Cattle Trails Change

Trace causes and effects in Oklahoma's cattle history

3.C.3 "Analyze the significant historical events and people contributing to the development of Oklahoma. Examine the state's earliest peoples and the significance of their interactions..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons cattle travel changed, circle what happened because of each reason, and number four events in the order they happened.

The Long Road to the Railroad

1. In the 1860s, many Texas ranchers had more cattle than nearby buyers wanted. Far away in Kansas, railroads could carry beef to cities. How could ranchers reach those trains? They drove herds north through Indian Territory, land that later became much of Oklahoma. The Chisholm Trail became one busy route. A cattle drive could last weeks and needed skilled workers.

2. Hispanic vaqueros had long cared for cattle on horseback. Their skills shaped cattle work on the trails. Cowboys used lassos to catch cattle and corrals to hold them. In the 1870s, drivers also used the Great Western Trail across western Indian Territory. Travelers needed food and supplies, so some places along the routes gained new business. The herds also crossed lands where American Indians lived.

3. American Indian communities did not all experience the drives in the same way. Some people sold food or supplies to trail workers. Others worried when cattle ate grass or damaged crops. Over time, more railroads reached Texas. Ranchers could ship cattle closer to home, so long drives through Indian Territory became less common. The trails had linked cattle, workers, and railroads, but their use changed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Texas ranchers drive cattle north to Kansas in the 1860s?

2. How did skills learned from Hispanic vaqueros help workers manage cattle?

3. What were two different effects of cattle drives on American Indian communities?

4. Why did long cattle drives through Indian Territory become less common?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-step timeline showing how cattle travel and life along the trails changed. Use dates or time words from the passage, then add one sentence explaining how one step led to another.

ANSWER KEY

Cattle Trails Change

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons cattle travel changed, circle what happened because of each reason, and number four events in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Texas ranchers drive cattle north to Kansas in the 1860s?	**Nearby buyers did not want all their cattle, and Kansas railroads could carry beef to cities.**
2	How did skills learned from Hispanic vaqueros help workers manage cattle?	**Workers used lassos to catch cattle and corrals to hold them.**
3	What were two different effects of cattle drives on American Indian communities?	**Some people sold food or supplies to trail workers. Others faced cattle eating grass or damaging crops.**
4	Why did long cattle drives through Indian Territory become less common?	**More railroads reached Texas, so ranchers could ship cattle closer to home.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. In the 1860s, ranchers drove cattle north on the Chisholm Trail.
2. In the 1870s, drivers also used the Great Western Trail.
3. While the trails were busy, some people sold supplies, and some worried about damage from cattle.
4. Later, more railroads reached Texas, and long drives became less common.

Because ranchers could use trains closer to home, they did not need as many long drives.

Accept other accurate four-step timelines if the events are in order and the final sentence explains a cause-and-effect link. Students may describe benefits or problems along the trails in their third step.