Oklahoma Takes Shape

Read how people, resources, and hard times changed the state.

3.C.3.2 "Describe the development of the state and its resources. 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 people helped communities grow, circle the two views about settling land, box the Statehood Day date, and number two ways families faced Dust Bowl troubles.

How Oklahoma Changed

1. Long before Oklahoma became a state, cattle crossed its grasslands. Hispanic vaqueros taught other cowhands to use a lasso, a rope for catching cattle, and a corral, a pen for holding them. On the Chisholm and Great Western Trails, herds moved north to railroad stops. Trains carried cattle to buyers far away. Ranchers earned money, and towns along the routes grew as travelers needed food and supplies.

2. More people moved into the region. Some Boomers wanted the U.S. government to open land in Indian Territory for settlers. Many American Indians saw this land as home and wanted their rights to it respected. Settlers hoped to start farms or towns. African Americans also moved to Oklahoma. They built farms and schools in historic Black towns, and businesses in Tulsa's Greenwood District.

3. On November 16, 1907, Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory joined to become the state of Oklahoma. Today, people mark that date as Statehood Day. Years later, during the Dust Bowl, dry soil blew into thick storms. Families covered windows to help keep dust out and grew what food they could. Some left to find work because farms could no longer support them. Oklahoma's communities changed as people moved, worked, and faced hard times together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did cattle trails help ranchers earn money and towns grow?

2. How did Boomers and many American Indians view settling the land differently?

3. How did African Americans help communities grow after moving to Oklahoma?

4. How did families respond to both the dust and the loss of farm income during the Dust Bowl?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use what you know about your community or a nearby one. In four sentences, name it, tell when and how it began, describe how at least two groups shaped it, and explain how American Indians and settlers viewed settling land differently.

ANSWER KEY

Oklahoma Takes Shape

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people helped communities grow, circle the two views about settling land, box the Statehood Day date, and number two ways families faced Dust Bowl troubles. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did cattle trails help ranchers earn money and towns grow?	**The trails led herds to railroad stops, where trains carried cattle to buyers. Towns along the routes grew as travelers needed food and supplies.**
2	How did Boomers and many American Indians view settling the land differently?	**Boomers wanted land opened for settlers. Many American Indians saw it as home and wanted their land rights respected.**
3	How did African Americans help communities grow after moving to Oklahoma?	**They built farms and schools in historic Black towns and businesses in Tulsa's Greenwood District.**
4	How did families respond to both the dust and the loss of farm income during the Dust Bowl?	**They covered windows to help keep dust out. Some left to find work when their farms could no longer support them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Guthrie began in 1889 during a land run on land the U.S. government opened to settlement. Settlers built homes and stores there. Black residents opened businesses that also helped the town grow. Many American Indians wanted their land rights respected, while settlers hoped to start new lives there.

Accept accurate local or nearby community histories that identify when and how the place began and how at least two groups shaped it. Students may describe different views of settlement in their community or in the wider region.