



The State Fair of
TEXAS
Curriculum

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE
GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES

HOLY COWS!
DEFINING CULTURES



STUDENT EDITION

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE



Holy Cows! Defining Cultures



Recap

- ★ Recall your definition of “culture”.
- ★ If necessary, rewatch [this PBS video about sacred cows](#).

Plan Your Route.

- ★ From the Texas Star Ferris Wheel, go around toward the back of the Cotton Bowl Stadium.
- ★ Find Cattle Barn #1 and #2.
- ★ Stop in and observe at the Livestock Judging Pavilion.
- ★ Don't forget to wave at Woofus!



Materials to Bring

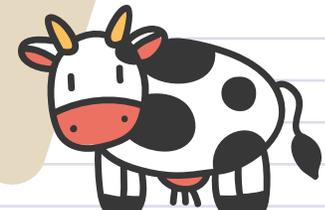
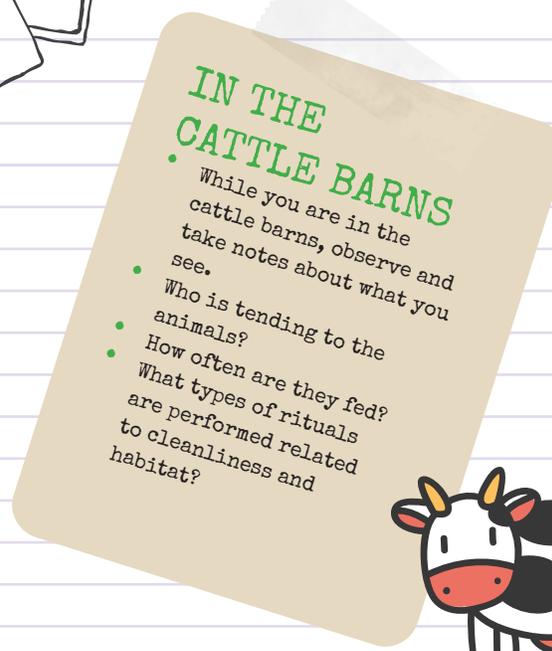
- * Recording Device
- * Smart Phone or Tablet
- * Pencil & Notepad



While you're There

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

1. Find similarities and differences between “Ag” culture and the traditional cultures you saw in the video.
2. For Art, you will be doing a Cow Parade!





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INTERVIEW AN EXHIBITOR

- If possible, ask an exhibitor some of the following questions, and record their answers on a smart phone or notepad:
- ★ Why did you decide to get involved in the Ag program at your school?
- ★ How has the program shaped your belief systems?

- ★ What are the “cultural norms” found in an Ag community?
- ★ Which rules are spoken and which rules are inferred?
- ★ Describe the routines of caring for a show animal.
- ★ What challenges and rewards come from this experience?
- ★ What happens to your animal when the show ends?
- ★ What is your opinion about the way animals are treated in the United States, compared to other countries in the world?
- At the conclusion of the interview, thank the participant and continue exploring the barns. Snap photographs of any artifacts that represent Ag culture.



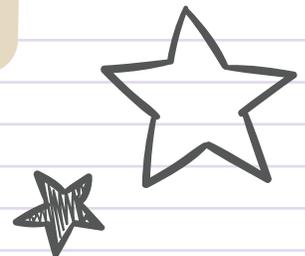
LIVESTOCK JUDGING PAVILION

- Stop here and watch as students parade their animals for the judges.
- How is this competition similar or different to the rituals displayed in the PBS video?



ART CONNECTION

- Pay attention to all different types of cows that you see, as well as the sights and sounds that surround you.
- What images are repeated?
- Are there things at the Fair that you don't see everyday? What are they?



Back at School

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will create a photo essay or video montage capturing the cultural differences you witnessed. Make sure you take plenty of pictures, draw lots of things you see, or take tons of notes!