

CTLR Longhorn Curriculum

Social Studies

How and when did the Texas Longhorn arrive in New Spain?

Focus:

The Texas Longhorn as part of the cultural exchange between Europe and the New World.

113.6. Social Studies Grade 4 (b)(2)(B)

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7(b)(2)(B)

Classroom activity: List all of the ways that the introduction of the Texas Longhorn has influenced our culture.

How did the Texas Longhorn change the economics and culture of Texas?

Focus:

The abundance of wild cattle in Texas after the Civil War provided a source for the cattle drives which enabled the economic recovery of Texas during the reconstruction and lead to the development of the ranching industry.

113.6. Social Studies Grade 4 (b)(4)(B)

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7 (b)(5)(B)

(b)(6)(A)

(b)(7)(A)

Classroom activity: Create your own brand and ear notch to mark wild cattle that you could claim as your own.

What caused the westward movement of the cattle drives (the market was in the East)?

Focus:

Tick fever and the invention of barbed wire by Joseph Glidden cause the cattle drives to move further west.

113.6. Social Studies Grade 4 (b)(21)(A)

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7(a)(1)

(b)(20)(C)

Classroom activity: Read a selection from an authentic cowboy's journal. Make your own journal entry pretending you are on a trail drive and you have encountered one of the many dangers or difficulties the cowboys faced, i.e. : Native Americans, angry farmers with barbed wire, cattle rustlers, stampedes, drought etc.

How the longhorn drives affected the development of the railroad?

Focus:

The railheads move further south and west to supply the growing demand for beef in the North and East.

113.6. Social Studies Grade 4 (b)(4)(C)

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7(b)(9) (C)

(b)(6)(A)

Classroom activity: Design a town that has grown up around the Railhead. Make a map of your town. Include a legend and compass. Remember that the railroad tracks often divided the town into two sections: one side respectable, the other side should represent the Wild West atmosphere of a railhead cattle town. Your town may include: stores, a livery stable, homes, a jail, a church, saloons, a black smith, hotels, a stock yard, etc. Remember the cattle drives were coming from the south.

Why and how did the cattle industry changed after the cattle drives?

Focus:

The longhorns were nearly wiped out by the blizzard of 1886/87 and the subsequent droughts in the southwest. As the railheads reached the West the need for the hardy longhorn who could survive the trail drive diminished. Ranchers switched to the fatter English cows such as Herefords that brought more money in the cattle market.

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7 (b)(7)(A)

(b)(9) (C)

Classroom activity: Look at Charles M. Russell's painting, "Waiting for Chinook" or "The last of the 5000" describe the picture explaining what Russell was trying to communicate.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinook_wind

What is the origin of the cowboy and his equipment?

Focus:

The cowboy and his equipment originated in Spain. The names of the equipment used by the cowboy are Spanish words such as: lariat, chaps, maverick, mustang, remuda, etc.

113.6. Social Studies Grade 4 (b)(20)(C)

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7 (b)(19)(C)

Classroom activity: Make a list of Spanish words that influence cowboy terms and the names of places in Texas.

Are the myth of the Wild West and the cowboy accurate?

Focus:

The cowboy as portrayed in the movies is not realistic.

113.23. Social Studies, Grade 7 (b)(6)(A)

Classroom activity: use a t-chart to make a list about cowboy culture and myth dividing fact and fiction.

Science

Describe the natural adaptations that helped the longhorn survive in the wild.

Focus: Observe and describe the characteristics of the Longhorn explaining the process of natural selection.

Classroom activity: Man's design vs. nature's design

Using a Venn diagram, have students compare the photo of a Hereford or Angus to a photo of a longhorn. Review how these differences adapted the longhorns to survive in the wild and how the other breeds were bred selectively for fat content.