

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5: Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



**Cattle driving in the streets - who cares for old women and small children?
1866**

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2004669995/>

Topic Background:

Cattle drives to northern and western markets, and later to railroad-loading facilities, started in earnest in 1866, when an estimated 260,000 head of cattle crossed the Red River. The drives were conducted for only about 20 years, becoming unnecessary with the advent of the railroads and refrigeration in the 1880s. The first cattle drives from Texas on the legendary Chisholm Trail headed north out of DeWitt County about 1866, crossing Central Texas toward the markets and railheads in Kansas. The trail was named for Indian trader Jesse Chisholm, who blazed a cattle trail in 1865 between the North Canadian and Arkansas rivers. That initial trail was expanded north and south by other drovers. The trail was not one fixed route. As one historian remarked, "trails originated wherever a herd was shaped up and ended wherever a market was found. A thousand minor trails fed the main routes."

Excerpted from: <http://texasalmanac.com/topics/agriculture/cattle-drives-started-earnest-after-civil-war>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment is a political cartoon depicting men driving cattle through a busy street, running down women and children and causing a scene in the middle of town. Although printed in 1866, the idea of the cattle industry creating disruptions and mayhem in towns continued in the following decades.

Answer Key:

Question 1: B

Question 2: D

Cattle driving in the streets - who cares for old women and small children? 1866



Questions:

- 1) Which statement best reflects the central idea of the political cartoon? (CCSS-RH6-8.2)
 - a. Women and children were often outnumbered by men within cattle towns in the West.
 - b. The cattle industry had a wild reputation, and therefore cattle towns were not safe for respectable society, including women and children.
 - c. Cowboys had little control in managing the cattle herd when they brought them into cattle towns in order to board trains heading east.
 - d. Cattle towns did not have adequate laws in place to protect women and children within their towns from unruly herds.

- 2) Which of the following statements best explains the inclusion of the stagecoach within the drawing? (CCSS-RH6-8.5)
 - a. The stagecoach is part of the cattle drive.
 - b. The stagecoach is coming to save the woman and children.
 - c. The stagecoach shows that the town is part of the wild frontier.
 - d. The stagecoach shows that the town is successful and prosperous.