



## Media-Rich Lesson Plan #1: Moo-ve 'Em On Out! HIDE AND HORN STUDENT ORGANIZER

### Answer Key

**This answer key provides the information students should be providing for each question, as well as additional information and discussion questions in italics.**

Please read the Texas Historical Commission brochure "The Chisholm Trail: Exploring the Folklore and Legacy," available online at [http://www.thc.state.tx.us/publications/brochures/Chisholm\\_Trail.pdf](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/publications/brochures/Chisholm_Trail.pdf). As a class, you will read the brief article on the right-hand side of page 2 together. Then, it will be your group's task to become experts on a particular aspect of cattle drives, and to complete the corresponding section of this organizer using information presented in the brochure. Your group will be responsible for sharing the information you discover with the other groups.

Group assignments:

Group 1: Cattle Drive Trails

Group 2: Cattle Markets

Group 3: Cattle

Group 4: Cowboys

Group 5: Terms and Herd Formation

### **Group 1: Cattle Drive Trails**

1) Name four trails used during 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle drives.

The Chisholm Trail\*  
The Goodnight-Loving Trail  
The Western Trail  
The Shawnee Trail

\*The Chisholm Trail had a variety of names over the years, including the Abilene Trail, the Cattle Trail, the Eastern Trail, the Great Texas Cattle Trail, the Kansas Trail, and McCoy's Trail.

2) What modern Texas cities were on the routes of 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle drives?

San Antonio  
Austin  
Waco  
Dallas  
Fort Worth

3) The trailheads were the towns at the end of the cattle drive trails in Kansas and Missouri. Name three trailheads in Kansas, and four in Missouri.

**In Kansas:**

Dodge City  
Ellsworth  
Abilene

In Missouri:  
St. Joseph  
Kansas City  
Sedalia  
St. Louis

4) Name four dangers faced by cowboys on 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle drives.

Stampedes  
Crossing rivers  
Blizzards  
Prairie fires  
Predatory animals

5) What was invented that contributed to the decline of Texas cattle drives?

Barbed wire.

The construction of new railroads to Texas also contributed to the decline of cattle drives, since the purpose of the drives was to get cattle to the railroads for transport to the North and East.

### **Group 2: Cattle Markets**

1) In 1860, were there more cows or people in Texas? How many more?

There were far more cows than people in Texas in 1860. There were SIX TIMES as many cattle as people.

2) In the 1860s, how much was a longhorn steer worth in Texas?

Approximately how much was a longhorn steer worth in the North?

A longhorn steer was worth \$2 in Texas, and could be worth as much as \$20 in the North.

Ranchers could become very wealthy by transporting the cattle to the trailheads, where the prices were far higher than those in Texas.

3) Why is Joseph McCoy a significant figure in the history of cattle drives?

Joseph McCoy established a cattle shipping terminal in Abilene, Kansas in 1867. McCoy worked with the Kansas-Pacific railroad. He was the first to exploit the expanding railroads to move cattle to distant markets.

4) How many cattle reached the Kansas railhead in 1871?

In 1871, 700,000 cattle reached the Kansas railhead.

Herds on cattle drives usually had several thousand head of cattle. Large herds required about a dozen men on the trail.

5) In the second half of the 1870s, what city became the predominant destination for Texas herds?

Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge City is still a major center for the cattle industry, and is well-known for its role in many Western movies, books, and TV shows. "Gunsmoke," the longest-running drama in television history, was set in Dodge City. The expression "get out of Dodge" is associated with Dodge City.

### **Group 3: Cattle**

1) From what type of cattle are the Texas longhorns descended? Who brought these cattle to North America, and when did they do it?

Texas longhorns are descended from Spanish Andalusian cattle. Early Spanish explorers, ranchers and missionaries brought them to the land that is now Texas in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

2) What were the earliest ranches in Texas? How did these early ranches use cattle?

The earliest ranches in Texas were Spanish missions, such as San Antonio de Bexar and Mission Espiritu Santo. Early ranches used cattle for food, clothing, and other products.

3) What is a vaquero?

A "vaquero" is a Spanish or Mexican cowboy.

"Vaquero" is the basis of the English word "buckaroo," which is another term for "cowboy."

4) What terms associated with cowboys are inspired by the Spanish ranching tradition?

Lasso  
Remuda  
Lariat  
Mustang  
Chaps  
Bandanna

A "lasso" is long rope with a running noose at one end, used to catch horses and cattle. The "remuda" refers to the extra horses taken on a trail drive. A "lariat" is another word for lasso. A "mustang" is a small, wild plains horse. "Chaps" are heavy leather pants without a seat, which are worn over regular pants to protect a cowboy's legs. A "bandanna" is a large, brightly colored handkerchief.

5) What happened to the cattle after the Texas Revolution?

After the Texas Revolution and the change in government control, cattle were left to roam free on the sparsely settled land. Abundant food and water, along with limited human contact, allowed the cattle to thrive

and multiply, until their population was in the millions.

During a Texas round-up, cowboys and ranchers gathered wild cattle to take on the trail drives.

#### **Group 4: Cowboys**

1) Name three qualities a successful cowboy needed.

Cowboys had to be dependable under harsh conditions.

Cowboys had to be quick to act.

Cowboys had to be knowledgeable about Longhorn instincts.

2) What was the wrangler's job? What is a remuda?

A wrangler's job was to take care of the remuda on a trail drive. The remuda refers to the extra horses taken on a trail drive.

Trail drives were not only tiring for cowboys, but for horses as well! A cowboy usually rode several horses during the day, to keep any one horse from getting too tired out.

3) Name three groups of people who worked on 19<sup>th</sup> century trail drives.

Mexicans

African-Americans, including recently freed slaves and their descendents

Women

4) What was life like in cowtowns such as Abilene?

Life in the cowtowns was rowdy. Cowboys went to saloons and gambling halls. It was not uncommon for pistol shots to ring out.

Cowboys celebrated once they got to the end of the drive. They frequently received their pay at the cowtown.

5) How was a cowboy rewarded for the dangerous and harsh conditions faced on the trail?

Cowboys were rewarded for their work on cattle drives with adventure, cowtown celebrations, and financial gain.

Going on a cattle drive was a distinction for many cowboys, that separated them from the average ranch cowhand.

#### **Group 5: Terms and Herd Formation**

1) During a trail drive, who rode ahead to scout for water and grass?

The Trail Boss.

The Trail Boss was the cowboy in charge of all the other cowboys and cattle on a trail drive.

2) How are cattle marked to identify ownership?

Cattle are marked to identify ownership through branding.

Brands consisted of letters, numbers, pictures, and symbols. Ranchers applied brands with heated, red-hot branding irons. Generally, ranchers applied brands to the left side of the animals, and often placed them on the hip. Brands were letters, numbers, pictures, or a combination of all three.

3) What do point and swing riders do during a trail drive?

During a trail drive, point riders are cowboys who ride at the front of the herd.

Swing riders are cowboys who ride alongside the herd to turn it in the right direction.

Point riders are so named because they “point” the herd in the right direction. Swing riders “swing” and turn the herd.

4) What do flank and drag riders do during a trail drive?

During a trail drive, flank riders are cowboys who ride at the side of the herd to prevent it from spreading out. Drag riders are cowboys who ride at the rear of the herd to keep it moving.

Drag riders were often the most inexperienced cowboys; it was considered an embarrassment for an experienced cowboy to have to ride at the rear of the herd, where the dust was often the thickest.

5) What is a chuckwagon?

The chuckwagon was the wagon that carried all of the food, supplies, and cooking equipment for the trail drive.