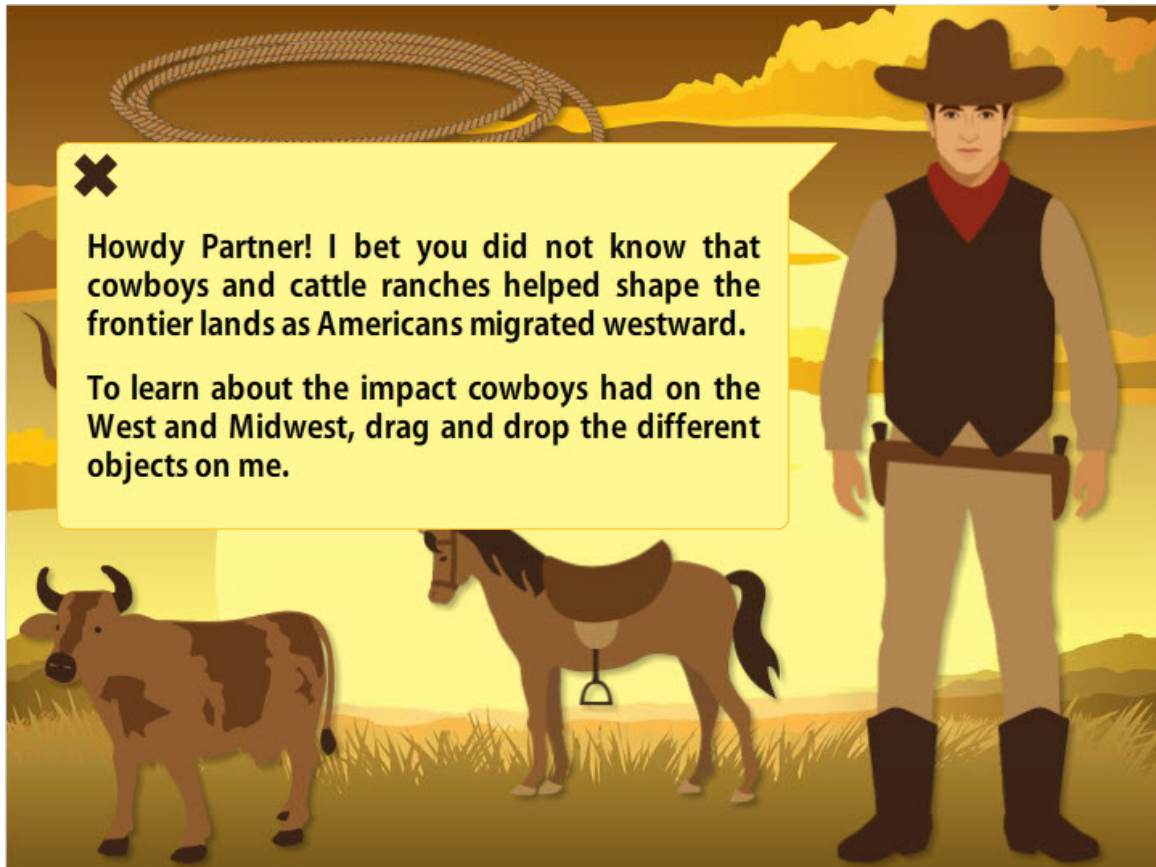


Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s

Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Introduction

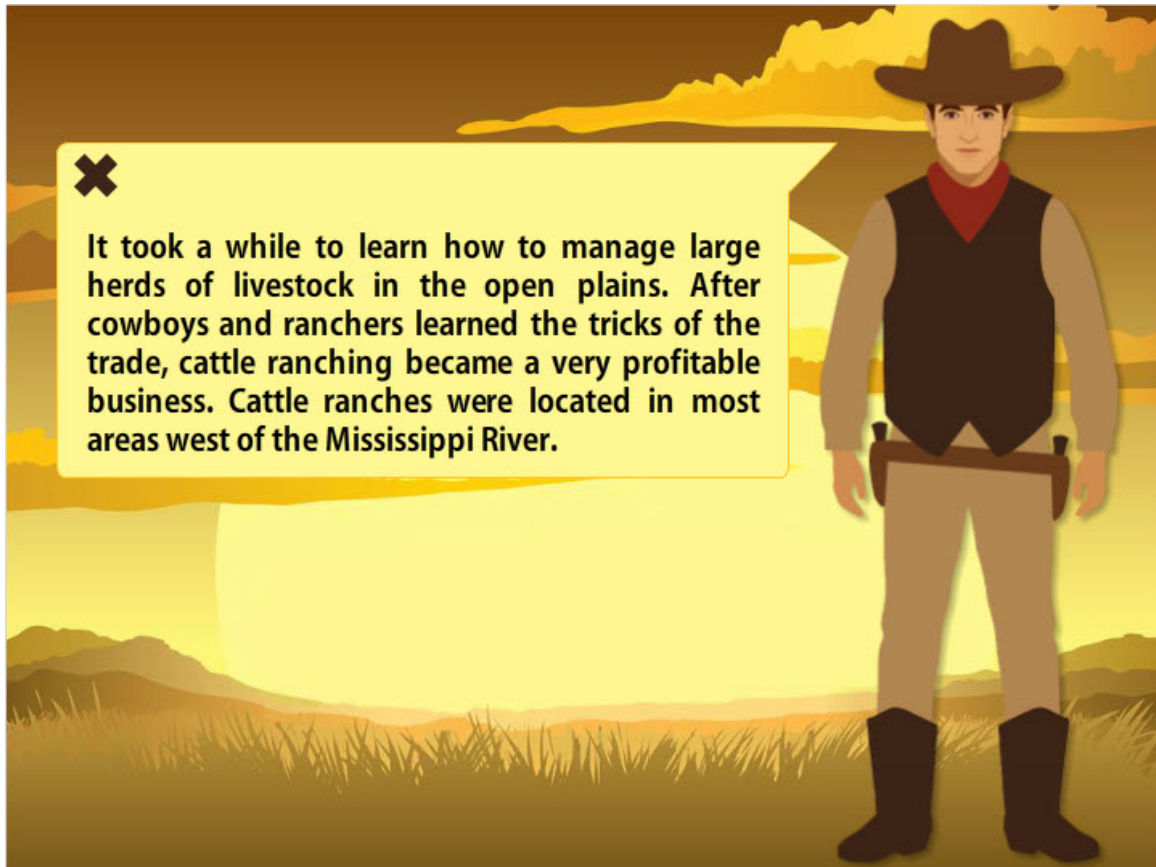


Howdy, Partner! I bet you did not know that cowboys and cattle ranches helped shape the frontier lands as Americans migrated westward. To learn about the impact cowboys had on the West and Midwest, drag and drop the different objects on me.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s

Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Cattle Ranches



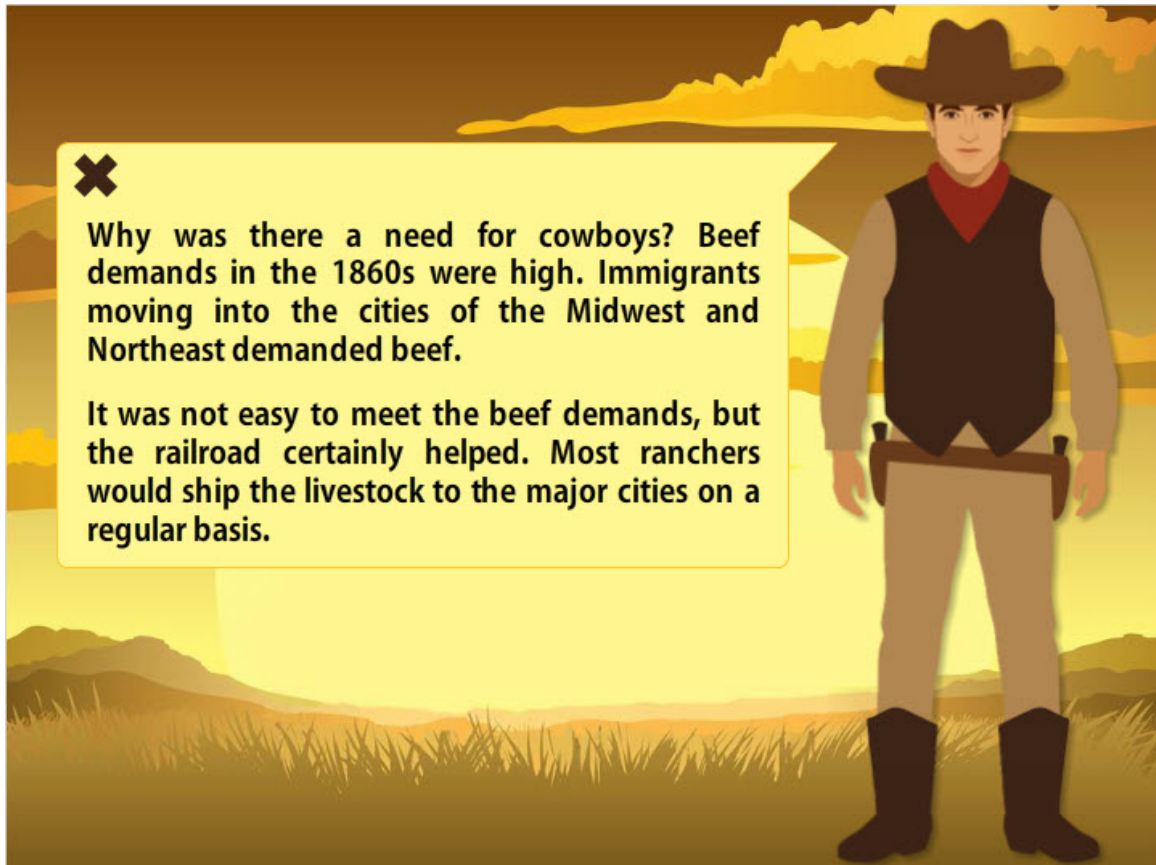
It took a while to learn how to manage large herds of livestock in the open plains. After cowboys and ranchers learned the tricks of the trade, cattle ranching became a very profitable business. Cattle ranches were located in most areas west of the Mississippi River.

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Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Beef Demands

An illustration of a cowboy standing in a field at sunset. The cowboy is wearing a brown hat, a red shirt, a black vest, tan pants, and black boots. He has a gun holstered on his hip. The background shows a golden sunset over rolling hills and a field of grass. A yellow text box with a black 'X' icon is overlaid on the left side of the image.

✘

Why was there a need for cowboys? Beef demands in the 1860s were high. Immigrants moving into the cities of the Midwest and Northeast demanded beef.

It was not easy to meet the beef demands, but the railroad certainly helped. Most ranchers would ship the livestock to the major cities on a regular basis.

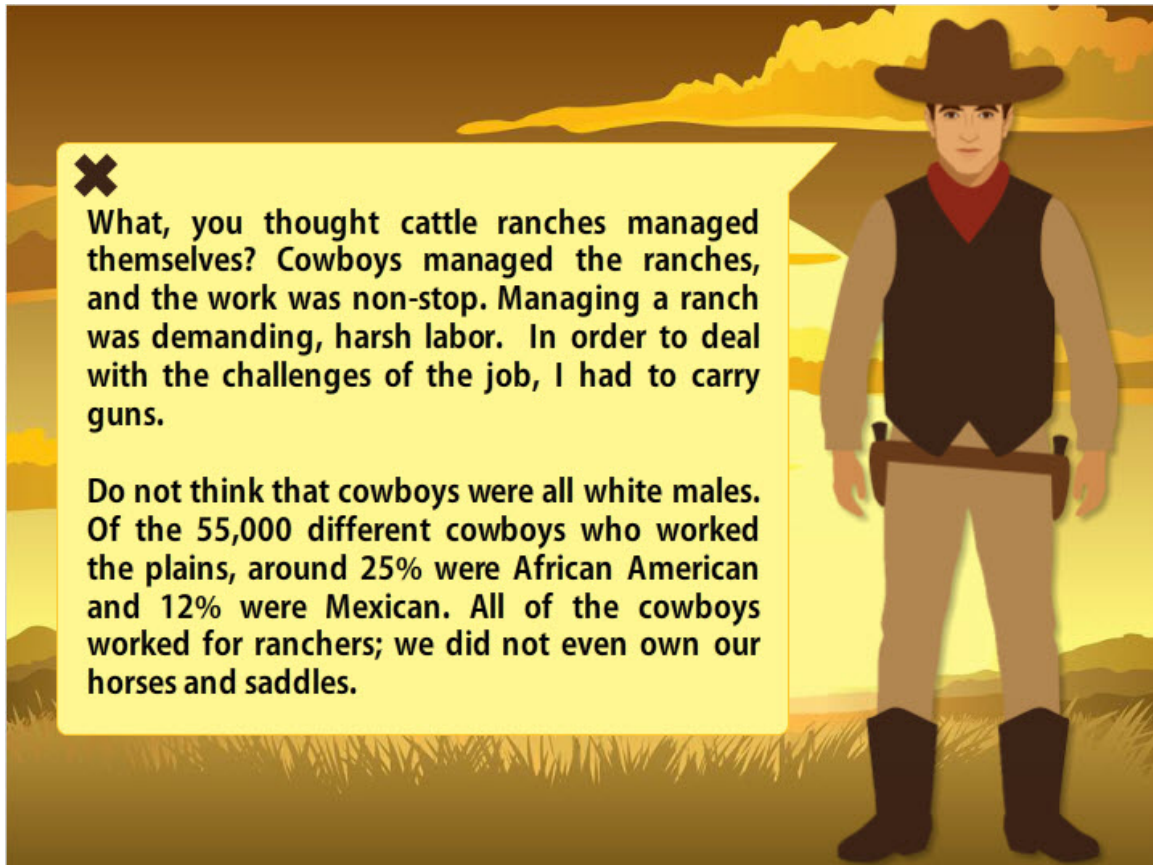
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Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s

Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Cowboys



✘

What, you thought cattle ranches managed themselves? Cowboys managed the ranches, and the work was non-stop. Managing a ranch was demanding, harsh labor. In order to deal with the challenges of the job, I had to carry guns.

Do not think that cowboys were all white males. Of the 55,000 different cowboys who worked the plains, around 25% were African American and 12% were Mexican. All of the cowboys worked for ranchers; we did not even own our horses and saddles.

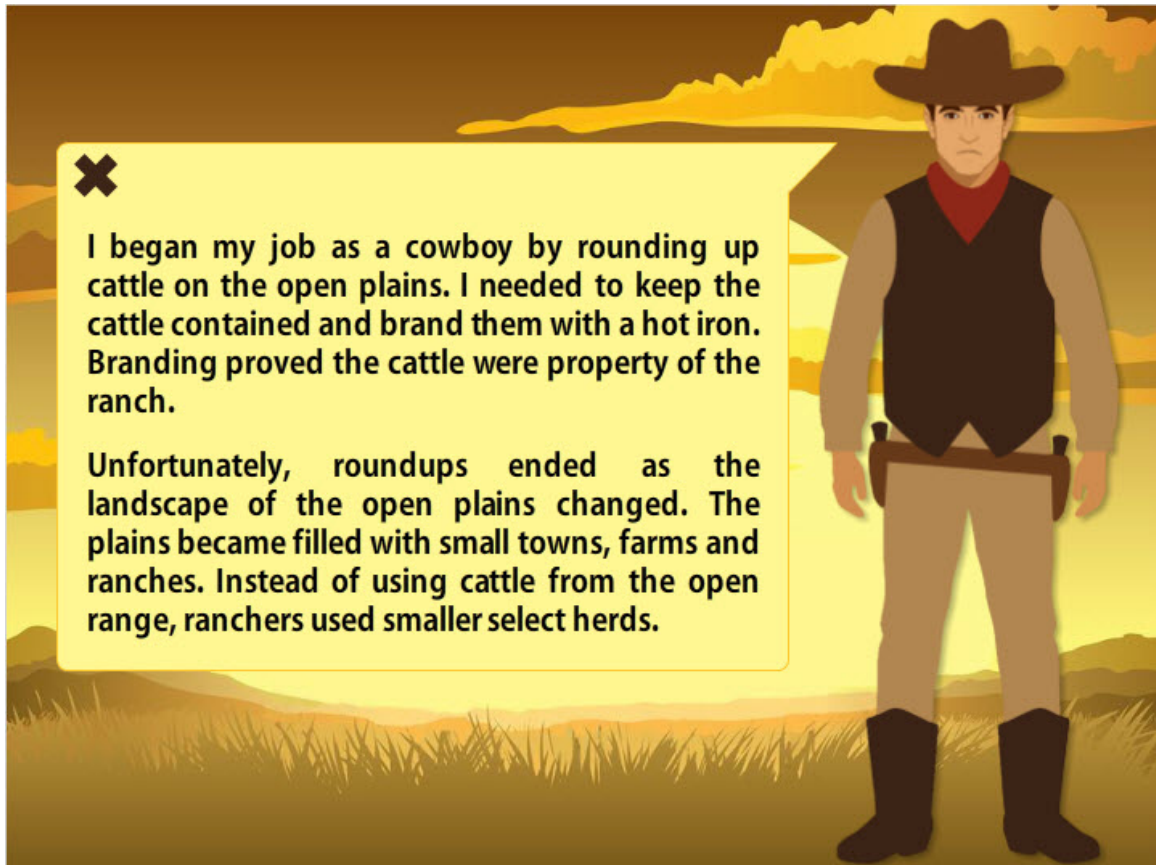
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Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Roundup



X

I began my job as a cowboy by rounding up cattle on the open plains. I needed to keep the cattle contained and brand them with a hot iron. Branding proved the cattle were property of the ranch.

Unfortunately, roundups ended as the landscape of the open plains changed. The plains became filled with small towns, farms and ranches. Instead of using cattle from the open range, ranchers used smaller select herds.

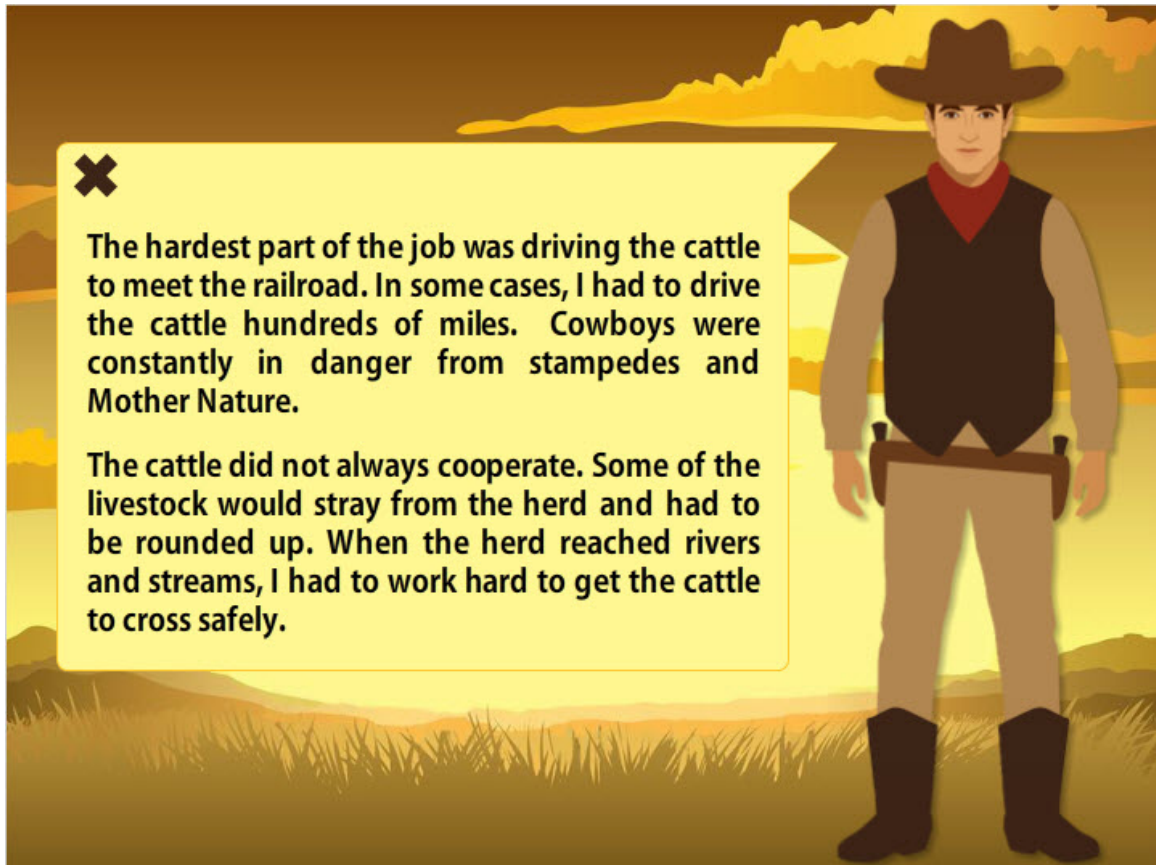
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Topic 1 Content: Cowboys and Cattle Notes

Long Drive



The hardest part of the job was driving the cattle to meet the railroad. In some cases, I had to drive the cattle hundreds of miles. Cowboys were constantly in danger from stampedes and Mother Nature.

The cattle did not always cooperate. Some of the livestock would stray from the herd and had to be rounded up. When the herd reached rivers and streams, I had to work hard to get the cattle to cross safely.

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