


UNIT
6
**Reconstruction and
Frontiers**
Reconstruction and Frontiers: Vocabulary

Experience	Word	Definition
Reconstruction in Texas	amendments	official changes to the U.S. Constitution; in this lesson, the Reconstruction Amendments ended slavery, gave citizenship, and protected voting rights
The Texas Constitution	amendment	a change added to a constitution
Cattle in Texas	barbed wire	wire with sharp points used for fencing land; it helped end the open range in Texas
The Texas Constitution	Bill of Rights	the part of the Texas Constitution that lists important rights and freedoms of the people
African American Rights During Reconstruction	Black Codes	unfair laws passed after the Civil War to control Black people's work and limit their rights
Railroads in Texas	boomtown	a town that grows very fast because of new jobs and business opportunities, such as those along railroad lines
Cattle in Texas	brand	a mark placed on cattle to show who owns them
Railroads in Texas	buffalo hides	the skins of buffalo that hunters shipped to market after railroads made buffalo hunting easier
Railroads in Texas	bypassed	left out when a railroad line did not go through a town, which could hurt that town's growth
Reconstruction in Texas	carpetbagger	a name used for a Northerner who moved to the South during Reconstruction, often with the idea that the person came to gain power or make money
The Texas Agricultural Economy	cash crop	a crop grown to sell for money, such as cotton in Texas


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Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	cattle drive	moving a large herd of cattle over land to a railroad town or market
Cattle in Texas	cattle ranching	the business of raising cattle on ranches for beef and other products in Texas
Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	cattle trail	a route used by cowboys to drive cattle across long distances to railheads
The Texas Constitution	checks and balances	the system in which each branch of government can limit the power of the other branches
Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	chuckwagon	a wagon that carried food, tools, water, and other supplies for cowboys on a cattle drive
Westward Expansion in Texas and Indigenous Nations	commercial buffalo hunting	killing buffalo to make money, which destroyed buffalo herds and harmed the way of life of Plains Native peoples
The Texas Agricultural Economy	commercial farming	the large-scale growing of crops to sell
The Texas Agricultural Economy	competition	when businesses try to attract buyers by improving products or lowering prices
The Texas Constitution	constitution	a written plan for how a government works and what rights people have
The Texas Agricultural Economy	demand	how much buyers want to purchase goods or services
Structure of the Texas State Government	district	an area of Texas that is represented by a senator or representative
Railroads in Texas	economic growth	an increase in jobs, business activity, and the production and sale of goods


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Structure of the Texas State Government	executive branch	the branch of Texas government that carries out laws; it is led by the governor
The Texas Constitution	federalism	a system in which power is shared between the national government and the state governments
Westward Expansion in Texas and Indigenous Nations	forts	military posts built by the U.S. Army to protect settlements and travel routes on the Texas frontier
The Texas Agricultural Economy	free enterprise	an economic system in which people and businesses can choose what to buy, sell, and produce
African American Rights During Reconstruction	Freedmen's Bureau	a government agency created after the Civil War to help formerly enslaved people find family members, get medical care, find jobs, and go to school
Westward Expansion in Texas and Indigenous Nations	frontier	the western edge of settlement in Texas, where settlers moved into lands used by Native peoples
Structure of the Texas State Government	judicial branch	the branch of Texas government that interprets laws and includes the courts
African American Rights During Reconstruction	Ku Klux Klan (KKK)	a hate group that used threats and violence against Black people and people who supported equal rights
Railroads in Texas	land grant	land given by the government to railroad companies to encourage them to build tracks
Structure of the Texas State Government	legislative branch	the branch of Texas government that makes laws; in Texas, it is the Texas Legislature, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives


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The Texas Constitution	limited government	the idea that government leaders must obey the law and cannot have unlimited power
Cattle in Texas	maverick	an unbranded cow that could be claimed by any rancher who caught it
Reconstruction in Texas	military districts	areas in the South that were placed under military supervision during Reconstruction; Texas was put in a district with Louisiana
Reconstruction in Texas	nullify	to cancel something; Texas had to nullify its decision to secede, or cancel its choice to leave the Union
Cattle in Texas	open range	unfenced land where cattle could roam and graze freely
African American Rights During Reconstruction	political representation	having leaders in government who speak for a group of people and work to protect their rights
Railroads in Texas	railroad boom	a time when many miles of railroad track were built across Texas very quickly
Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	railhead	the place where a railroad line ends or where cattle are loaded onto trains
Reconstruction in Texas	Radical Republicans	members of Congress who wanted the federal government to take a stronger role in Reconstruction and protect the rights of freed African Americans
Reconstruction in Texas	Reconstruction	the period after the Civil War when the South, including Texas, was rebuilt and former Confederate states had to meet requirements to rejoin the United States
Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	refrigerated cars	train cars that kept meat cold so beef could be shipped without moving live cattle
Westward Expansion in Texas	Red River War	the 1874–1875 conflict that ended with many Southern Plains Native peoples being forced onto


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and Indigenous Nations		reservations in Indian Territory
Westward Expansion in Texas and Indigenous Nations	relocation	moving people from one place to another, especially the forced movement of Native peoples to reservations
Westward Expansion in Texas and Indigenous Nations	reservation	land set aside by the U.S. government for Native peoples, often to relocate them away from their homelands
African American Rights During Reconstruction	segregation	the separation of people by race, such as Black children and white children going to different schools
The Texas Constitution	separation of powers	the system that divides government power into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial
African American Rights During Reconstruction	sharecropping	a farming system in which workers farmed land owned by someone else and received part of the crop in return
Life on the Trail: Cattle Drives	stampede	a sudden rush of frightened animals running together, which could be dangerous on a cattle drive
The Texas Agricultural Economy	supply	the amount of goods or services available to purchase
Structure of the Texas State Government	Texas Constitution	the document that sets up the Texas state government and explains how it works
Cattle in Texas	Texas longhorn	a breed of cattle created when Spanish cattle mixed with English cattle and adapted well to Texas weather and plants
Reconstruction in Texas	Union	the United States during and after the Civil War; Texas had to meet Reconstruction requirements



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		before it could rejoin the Union
Structure of the Texas State Government	veto	to reject a bill so it does not become a law
Cattle in Texas	windmill	a machine that uses wind power to pump water from underground so cattle can be raised in dry areas