowledge of cattle and cattle trading was widely respected. She raised her own large herd and had her own brand.

Molly Goodnight shared life with her husband in a dirt-floored dugout in the early days of the JA Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon. Her nearest neighbor was 75 miles (121 km) away. Henrietta King carried on the development of the King Ranch after her husband’s death. Margaret Heferman Borland ran her own ranch and owned over 10,000 head of cattle.

Some women actually rode the cattle trails. Experienced ranchers such as Amanda Burks and Mary Taylor Bunton drove their own cattle along trails to Kansas.

Mexican American women had their own long history of ranching. **Doña María del Carmen Calvillo** was one of Texas’s earliest ranchers. Men and women of many cultures contributed to the ranching heritage of Texas and are remembered as pioneers who opened the West.



Margaret H. Borland

Reading Check Summarizing How did the ranches contribute to the cultural diversity of Texas?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** The Texas Rangers had trouble protecting fences. Use the term **felony** in a sentence to explain the problem.
- Reviewing Facts** List two reasons for the decline in cattle prices.

Reviewing Themes

- Continuity and Change** How did Mexican Americans contribute to cattle and sheep ranching?

Organizing to Learn

- Charting Information** Create a chart like the one shown and fill in the missing information.

Ranch Owners	Ranch Name	Acreage
Henrietta King, Robert Kleberg		1 million
	JA	
Thomas Bugbee		450,000
Hipólito García		

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** How did the invention of barbed wire affect the development of Texas?



Summarizing Reread the passage on page 420 about the method Bob Lemmons used to catch mustangs. Tell about his method in your own words.

SECTION 3

Farming After the Civil War

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The Texas farming industry expanded after the Civil War.

Key Terms

dry farming
tenant farmer
sharecropper

Reading Strategy

Identifying Key Factors As you read, decide how the following factors influenced the development of farming in Texas.

Factor	Effect on Farming
Cheaper land	
Dry farming	
Drought	
Railroad system	

Read to Learn

- why dry farming was significant.
- why cotton was “king.”
- what hardships farmers faced.
- how two new systems of farming replaced slavery.

Section Theme

Science and Technology The railroads made an important impact on farming.

Preview of Events

1882

Texas and Pacific Railroad lays tracks in west central Texas

1900

Cotton continues to be the major crop in Texas



A cattle stampede

A Texas Story

African American cowhand Tom Mills describes every cattle drover’s fear—a stampede. “Mr. Rutledge says, ‘Now, when that old steer grazes off tonight, I’ll cut ‘im off from the herd and you ride in and rope ‘im’ . . . Well, the old steer grazed off as usual . . . and outrun Mr. Rutledge to the herd. [T]hat old steer run in on top of [the cattle] and stampeded ‘em. Away they went! . . . Mr. Rutledge told me to keep it quiet what started them cattle to runnin’ and we never did tell what did it.”

Farming on the Rise

After the Civil War ended, thousands of settlers pushed west in search of more and cheaper land. Farmers who moved to the drier parts of West Texas discovered that with the use of new techniques, they could

produce profitable crops. Windmills pumped water from underground sources up to the surface for livestock and household use. A method of farming known as **dry farming** spread throughout West Texas and the Panhandle region. Dry farming used a manner of plowing that left loose soil on top of the ground. The layers of loose soil kept water in the ground by slowing down the rate of evaporation.

Railroads also quickened settlement by encouraging farmers to settle along their routes. Within a year after the Texas and Pacific Railroad laid its tracks through west central Texas in 1881, the towns of Abilene, Sweetwater, Colorado City, and Big Spring were encouraging farmers to settle on nearby lands. Amarillo, Quanah, Childress, and Memphis—because of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad—also became farming centers before 1890.

Picturing History

Cotton bales are piled high on rail cars in this Houston train station before heading to market. **What does this photograph suggest about cotton production in Texas around 1900?**



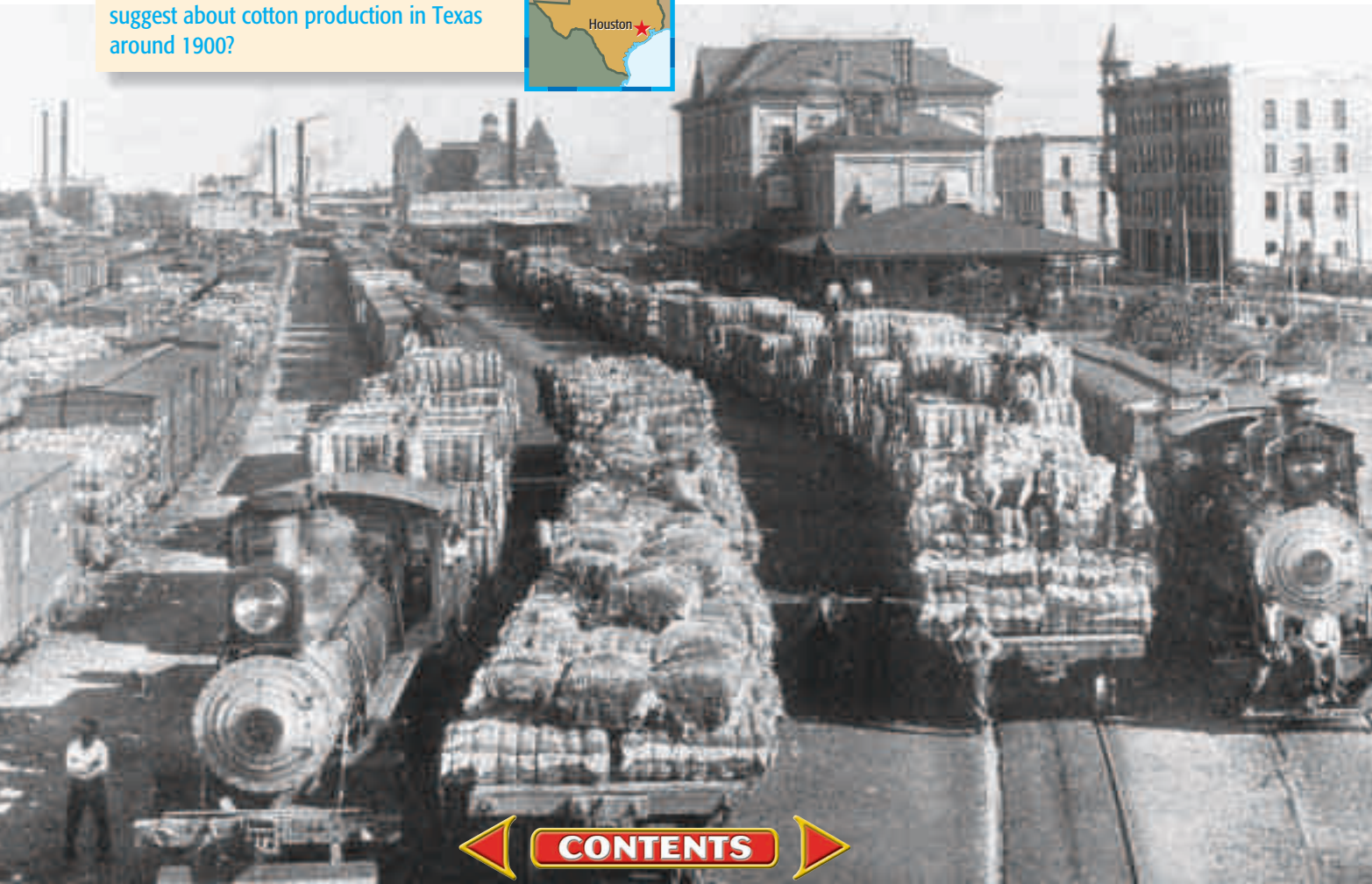
Texans Rely on King Cotton

The most important crop grown in Texas was cotton. The typical Texan in the late 1800s was not a rancher but a cotton farmer. In most years the value of the cotton crop in Texas was larger than the combined value of all other crops grown. In the year 1900 alone, production of cotton on Texas farms surpassed 3,500,000 bales from nearly 7,200,000 acres.



The cultivation of cotton had spread rapidly throughout the state. In South Texas, **Proceso Martínez** introduced cotton to the Rio Grande Valley. Martínez, a leader in business and agriculture, also brought the first modern plows and corn planters to the Valley.

As they did in the ranching industry, railroads played an important role in cotton farming. As tracks were built westward, farmers were provided with a cheap and efficient means





Picturing History

In this 1907 photograph, a supervisor looks on as African Americans pick cotton near Dallas.

What economic and social conditions does this photograph reveal?

of getting their cotton to market. Better access to markets offered the chance of higher profits.

Other crops were valuable to the economy of Texas, too. Before the end of the century, Texas led the entire nation in honey production. Farmers also grew sugarcane and rice along the Gulf Coast. Elsewhere, they planted wheat, corn, and oats.

Not all farms flourished, however. Many farming families who came to Texas after the Civil War faced disappointment and failure. Many farmers did not succeed because they were unfamiliar with the land of Texas, did not know how to use the land properly, or did not know what crops were best suited for the land. Hardships included swarms of grasshoppers and droughts. A great drought in the late 1800s ruined many planters' hopes. Even a good harvest did not always mean a profit for the farmers. Cotton acreage expanded in India and Egypt, thus increasing the world supply of cotton. If there was a surplus of a crop, it could result in lower prices. Although many farmers failed, they still paved the way for others who came later and who learned from and profited by their experiences.

Reading Check **Examining** Why did many farmers fail?

The Tenant System Replaces Slavery

A new system of farm labor developed after the end of the Civil War, greatly affecting the lives of many Texans. Before the war, enslaved African Americans in East Texas produced a large part of the cash crops. After the war, many smaller farms replaced the vast plantations. Either these small farms were sold to new owners, or they were rented to **tenant farmers**. In return for a tenant's use of land, the landowner usually received a part of the crop. Landowners who provided the farming tools, seeds, and supplies would receive an even larger portion of the crop. Tenant farmers who did not provide their own tools and supplies were called **sharecroppers**. Sharecroppers received a share (usually one-half) of the value of the crop.

The tenant system was at its root an economic response to the lack of capital after the Civil War. Swapping labor for a commodity was in one sense a form of barter in an economy with too little money. The tenant system also had profound social as well as economic effects. Under slavery, men and women had often been forced to work in large gangs. Sharecropping or tenant farming meant an end to the evils of forced gang labor. On the other hand, cotton required huge

Sharecropping and Tenant Farming Compared

	Landowner Provides	Laborer Provides	Landowner Gets	Laborer Gets
Sharecropper	Land, tools, seed, work animals, credit for food and other supplies	Labor	1/2 of proceeds from sale of crop	1/2 of proceeds from sale of crop
Tenant Farmer	Land	Labor, tools, seeds, work animals	1/4 of cotton, 1/3 of grain	3/4 of cotton, 2/3 of grain

Based on Neil Foley, *White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture*, U of California Press, 1997.

amounts of labor. Most tenant and sharecropper children were put to work in the fields at a very young age. A teenager was expected to do the same amount of work as an adult. Cotton farmers talked about working “From Can See to Can’t.” They were not exaggerating.

Many tenant farmers were former slaves who once had worked on the plantations. Although some African American farmers owned their own land, most were sharecroppers.

Life for tenant farmers, especially for sharecroppers, was difficult. Droughts, financial panics, overproduction of crops, problems with pests, and high charges by landlords often left tenants with no money. As a result, it was difficult to succeed financially. The system of sharecropping often put poor farmers into debt from which they were unable to escape. Nevertheless, the tenant system expanded during these years. In 1870

about one-third of all farmers in Texas were tenant farmers.

Whether landowner, tenant farmer, or sharecropper, these tillers of the soil brought something to the west that the ranchers could not bring: large numbers of people. Ranching simply did not require as many people as farming did. As a result, the arrival of more farmers resulted in the development of many small towns. These would grow into communities with schools, churches, roads, and businesses.



Comparing and Contrasting
Two common forms of farming in Texas after the Civil War were sharecropping and tenant farming. Review the chart and determine which system of farming required a larger investment from the laborer to start a crop.

Reading Check Explaining Why were many sharecroppers not financially successful?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Using the terms **tenant farmer** and **sharecropper**, tell how these labor systems allowed non-landowners to make a living.
- Reviewing Facts** Identify the seven major cash crops produced in Texas at this time.

Reviewing Themes

- Science and Technology**
How did the arrival of railroads change farming in Texas?

Organizing to Learn

- Understanding Cause and Effect**
The end of slavery changed the lives of those involved in farming. Create a web like the one shown and list how former slaves farmed and the difficulties that they faced.



Critical Thinking

- Identifying Options** Large plantations were too vast for one family to manage by themselves. With slaves set free, what options did the plantation owner have to find necessary laborers?



Analyzing What factors made farming difficult in Texas after the Civil War?

Chapter Summary

Ranching and Farming

1800

- Spanish missions in Texas contain over 25,000 head of cattle.

★ Ranching flourishes in South Texas through the early 1800s.

1853

★ Richard King buys the Santa Gertrudis land grant.

1866

★ Cattle drives start on the Sedalia Trail. Other trails soon develop.

1870

- One-third of all farmers in Texas are tenant farmers.

★ More sheep ranches are established because of growing demand for wool.

1876

- Charles Goodnight and John Adair establish JA Ranch.

1880

- Many Texas ranchers use barbed wire to fence their property. Fence-cutting wars follow until the state legislature makes fence-cutting a felony.

1881

★ Texas and Pacific Railroad lays track through west central Texas.

1885

- Cattle driving drops sharply.
- A period of severe blizzards and droughts begins in the Great Plains and Texas.

1900

- Cotton continues to be the most important crop in Texas.

Reviewing Key Terms

Use each of the following terms in separate newspaper headlines as they might have been written in the late 1800s.

- felony
- open range
- drive
- wrangler
- drover
- mustang
- ranchero

Reviewing Key Facts

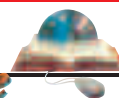
- How did Spanish cattle ranching first begin in Texas?
- Explain why there was trouble between the drovers and the farmers along the Sedalia Trail.
- Trail drives were so successful that the supply of cattle exceeded the demand. How did this change the price of cattle?
- What did mustangers do with the horses they captured?
- Why did sheep ranching increase after the Civil War?
- Were most African American farmers sharecroppers or tenant farmers? Why?

Critical Thinking

- Resolving Conflicts** Fencing of land caused conflicts among Texans. How were these conflicts resolved?
- Science and Technology** How did windmills contribute to ranching and farming?
- Economics** Make a chart like the one below explaining how each factor affected cotton farming.

Factor	Effect on Cotton Farming
Overproduction of crop	
Railroads	

- Geography and Environment** Why do you think drovers followed the same trails year after year?
- Supply and Demand** The price of cattle in the North and East was much higher than in the Southwest. How did this affect cattle ranching in Texas?
- Drawing Conclusions** What factors contributed to the end of trail driving?



Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 18—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



Geography and History Activity

Refer to the *Texas Cattle Trails* map on page 415 to answer the following questions:

20. Which of the large cattle ranches was located the farthest south?
21. Which ranch was located nearest to a railroad?
22. The Chisholm Trail split north of the Red River, then both trails ended at towns on the railroad line. Name the towns.

Cooperative Learning Activity

23. **Culture and Traditions** Songs, poems, and tall tales (stories with unlikely happenings) were made up to pass the time on trail drives. With a classmate, create one of these and share it with the class. Look in the chapter or other books to get information about the trail you are following. Include details in your piece. You may accompany your creation with music, movement, and/or visuals.



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

24. **Comparing and Contrasting** Do you think farmers or ranchers were more important to the development of Texas? Support your answer with several reasons. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Save this piece for your portfolio.



Building Technology Skills

25. **Using the Internet or Library for Research** Working with one other student, research one of the large cattle ranches or ranchers mentioned in this chapter. Make a list of the types of information you find. Organize this into outline form, as if you were planning a report. Now write down a minimum of three interesting facts you discovered. As you work, keep a record of bibliographic information and/or URLs.

Practicing Skills

26. **Making Generalizations** Making generalizations allows you to use specific details and examples to form a broader picture of situations and events. Read the excerpt below about the range wars, then answer the questions that follow:

The cattlemen who were determined to improve the quality of their herds soon strung miles of barbed wire. In fact, they often fenced not only land that they owned or leased, but also

public land that was supposed to be open to all. Some cattle raisers even fenced off small farms and ranches belonging to others. In some places, fences blocked public roads.

Farmers fenced their land to keep the cattle out of their crops and away from precious water sources. Ranchers were infuriated to find fences blocking their access to pasture and water for their animals.

—From the *Texas Almanac*

- a. What generalization can you make about why ranchers and farmers fenced off land?
- b. What generalization can you make about the role of water in the range wars?



Use the quote to answer the following question.

Journal of Amanda Burks

“We camped a long time in Fort Worth, waiting for the Trinity River to fall low enough to cross our cattle. I counted 15 herds waiting to cross.”

Which of the following was probably true about Amanda Burks?

- F She drove cattle to market.
- G She was impatient and eager to cross the river.
- H She did not like camping.
- J She was concerned about cattle prices.

Test-Taking Tip:

The correct answer to this question is not directly stated in the quote, but clues in the quote will help you find it. Reread the quote after you read each answer choice. Ask yourself if the answer choice can be true based on the clues in the quote. If there are no clues in the quote that support the answer choice, eliminate that answer choice.