GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE

THE CONTROVERSY OVER COWS

GRASS FED! GRAIN FED!
Grass-Fed! Grain-Fed!
The Controversy Over Cows

Recap
★ Recall the taste test you did, with grass-fed and grain-fed beef.
★ Review the infographic below, and this article explaining how messages are presented.
★ Think about how supply and demand impact the type of beef that is sold in stores.

Plan Your Route.
★ From the Texas Star, go around the back of the Cotton Bowl stadium.
★ Go to Cattle Barn #1 and #2.
★ Find the Woofus and wave at him!
★ You will pass the Livestock Judging Pavilion, as well.
★ When you finish wandering through these barns, make your way to the Pan Am Barns on M.L. King Blvd.

Optional Materials to Bring
★ Recording Device
★ Smart Phone, Tablet
★ Sketchbook & Pencil for Arts Connection
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While You’re There
You will use information you gather at the State Fair to help you with up to two project goals:
1. Write a persuasive essay or create a digital PSA (Public Service Announcement) about the issue of grass-fed beef vs. grain-fed beef.
2. Create a Pop Art piece based on the images you see at the Fair.

Your job is to find out:
Which cattle at the fair were grass-fed and which were grain-fed?

BREEDS
• More than 18 breeds of beef cattle are represented at the Texas State Fair.

DIET
• Stop and ask the exhibitors or agriculture experts about the cattle’s diet.
• Why did they choose this particular diet?
• Using either an audio voice recorder, camera, or notepad, capture the information you learn.

TEN SAMPLES
• You need AT LEAST 10 SAMPLES!!
• As you collect your information, ask yourself, is this what I expected to find?

POP ART
• Don’t forget to notice the art and signs!
• Do you see repeated images?
• Do you see images that relate to popular culture, from the past or present?
• Is there art that represents animals?
• Write down, sketch, or take pictures of art that interests you.

Back at School
When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you’ll write your essay or PSA about what you discovered, and in Art Class, you may be creating a Pop Art piece. See your teachers for more details.

“Cow Wallpaper (Pink on Yellow)”
by Andy Warhol – warhol.org