



Texas Top Ten

Audience: 3rd-5th Grade

Activity Length: 30 Minutes

TEKS:

- ELA:
 - 3rd Grade: 3.1A, 3.1D
 - 4th Grade: 4.1A, 4.1D
 - 5th Grade: 5.1A, 5.1D
- Social Studies:
 - 3rd Grade: 3.6A, 3.7C, 3.13A, 3.13D, 3.14C
 - 4th Grade: 4.4B, 4.19D, 4.21C
 - 5th Grade: 5.22A, 5.23D, 5.25C
- Science:
 - 4th Grade: 3.11A
- Math:
 - 3rd Grade: 3.1D
 - 4th Grade: 4.1D
 - 5th Grade: 5.1D

Objective:

Students will understand the economic importance of agriculture in Texas and be able to list the top ten crops and livestock grown by Texas farmers and ranchers.

Background:

Texas Top Ten deals with the economic impact of Texas Agriculture. Most Texans know our ranchers herd more cattle and farmers grow more cotton than those in any other state. Here are a few fun facts you may not know.

- Texas ranks first in the U.S. for cotton production.
- Texas is #1 in the nation in cattle, cotton, sheep and goats, mohair, and hay production.
- Texas has 172 million acres.
- Texas has approximately 1,100 different soils within its borders.

Source: A Look at Texas Agriculture from National Ag in the Classroom



Procedures:

Complete procedures are listed on the first page of the following lesson plan. Students will be completing a chart with three columns: 1st guess, 2nd guess, and the correct answer.

1st guess: completed after class discussion, either alone or with a partner

2nd guess: completed after the random page is passed out

3rd guess: completed after the data page is passed out

The impact of innovators such as Cyrus McCormick and Louis Pasteur can also be discussed with 3rd grade regarding TEKS 16A.

Cattle's importance to the impact of Texas can be used to spark a discussion about Charles Goodnight for 4th grade, TEKS 4.4B. The impact of such innovators as Eli Whitney, Cyrus McCormick, and John Deere can also be discussed in relation to Texas Agriculture for 5th grade TEKS 5.22A. TFB's videos provide real introductions to those involved in Texas agriculture.

NOTE: Texas Top Ten is adapted from National Ag in the Classroom.

Introduction to Texas Agriculture

Texas Top Ten

Objective: Students will understand the economic importance of agriculture in Texas and be able to list the top ten crops and livestock grown by Texas farmers and ranchers.

Procedure: Hand out **Texas Top Ten** chart and read directions to students. Instruct students to work with a partner to list and rank (based on cash receipts) the top ten crops and/or livestock in the column labeled "1st Guess". After students have had an appropriate amount of time ask them to tell what they listed and in what order.

Next, hand out the **Texas Top Ten** sheet that shows the top ten commodities randomly pictured on the page. Now instruct the students to rank those based on cash receipts, in the column marked "2nd Guess". Compare the two columns and discuss the differences.

Next, either have students write the correct answers in the last column as the teacher reads off the **Top Ten Texas Commodities by Market Value** sheet or hand out a copy of the sheet to each student and have them read the table and write the correct answers.



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Discuss how farmers and ranchers make their living by selling agricultural commodities they raise on their farm or ranch. Those commodities are then processed and shipped to a grocery store or other retail outlet where we purchase them as food, clothing, and other products we use every day.

Materials:

- Texas Top Ten Commodity Chart
- Texas Top Ten Random Order Page
- Texas Agricultural Cash Receipts by Commodity



Texas Top Ten

Texas farmers grow a wide variety of agricultural commodities. Let's see how many of them you know! Try to list the top ten agricultural commodities (ranked by cash receipts). They may be crops (plants) or livestock (animals).

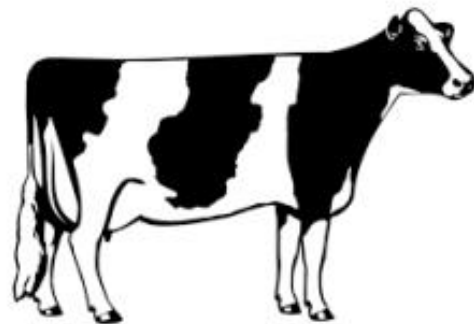


Texas Top Ten Commodities			
Rank	1 st guess	2 nd guess	Correct answer
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			



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Texas Top Ten





Top Ten Texas Commodities by Market Value

Source: Texas Department of Agriculture

1. Cattle, \$15.5 Billion
2. Poultry and Eggs, \$5 Billion
3. Dairy, \$3.5 Billion
4. Corn, \$1.6 Billion
5. Cotton, \$1.4 Billion
6. Greenhouse, \$1.2 Billion
7. Fruits, Vegetables, Tree Nuts, \$846 Million
8. Wheat, \$443 Million
9. Sorghum, \$435 Million
10. Rice, \$269 Million

