

# Of Dust and Men

*Finding U.S. History in Agriculture*



QUEST 8  
U.S. HISTORY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS  
**CURRICULUM**

**The Fair was made to attract a variety of people. It can be a place of escape or a place to compete. Some go to make a profit, to peak curiosities, or to seek thrills! Livestock & Agriculture at the Fair has become a constant tradition in an ever-changing place.**



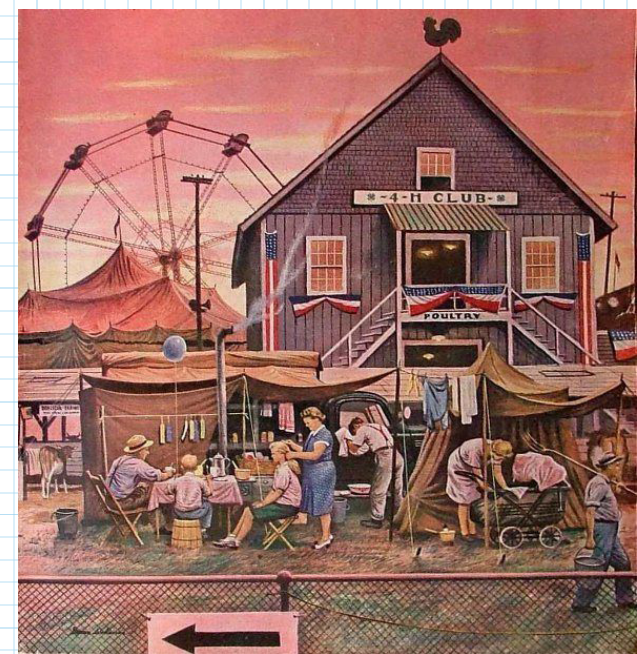
## During this Live @ the Fair Quest, you will:

- ★ Analyze how both the Dust Bowl and the cattle industry boom contributed to the standing tradition of having agriculture and livestock at the Fair, as well as more technological advancements in agriculture.
- ★ Observe livestock and crop handling at the Fair, and in doing so, investigate how the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act created by the FDA still impacts farmers and ranchers today.
- ★ Create a multimedia presentation that summarizes your observations at the Livestock area of the Fair.
- ★ Craft a painting that reflects your vision of the State Fair of Texas.



## Standards

- ★ Social Studies (United States History) TEKS: 3B, 12A, 14A, 15B, 27B
- ★ Art TEKS: Art I: 1A, 1B, 1C, 2F, 2A; Art II: 2A, 2D
- ★ ELAR TEKS: E4(16)(A-F)
- ★ Career Development TEKS: PS.2A, PS.4B



Source: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/d5/13/05/d51305222ddcca171dd0208e1025b835.jpg>

## Before You Go – 20 min prep time, 45 teaching time

- ★ Discuss the cattle industry boom and farming issues in the late 1800s. Be sure to touch on how this may have had an impact on the land in the Western United States.
- ★ Discuss the ramifications of the Dust Bowl and on the Plains environment, being sure to touch on changing agricultural practices following this devastation.

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## STATE FAIR MAP



### Invitation

★ Come out to the State Fair of Texas to observe how farming and ranching has changed since the Dust Bowl and the Pure Food and Drug Act! Please bring the listed materials and follow the route, and perform the tasks below at the State Fair of Texas:

### Plan Your Route

★ Start at the Poultry Building off of Nimitz Dr. across from the Cotton Bowl.  
★ Next, take a look in the Children's Health Barnyard, and the Swine Barn.  
★ Don't forget to wave at the Woofus!  
★ Then, make your way to MLK Blvd and Nimitz and view the milking demonstration and the Livestock Guided tours.



### Optional Materials to Bring

★ Writing utensil and notebook  
OR  
★ Electronic device to record your notes  
★ Camera to take pictures

- ★ Ask questions such as:
  - Why do you think the Dust Bowl created a need for more technological innovations in agriculture?
  - In what ways do you think technology has helped the modern farmer? Provide some examples.
  - Do you know what the FDA stands for?
  - What does the FDA do?
  - Can you give me some examples?
- ★ Discuss why the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed.
  - Write down how in an era of Big Business, this changed the relationship between the federal government and the private business sector.
- ★ Brainstorm types of things fairgoers might see in the Livestock area of the Fair.
- ★ Ask how the agricultural aspect of the Fair has changed over time.
- ★ Read the article: "The American State Fair" by The Saturday Evening Post:  
<http://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2009/06/29/health-and-family/travel/american-state-fair.html>
  - Discuss the article, being sure to talk about how farming shrank significantly following both World Wars.
  - Discuss how this has led to many people viewing the agricultural side of the Fair as a zoo - meaning that they do not experience things like milking cows, seeing pigs, growing crops, or raising chicks.

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## While You're There

The objective of your visit is to appreciate the agricultural roots of the Texas State Fair and to observe the connection farmers and ranchers have to the Government.



**★OF DUST AND MEN: FINDING U.S. HISTORY IN AGRICULTURE.** During your visit, tour at least two agricultural barns and view the cow milking demonstration.

- o Analyze how livestock are handled, including how they are penned and how they are fed. Don't forget to take pictures! (But make sure you get permission.)
  - What agricultural resources are used to feed the different animals?
  - Find out what type of food the livestock you view provide the masses.
  - What kind of technology do you notice being used in the barns?
    - If possible, using your own technology, find out when this type of technology became readily available.
- o While viewing the cow milking demonstration:
  - If possible, become familiar with the milk process and the government regulations passed down by the FDA
  - Begin thinking why there are regulations on milk.
- o View a show that is offered in the Livestock area. Notice:
  - How the animals are handled
  - What the object of the presentation is
  - The way the animals are judged (if a competition)

**★SATURDAY EVENING POST (ART PORTION):** As you make your way through the State Fair of Texas, pay attention to the things that visually define the Fair.

- o Some examples might be the Texas Star, the livestock, and the food!
- o Take photos or create some sketches of these objects
- o Have them ready to refer to for your project after the Fair.

## After the Fair – 2 day project

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will create a multimedia presentation that discusses the agriculture at the State Fair of Texas, its relationship to the government, and the technological advances in agriculture.

**★You should include the following within your presentation:**

- o A title slide with a catchy slogan
- o Pictures (at least five)
- o 5-8 slides of information
- o 3-5 things from your notes at the Fair
- o Sources cited in MLA format (at least three)
- o Accurate and informative information with proper grammar

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## ART PORTION

### Before You Go

- ★ In the link for the *Saturday Evening Post* provided above, take a few moments to look at the artwork that goes with the article.
  - It is by artist Stevan Dohanos, and it is titled, "Four-H Fair," painted in 1948.
  - What do you see in this work?
  - What are some of the things that stand out to you the most?
  - What does it tell you about the Fair that it was based on?

### While You're There

See the main portion of the Quest for instructions.

### When You Return

Now, it's time for you to create your own *Saturday Evening Post* type painting that reflects your vision of the State Fair of Texas.

- ★ What sorts of things stood out the most to you at the Fair?  
How can you arrange all of those objects into one work that can tell a visual narrative of the State Fair?
- ★ As you work, pay close attention to your elements and principles of design.
- ★ Make sure your work is balanced and that you choose a color palette that is reflective of your take on the Fair.
- ★ Think about what you will use as your point of emphasis.
- ★ When you have finished, hang your work with that of your peers and have a gallery walk.
- ★ When you get to your piece, talk about the things that you feel reflect the State Fair of Texas the most.
  - Also, discuss your creative choices regarding color and the narrative that you were hoping to tell in your work.



## ENGLISH PORTION

The FDA regulates the world around you on a daily basis, and before now you might not have paid much attention to all the ways that the organization impacts your life. You will complete an argumentative research paper that argues for or against the FDA. You must pick a side (for or against) and support your argument with logical reasoning and evidence.

The paper should:

1. Be three pages long
2. Support your argument. Do not tell me about the FDA: Instead, tell me why the FDA should or should not exist!
3. Contain ten **reliable** sources (i.e. no WIKIPEDIA)
4. Use MLA format
5. Have a clear and concise thesis
6. Contain an introduction, body, and conclusion