

Tracks and Change

Identify people, issues, events, and effects in Texas railroad history.

7.6.C "identify significant individuals, events, and issues, including the effects of the growth of railroads and the contributions of James Hogg; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each significant individual, circle the railroad-rate issue, box the sentence about the 1891 creation of the Railroad Commission that addressed that issue, and number three effects of railroad growth.

Railroads Bring Change

- ① After the Civil War, railroad lines spread across Texas. Tracks linked ranches, farms, timber towns, and cities to distant markets. Farmers could ship cotton and cattle more quickly, while shoppers and businesses received goods that once took weeks to arrive. New towns often grew beside depots because passengers, freight, and jobs came there. Yet railroad growth also gave powerful companies control over routes and shipping prices. Many small farmers and merchants depended on a few railroad lines to move their products.
- ② James Stephen Hogg, known as James Hogg, became governor of Texas in 1891. He argued that railroad companies should not be able to charge unfair rates or favor some shippers over others. Hogg supported state action because high freight charges could reduce a farmer's profit before crops even left town. His leadership turned the complaints of farmers, merchants, and labor groups into a major public issue. Hogg's contribution was to press for rules that would make railroad business practices more fair.
- ③ In 1891, the Texas Legislature created the Railroad Commission to regulate railroad rates and practices. This was a significant event because it directly addressed the rate issue that Hogg had highlighted. The commission could investigate complaints and set limits intended to prevent unreasonable charges and unfair treatment. Railroad companies still carried people and goods across the state, but their power faced public oversight. Together, the railroads' growth, the dispute over rates, Hogg's leadership, and the commission's creation show how an economic change led Texans to demand government action.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What issue did James Hogg say the state should address?

2 Identify two effects of railroad growth on Texans described in the passage.

3 How did James Hogg contribute to changing railroad business practices?

4 Why was the 1891 creation of the Railroad Commission a significant event?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how railroad growth led to a public response in Texas. Include one effect of railroad growth, the railroad-rate issue, James Hogg's contribution, and the 1891 creation of the Railroad Commission.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each significant individual, circle the railroad-rate issue, box the sentence about the 1891 creation of the Railroad Commission that addressed that issue, and number three effects of railroad growth. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What issue did James Hogg say the state should address?	Unfair railroad rates and railroad companies favoring some shippers over others.
2	Identify two effects of railroad growth on Texans described in the passage.	Answers include faster shipping of cotton and cattle, quicker arrival of goods, growth of towns near depots, and dependence on railroad companies for shipping.
3	How did James Hogg contribute to changing railroad business practices?	He argued against unfair rates and favoritism and pressed for state rules to make railroad practices fairer.
4	Why was the 1891 creation of the Railroad Commission a significant event?	It directly addressed the railroad-rate issue by regulating rates and practices, investigating complaints, and limiting unreasonable or unfair treatment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Railroad growth helped Texas producers send cotton and cattle to distant markets faster. It also left many farmers and merchants dependent on companies that could charge high freight rates. James Hogg pushed the state to respond to this issue. In 1891, the Legislature created the Railroad Commission, which brought public oversight to railroad rates and practices.

Accept effects and explanations stated in the passage. For the open response, accept four sentences that accurately connect railroad growth, the rate issue, Hogg, and the Railroad Commission.