Cattle on the Move

How ranching and cattle trails helped people earn a living

3.C.3.2.A "Explain the importance of the cattle industry to the early economy, including the influence of Hispanic ranching traditions (e.g.,vaqueros, lasso, corral) and how cattle trails..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the cattle business helped people earn money, circle three words tied to Hispanic ranching, and box the names of two trails that carried herds toward railroads.

A Herd Heads North

1. Picture a dusty herd moving north in the 1800s. Cattle ranchers in Texas raised many cattle, but buyers in northern cities would often pay more for beef. Selling cattle brought money to ranchers. Ranchers paid cowhands to care for herds. Some towns along the way sold food, tools, and other supplies to the workers. The cattle business helped many people earn a living.

2. Many ways of caring for cattle came from Hispanic ranchers. Skilled horse riders called vaqueros guided herds and taught other cowhands their methods. A lasso, a long rope with a loop, helped a rider catch a stray animal. A corral, a fenced space, kept cattle together for sorting. These tools and skills helped ranchers manage large herds on long trips.

3. Moving cattle to buyers took more than one route. Cowhands drove herds north through Indian Territory, land now in Oklahoma. The Chisholm Trail led to Kansas railroad towns, including Abilene. The Great Western Trail led to other Kansas railroad towns, including Dodge City. At the railroads, cattle could ride trains to faraway markets. These well-used trails became major routes for moving cattle.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the cattle business help both ranchers and people in towns earn money?

2. How did vaqueros and lassos help cowhands move a herd?

3. Why was a corral useful when ranchers cared for a large herd?

4. How did the Chisholm and Great Western Trails help cattle reach faraway buyers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you own a store near one of the trails in the passage. Write three sentences that name the trail, describe what you would sell to cowhands using a Hispanic ranching tool, and explain how the trail could help both your store and ranchers earn money.

ANSWER KEY

Cattle on the Move

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the cattle business helped people earn money, circle three words tied to Hispanic ranching, and box the names of two trails that carried herds toward railroads. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the cattle business help both ranchers and people in towns earn money?	**Ranchers earned money by selling cattle, and people in towns earned money by selling supplies to cowhands.**
2	How did vaqueros and lassos help cowhands move a herd?	**Vaqueros guided herds and taught cowhands their methods. Lassos helped riders catch stray cattle.**
3	Why was a corral useful when ranchers cared for a large herd?	**A corral kept cattle together so ranchers could sort them.**
4	How did the Chisholm and Great Western Trails help cattle reach faraway buyers?	**The trails carried herds north to Kansas railroad towns. Trains then carried the cattle to faraway markets.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My store stands near the Chisholm Trail, and I would sell ropes to cowhands who use lassos. Cowhands could use the ropes to catch cattle that wander away. Passing cowhands would buy my ropes, and the trail would carry ranchers' cattle toward Kansas trains so the ranchers could sell them.

Accept either named trail and a sensible item for cowhands to buy. The response should connect a Hispanic ranching tool to cattle work and explain how trail travel could bring money to the store and ranchers.