

The State Fair of
TEXAS
Curriculum

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE
GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES

AN AMAZING RACE!

FROM LOCAL FARMS TO TEXAS TABLES





An Amazing Race! From Local Farms to Texas Tables

Recap

★ Review the infographic you studied on industry trends below or by clicking this [link](#).



Agriculture and Livestock

The crop production industry (NAICS 111) includes establishments that grow crops at farms, orchards, nurseries, and greenhouses for biomass or animal consumption. This category includes grain, oilseeds, pumpkins, etc. This category includes grain, oilseeds, pumpkins, etc. This category includes grain, oilseeds, pumpkins, etc.

Animal production (NAICS 112) usually occurs on ranches and feedlots. Activities include raising cattle for beef or dairy, poultry for meat or eggs, as well as raising pigs, sheep, goats, and equine activities, typically for human consumption.

Texas Exports

- Texas agricultural and livestock exports in 2014 were valued at \$4.8 billion.
- In 2014, Agricultural Products were Texas' 13th largest export sector and Livestock was Texas' 28th largest.

Texas Industry Totals (2012)

Number of Farms	248,000
Acres in Farms	130 million acres
Employment in Farms	96,491
Value of Crop Production	\$7.3 billion
Value of Animal Production	\$78 billion
Value of Agricultural Production	\$25.3 billion

Top Export Markets*

How Texas Ranks in the U.S.

Number of Farms	No. 1
Acres in Farms	No. 8
Value of Crop Production	No. 1
Value of Livestock Production	No. 3
Value of Agricultural Production	No. 4

Sources: Texas Workforce Commission, NASS, USDA, U.S. Department of Agriculture
www.texaswideopenofbusiness.com

Agriculture and Livestock

Major Agriculture & Livestock Production in Texas (2012)

Product	Value of Production	Primary Location(s)	State Ranking
Cattle & Calves	\$13 billion	High Plains, North, Central	No. 1
Cotton	\$1.8 billion	High Plains, Gulf Coast, Rio Grande Valley	No. 6
Poultry & Eggs	\$2.6 billion	Northeast, East, Central	No. 1
Wheat	\$659 million	High Plains	No. 8
Milk & Dairy products	\$1.7 billion	High Plains, Northeast, Central	No. 6
Sheep	\$24.3 million	High Plains, Gulf Coast, Rio Grande Valley	No. 2

Regional Concentrations

The map to the right identifies the Texas counties with the highest agricultural output per square mile, including beef crop and livestock production. Crop and livestock activities take place across the state, but the highest concentration of production is located in the northeastern Agricultural Production Area. Agricultural production is also high in the Rio Grande Valley, the Gulf Coast, Central Texas, and East Texas.

Top Industry Trends

Texas leads the country in the production of cattle, cotton, sheep, and goats. In 2009 and 2013, Greater Texas increased 54% for crops and 47% for livestock, according to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Rising global agricultural prices have boosted industry demand and encouraged increased production across the State of Texas and elsewhere.

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Plan Your Route.

- ★ From Big Tex, turn and walk up International Blvd.
- ★ Pass the Hall of State, then turn right.
- ★ You'll find the Food & Fiber Pavilion between Washington and Nimitz Dr., across from the Embarcadero Building.

Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Smart Phone, Tablet
- ★ Pencil & Notepad (or Sketchpad for Arts Connection)
- ★ Digital or Paper Copy of [Regions of Texas Map](#)

While You're There

You will use information you gather at the State Fair to help you with up to **two project goals**:

1. Design an Amazing Race challenge!
2. Create a narrative art piece





An Amazing Race! From Local Farms to Texas Tables

The goal of the Amazing Race challenge is to collect photos of food that relate to Texas livestock and agriculture. You may also want to sketch the animals and products you see, to prepare for the Art activity.

While you are in the Food & Fiber Pavilion, take snapshots of some of the items you see.

FOOD

- In which part of the state was this food grown and produced? (You may need to do a little research on your smartphone!)
- Helpful links:
Infographic
<http://gov.texas.gov/files/ecodev/profileagriculture.pdf>

PRODUCTS

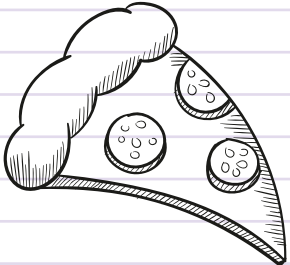
- Think about how the items arrived at the State Fair.
- What process did they go through before they were put on display and sold here?
- Where were they shipped from?
- How many days or hours did it take for the products to get to the fairgrounds, based on where they came from?

ART

- As you move through the State Fair, be thinking about how the things you see might be used to tell a story.
- You might want to sketch a few things.

Plan Your Route.

- ★ Your second stop will be the Livestock Barns on Martin Luther King Blvd.





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ANIMALS

- Go to the Livestock Barns and take photographs of Texas animals.
- Is there a connection between the products in the Food & Fiber Pavilion and the animals in the Livestock Barns? Why?
- Which types of animals do you see most in the barns? Why?

SIGHTS/SOUNDS

- Take your time and really think about all the sights and sounds.
- Consider how the livestock you see gets from the farm where it is raised to your dinner table.
- Think about the process, and be prepared to develop a diagram or visual representation.



Back at School

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will:

- ★ Work with a group to write clues for an Amazing Race Challenge.
- ★ Create a narrative in art based on the farm to table movement you noticed
- ★ See your teachers for more information.

