

# Let US Teach That For You!

## Life on a Cattle Drive

**Overview:** In this session, students will gain understanding of life on a cattle drive as seen from the perspectives of the different positions held.

### Objectives

**Students will**

1. Analyze information from a visual display.
2. Compare and contrast the different cattle drive positions.
3. Compare advice from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to today.
4. Apply their knowledge of terminology used.

### Materials

**Educational Materials Provided by Frontier Texas!:**

Spirit Guide George Reynolds (38), Rotator (37) and Trail Drive Interactive (53)

**Materials Needed:** Copies of Attachments 1-5

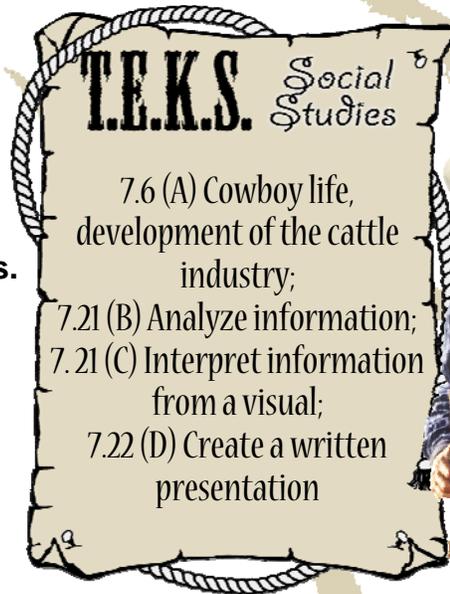
### Teaching Strategy

**Pre-Visit Introduction**

1. Review information in the text or other source about cattle drives, including what the purpose was, why the cattle had to be moved so far away, how long a typical drive lasted, and the number of miles typically traveled.

**Museum Instruction:**

1. Students will listen to Spirit Guide George Reynolds (38) tell about Texas cattle drives. Read the information on the Trail Drives Rotator (37).
2. Observe the interactive display entitled "Learn the Positions That Cowboys Held During a Cattle Drive." (53) Students will read about each position and imagine what each was like. (Attachment 1)



3. Assign students to complete the “Pros and Cons” sheet (Attachment 2) on these positions, and decide which position they would preferred to have had.
4. Students will complete a job application (Attachment 3) as if they were applying for a job on the cattle drive.

### **Quote Stones**

1. Students will gather at the Quote Stones in front of the museum and locate the one from cattle raiser Oscar Thompson to his son, Webster, before his first cattle drive. (Attachment 4)
2. Read the inscription on the stone. Students will consider these questions:
3. Which is the most important piece of advice to a young cowboy? Why do you think so?
4. Which of these admonitions are still good advice today?

### **Post-Activity Synthesis Activity**

1. Observe that Oscar Thompson gave his son some valuable advice. Discuss these questions:
2. What good advice should parents give teenagers today to help them be successful?
3. Does any of his advice still apply to today’s world?
4. Could others be modified?
5. Students will make a list of 10 things teenagers today should remember.
6. Students may complete the crossword puzzle (Attachment 5) with the new terms learned today.

## **Student Assessment**

Assess the lists of advice to determine whether the students carefully analyzed the advice on the Quote Stones and applied those principles to their new advice to today’s teens.

Assess the critical thinking done on the Pros and Cons sheet and job application, applying what each job entails with the interest and ability of the students.

## **Enrichment Activity**

Students will research the jobs on modern ranches to determine which of the frontier jobs have been replaced because of technology or because that job is no longer needed. Others may research ways cattle are brought to market today, including information about feed lots.

# Cattle Drive Definitions

**Chuck Wagon:**

A wagon that carried food, supplies and cooking equipment on trail drives.

**Drag rider:**

A cowboy who rides at the rear of the herd to keep it moving.

**Flank rider:**

A cowboy who rides at the side of the herd to keep it from spreading out.

**Point rider:**

A cowboy who rides at the front of the herd on a trail drive.

**Remuda:**

The extra horses taken on the trail drive.

**Swing rider:**

A cowboy who rides alongside a herd to turn it in the right direction.

**Trail boss:**

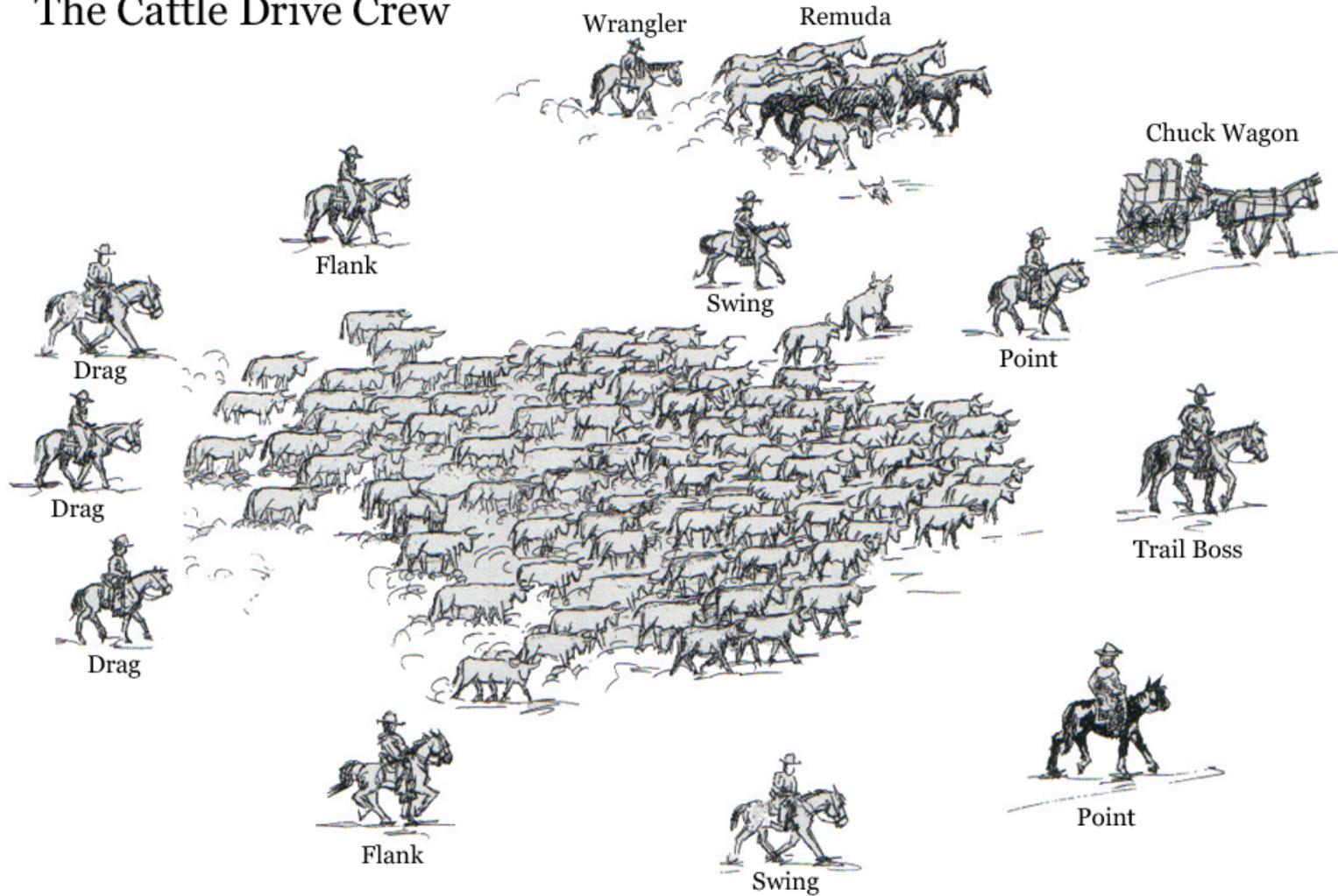
The cowboy in charge of all other cowboys and cattle on the trail drive.

**Wrangler:**

The cowboy in charge of the remuda on the trail.



# The Cattle Drive Crew



# Cattle Drive Positions

Position

Pros

Cons

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1. Chuck Wagon



2. Drag Rider



3. Flank Rider



4. Point Rider



5. Swing Rider



6. Wrangler



# JOB APPLICATION



I would like to be a \_\_\_\_\_ because I am good at

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

and this is what a \_\_\_\_\_ does for his job

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**FRONTIER** *Texas!*  
Quotation Stone Engraving

Cattle raiser Oscar Thompson's advice to his son Webster before his first cattle drive:

First of all, obey orders from your boss – he is paying you for your service;

When you camp at night always point your wagon tongue toward the North Star;

Explain to your men in a quiet voice what they are to do;

Never say “no” to your employer;

Be ready to go at all times;

Don't say 'You boys do this,' but 'Come on, boys, follow me;'

Put your best two men on point;

Water your cattle and fill them up before night;

Explain to your cook that he must be ready with meals at all times;

Watch your horses-don't let the men abuse them;

Keep your harness and camp equipment clean and up out of the sand;

Don't fight your men unless they jump you; but if they or anyone else jumps you, give them the best you have;

Don't ever misrepresent anything to your employer; tell it just like it happened;

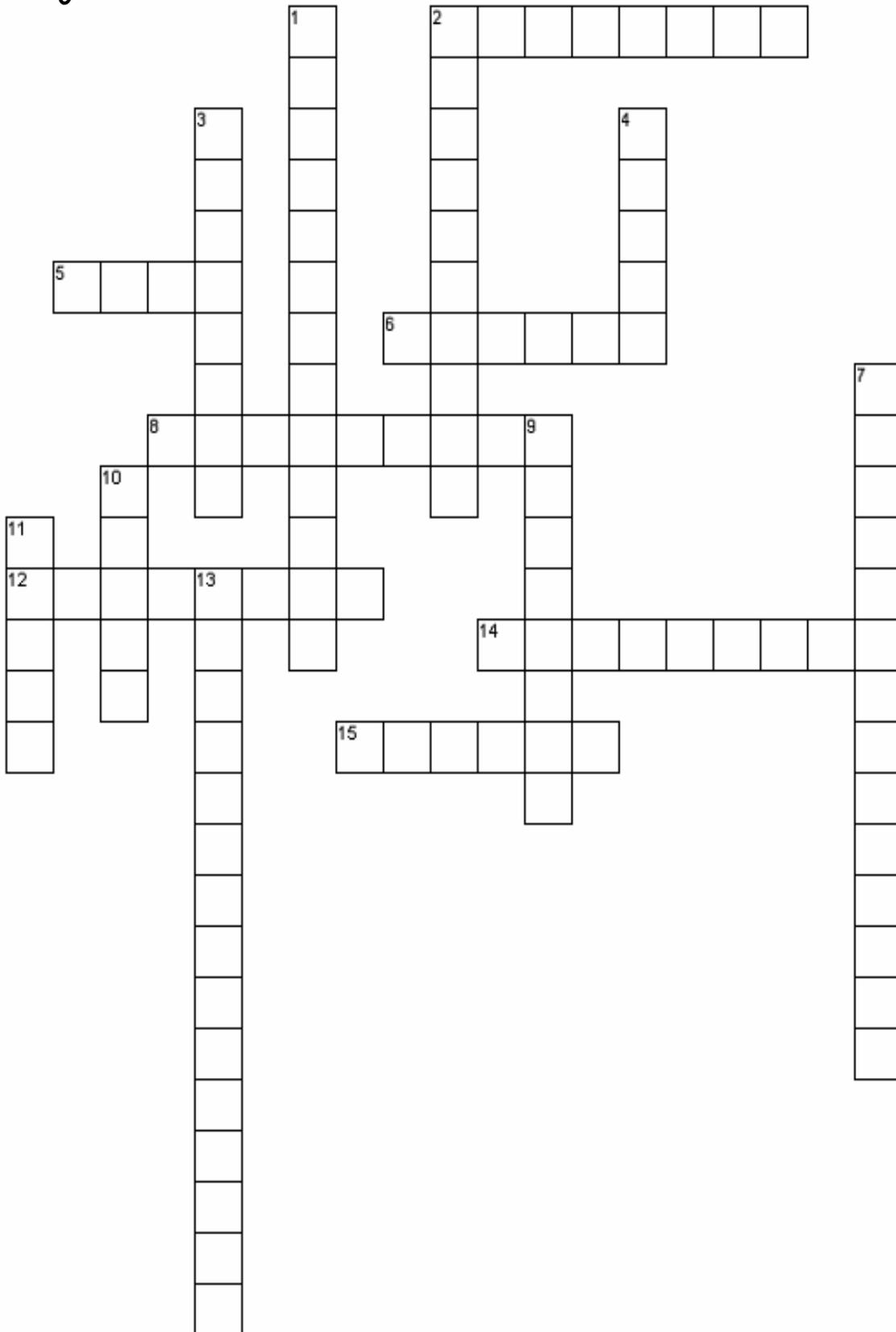
Don't get rattled. No matter what happens, keep your head clear;

Don't lose confidence in yourself;

Look after the comfort of your men, and they will follow you to hell;

Keep your mind on your business and make your head save your heels.

# Life on a Cattle Drive Crossword Puzzle



# *Life on a Cattle Drive*

## *Crossword Puzzle Questions*

### **Across**

2. Trail used to drive cattle to Abilene, Kansas
5. A cowboy who rides at the rear of the herd to keep it moving
6. Place where cattle are sold
8. The cowboy in charge of all other cowboys and cattle on the trail drive
12. A cowboy in charge of the remuda on the trail
14. A large area of open grazing land
15. The extra horses taken on the trail

### **Down**

1. Man who invented barbed wire
2. A wagon that carried food, supplies and cooking equipment on trail drives
3. Type of cattle driven to Kansas and New Mexico
4. A cowboy who rides at the front of the herd on a trail drive
7. Woman who drove her own cattle on the trails
9. An event in which startled cattle suddenly run in all directions
10. A cowboy who rides at the side of the herd to keep it from spreading out
11. A cowboy who rides alongside a herd to turn it in the right direction
13. Cattle trail that went to New Mexico