

Of Dust and Men

Finding U.S. History in Agriculture



QUEST 8
U.S. HISTORY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS
CURRICULUM

STUDENT EDITION

Recap
You will be going to the State Fair of Texas to check out how they handle things in the Livestock and Agriculture areas of the Fair!

STATE FAIR MAP



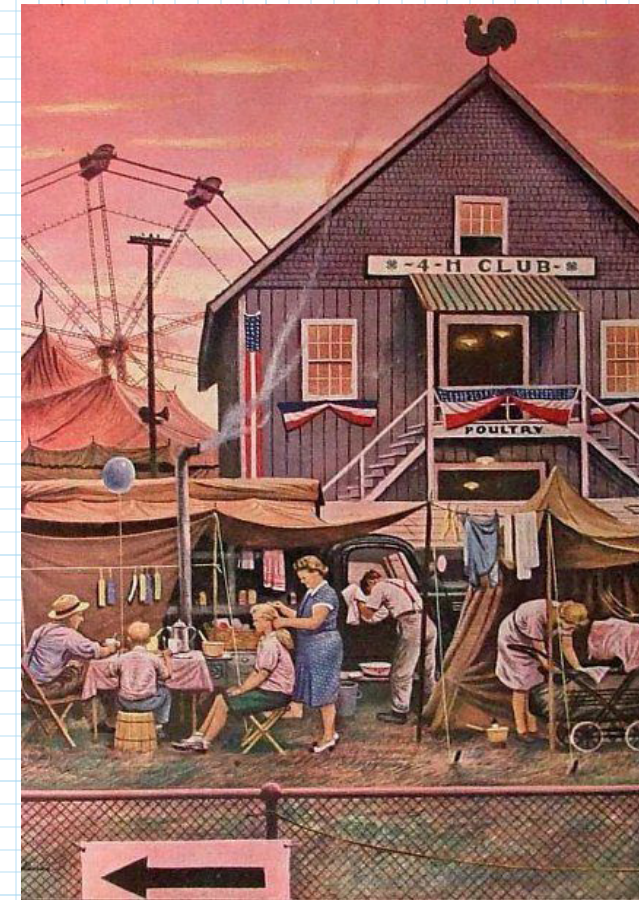
Recall from your discussions in class:

- ★ There was a cattle industry boom and also farming issues in the late 1800s. What impact did this have on the land in the Western United States?
- ★ What was the Dust Bowl?
- ★ 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?
- ★ What does the FDA do?
- ★ If you want to, you can reread 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>



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.



Source: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/d5/13/05/d51305222ddccal7ladd0208e1025b835.jpg>

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Optional Materials to Bring

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

While You're There

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

1. 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.
2. Craft a painting that reflects your vision of the State Fair.
3. Complete an argumentative research paper that argues for or against the FDA.

The objective of your visit today 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.



Back at School

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will work on your three projects. See your teachers for more information.