

“Ranching & Farming”

- For many years, wild cattle wandered the **open range**, or unfenced land, of Texas.

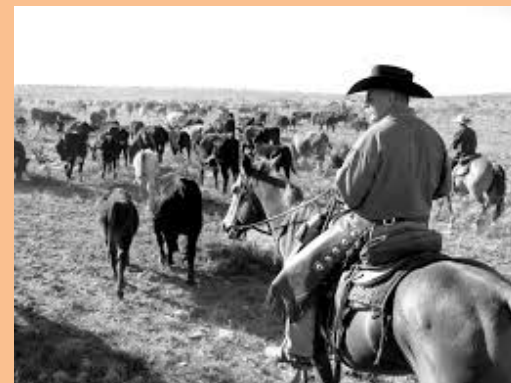


- Herds of cattle had grown from the strays lost by the Spanish ranchers.



- **Cowhand** – A skilled riders who know how to herd cattle

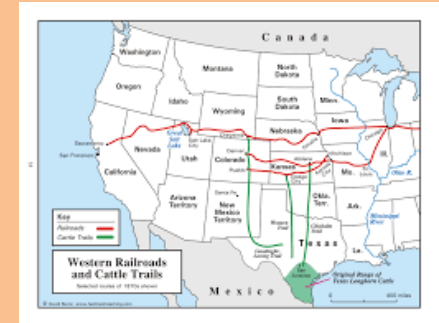
- **Cattle drive** - The herding and moving of cattle over long distances.



- Through the building of railroads, **ranchers** saw a way to transport cattle to distant markets.

- Four dangers cowhands faced:

- A cattle stampede
- Crossing rivers
- Grass fires
- Weather
- Attacks from thieves



- **Chisholm Trail:**

- Began in **San Antonio, Texas**
- Ended in **Abilene, Kansas**



- American cowhands learned to ride, rope and brand from the Spanish **vaqueros** – skilled riders that tended cattle on ranches in Mexico, California and the Southwest.

- Cow town - **a settlement at the end of a cattle trail**



- Joseph McCoy, the businessman who had the idea of creating cow towns, was from **Illinois**.

- William “Buffalo Bill” Cody - A buffalo rancher who did a lot to promote the “fantasy” of the “Old West”. He created a traveling Wild West show in 1883 that re-enacted frontier events.



- The region dominated by the cattle industry and its ranches, trails and cow towns came to be called the **Cattle kingdom**.
- Two reasons the cattle boom came to an end:
 - Overstocking
 - A spell of bad weather (drought)



The Homestead Act (1892)

- The government offered people a 160-acre lot of land (FOR FREE!) in the Great Plains region – as long as they resided (lived) on the land for 5-years. The Homestead Act's intent was to provide the poor with a chance to own farms.



- A homesteader was a settler who acquired FREE land from the government.



- Nearly a ½ million farmers settled on the Great Plains under the *Homestead Act*. However, approximately only **1 out of 3** homesteaders met the requirement of residing on the land for 5 years.
- **John Deere (from Illinois)** invented the steel plow.
- **sodbuster** – **A Plains farmers who used drills to “bust” up the soil and plant crops**

- **Joseph Glidden (from Illinois)** invented barbed wire (1874).



- **Sod houses** - sod was used to construct “bricks” that they used to build sturdy housing



- **Boomers** - people who gathered in present-day Oklahoma to claim some of the 2 million acres of free land



- **Sooners** – people who had already sneaked onto the land and made claims on the better areas of the land



- A grange was a group of small, local farmers who met to discuss issues of the times and to hold competitive events.



- These social, educational, and competitive meetings evolved into economical protests.
- Because of the strength that the granges had in numbers (people) they began to demand that they be treated and given the same rights as the “big” farmers.

- Prices go down when there is a surplus of goods.
- The Farmers Alliance formed in the late 1870's.

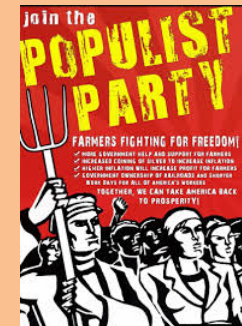


- A farm cooperative – a group of farmers who pooled their money together to make large purchases of tools, seed, and other supplies. Because they bought in “bulk” prices were at a discount.

- When you make purchases in larger quantities **you buy at a cheaper rate** (Sam's Club / Costco)



- In 1892, **unhappy farmers and labor unions** joined together to form the Populist Party.
- inflation - **A general rise in prices**



Election Of 1896

- **Populist / Democratic Party**
 - **William Jennings Bryan**
- **Republican Party**
 - **William McKinley**



William McKinley won the election.