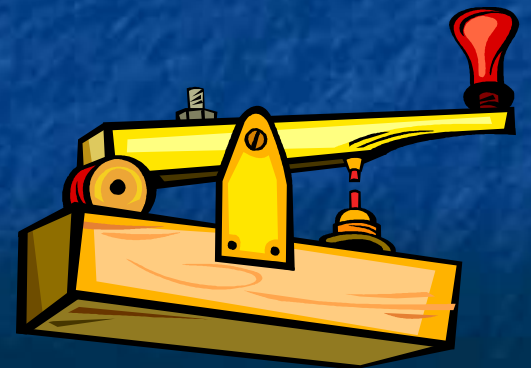


# Black Cowboys and the Cattle Trails

SS5H3a

# Invention of the telegraph

- A machine that sends electric signals over wire telegraph lines
- Samuel Morse- sent first one
- What is named after Samuel Morse?
- How did this invention help?



# Transcontinental Railroad

- How did people get out west?



# Transcontinental Railroad

- This railroad linked California to places east of the Mississippi.
- Make travel and shipping faster and easier
- Travel was safer. Why?





# Pacific Railway Act

- Stated the government could loan money to Pacific and Central Pacific to build a railroad that would go across the country
- Union Pacific hired freed slaves and Irish immigrants
- Central Pacific hired Chinese



# Effects of the railroads

- What were the effects of the railroads?
  - Safer, quicker travel
  - Easier to move goods
  - Helped settlers earn money by shipping goods to markets
  - Factories shipped clothes, tools, and other goods out West for settlers
  - Ranchers could ship cattle



# What are cattle?

Why were cattle important?

Food

Leather



Where were most cattle raised?

Texas



# Why did cattle ranchers want to get the cattle to the Northern and Eastern states?

- Texas - \$4.00 per cow
- Cattle was plentiful in Texas
- Eastern and Northern U.S. - \$40.00 per cow
- Cattle was scarce in the Eastern and Northern U.S.
- Supply and demand
- Ranchers wanted to sell their cattle where they could get the highest prices



# What is a cattle drive?

Cowhands led cattle to railroads, where the cattle were shipped to eastern and northern cities.

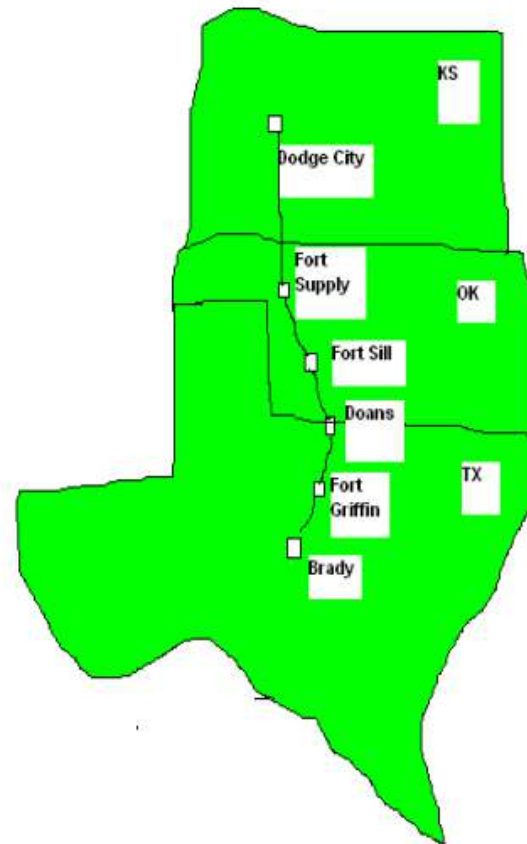
1. Led to railheads (towns where railroad tracks begin or end)
2. Cattle drives took weeks or months
3. Followed trails where water and grass were available

# What was life like for cowhands during a cattle drive?

- Hard, dangerous, boring, dirty
- A dozen cowhands had to care about 3,000 longhorns
- 10 to 14 hours a day on horseback
- Slept on the ground, took turns guarding the herd from animals and thieves.
- Dangerous stampede

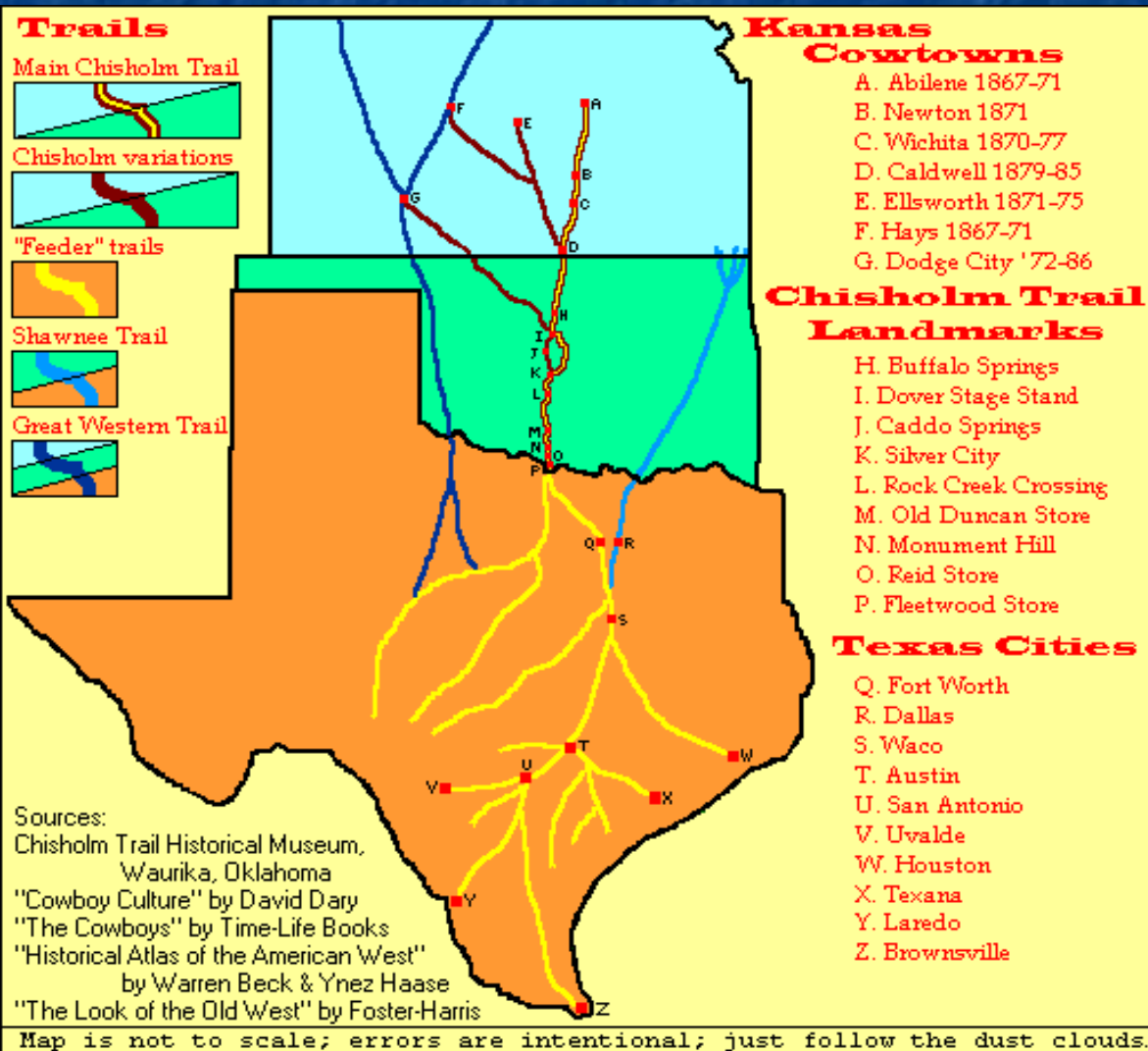
# Great Western Cattle Trail

- Ran from Bandera, Texas to Dodge City, Kansas.
- Was used to transport cattle.
- Runs parallel to the Chisholm Trail.
- Also known as the Western Trail, the Dodge City Trail, or the Old Texas Trail.





# Chisholm Trail



- A dirt trail that was used to drive cattle
- Was used to move cattle from ranches in Texas to a railheads in Kansas
- Cattlemen had many difficulties on this trail. It took them 2 months to make the trip with the cattle.
- Some of the troubles that the cattlemen had were stampedes from the cattle, attacks from local Native American tribes, crossing over rivers and streams, crossing over canyons, badlands and low mountain ranges.

# Black Cowboys

- Many African Americans chose to work as cowhands in Texas and other parts of the West because they found less discrimination on the cattle trails than they did in other places.
- Large numbers of African American cowhands worked on ranchers between the Sabine and Guadalupe Rivers in Texas
- Famous African-American cowhands include Daniel Wallace, Bill Pickett, and Nat Love (pictured in the bottom picture).



# Why did cattle drives end in the late 1800s?

- Invention of barbed wire-blocked the cattle trails
- Growth of railroads-no longer need to drive cattle hundreds of miles to reach a railhead
- Not enough grass to feed all the cattle
- Winter of 1886-1887, freezing cold temperatures killed thousands of cattle



# A Math Connection

- If a dozen cowhands had to take care of 3,000 longhorns on a cattle drive, how many cattle did each cowhand have?
- What percentage of the cattle does each cowhand have?
- If it took 8 weeks to drive a herd of longhorns 719 miles along the Chisholm Trail from San Antonio, Texas, to the Union Pacific railhead at Abilene, Kansas, how many miles did the longhorns travel per day.