The State Fair of Texas

Curriculum

LIVESTOCK & AGRICULTURE
GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES

HOLY COWS!
DEFINING CULTURES
Hot 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!

★ Who is tending to the animals?
★ How often are they fed?
★ What types of rituals are performed related to cleanliness and habitat?
Holy Cows!
Defining Cultures

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!