

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Post-Visit Guide

Grade 7

Overview: Developing Texas

In the late 1800s, many new settlers from other southern states as well as immigrants from Germany and Mexico came to Texas. The completion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad as well as the increased population provided many land development opportunities for the Starr family. In this lesson, students will examine historical resources to explore the Starr's economic success during this period.

Social Studies TEKS

- (6) History. The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century. The student is expected to:
- (C) identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century, including the effects of the growth of railroads and the contributions of James Hogg.
- (8) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The student is expected to:
- (A) create and interpret thematic maps, graphs, charts, models, and databases representing various aspects of Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.
- (12) Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in Texas. The student is expected to:
- (A) explain how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present, through a subsistence economy and providing goods and services;
 - (B) explain how geographic factors such as climate, transportation, and natural resources have influenced the location of economic activities in Texas;
 - (E) explain how developments in transportation and communication have influenced economic activities in Texas.
- (21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:
- (A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;
 - (B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;
 - (C) organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps;
 - (F) identify bias in written, oral, and visual material.

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Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Activity resources

Historical Context

In addition to natural population growth of people already residing in Texas, Texas gained many new settlers from other southern states as well as immigrants from Germany and Mexico in the late 1800s. The population in the state of Texas increased by 91.5% in two short decades. At the turn of the century, 82.9% of that population lived in rural areas.

Frank Starr, his father James Harper Starr, and his brother Amory Starr, had long worked in land development. Their strategic move of their headquarters to Marshall, along with the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad through Marshall a few years later, would prove lucrative to their real estate business. Land agents and real estate companies made their own attempts to promote immigrant settlement in Texas by utilizing their company letterheads as an advertising opportunity.

To attract railroad companies to Texas, the state offered loans and land grants in a total estimated amount between 27,000,000 acres and 35,780,000 acres. With the millions of acres that had been given to railroad companies throughout the state, the companies themselves engaged in land sales.

Activity: KWL Chart

10 minutes

Have students complete the Starr Family Home KWL chart and share their experiences, including any new questions they have after visiting the site.

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Activity: Bigger in Texas

15 minutes

Display/distribute the **population growth** and the **railroad growth** charts.

Have students use the **population growth chart** and the formula below to calculate the percentage of growth in Texas from 1880 to 1900. (91.5%)

$$\frac{(1900 \text{ pop} - 1880 \text{ pop})}{1880 \text{ pop}} \times 100 =$$

Have students use the **railroad growth chart** to calculate how many miles of track were laid in Texas from 1875 to 1900. (8,217 miles)

Ask students to discuss the relationship between the increased presence of rail track and the population growth in Texas.

Activity: Mapping the Rails

35 minutes

Display/distribute the **T&PRR Texas map** and any enlarged images of the map.

Preview the map, including the title, key, T&PRR rail routes (thick black dotted line), and sidebar information. Ask students if they have any questions about the information on the map.

Display/distribute the **business progress resource**. Read Starr's letter aloud to the class or ask for a volunteer.

Ask students to look at the T&PRR map to answer the following questions:

- Find Marshall on the map.
 - What state and what city are located at the end of a T&PRR route just over the Texas border to the east? (*Shreveport, Louisiana*)
- Find the names of major cities that are written in bold capital letters.
 - The T&PRR connected Marshall to what five major cities? (*Texarkana, Sherman, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso del Norte*)
 -
- Find the sidebar that gives information about ticket prices.
 - How much was an emigrant ticket from St. Louis to Marshall? (*\$14.50*)
 - How much did a first class ticket from Memphis to Marshall cost? (*\$18.45*)

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- Find the sidebar that gives information about completed railroads.
 - By 1876 when this map was compiled, how many railroads had been completed in Texas? (9)
 - According to the map, how many miles of completed rails did Texas have at that time? (1,953)

Assessment

Evaluate students' work for completeness and understanding.

ELA Extension Activity: Rebranding Starr and Sons

ELA TEKS

(13) Reading/Media Literacy. Students use comprehension skills to analyze how words, images, graphics, and sounds work together in various forms to impact meaning. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts. Students are expected to:

- (C) evaluate various ways media influences and informs audiences

Display/distribute the **advertising plan** from James Harper Starr and Sons. Have students design a poster that accomplishes the Starr's advertising goals while appealing to an audience of new settlers to Texas. Discuss the role of both words and images in advertising.

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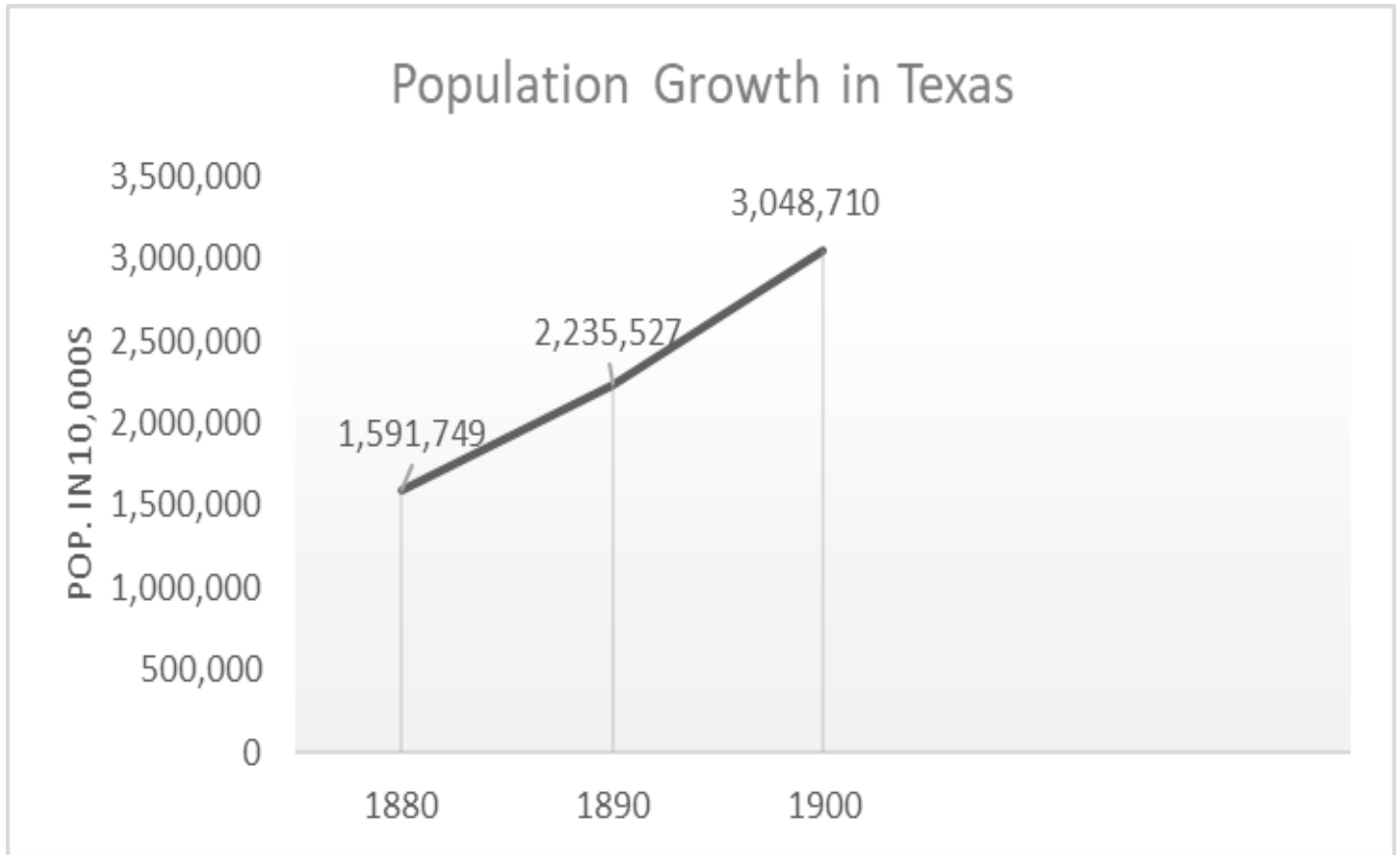
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Activity Resource: Population Growth in Texas 1800-1900



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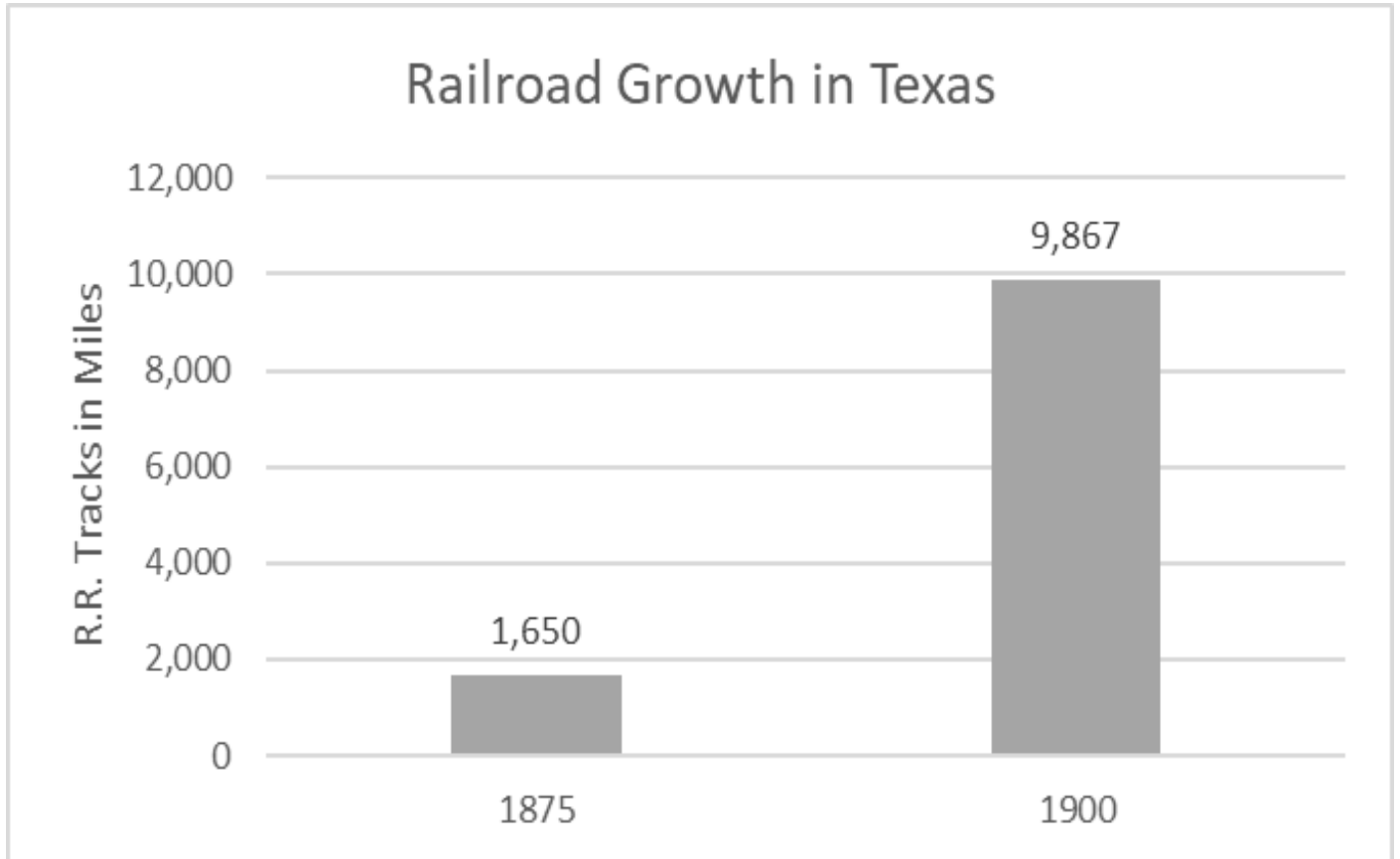
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Activity Resource: Railroad Growth in Texas 1875-1900



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Activity Resource: Business Progress, Frank Starr Letter

“Business progresses with us very well, Texas lands are steadily improving—immigrants are coming, money is more abundant, —and some day all this will result in Rail-roads—which will make rich men out of the recent bountiful supply of poor Texas land-holders.”

Letter from Frank Starr
to father-in-law, George L. Clapp
November 18, 1869

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Activity Image: Mapping the Rails

Citation: Map of Texas counties and topographical information. Also includes information on the cost of living, wages, land rent, land buyers, surveying, railroads, and railroad rates, September 1, 1876, Map Collection, East Texas Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University, <http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/EastTexRC/id/12299/rec/1> (Accessed September 26, 2018).

TEXAS, THE EMPIRE STATE of the GREAT SOUTHWEST.

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.
The initial project in Texas, and the first of the great railroads of the West, is the Texas and Pacific Railway, which is now being constructed by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company. The route of this great railway is shown on this map, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Colorado River, and from the Red River to the Pacific Ocean. The route is shown in black, and the stations are marked with dots. The map also shows the routes of other railroads, and the locations of the Texas and Pacific Railway Company's offices and depots.

Stations and Distances on the Texas and Pacific Railway.

STATIONS	Miles	Stations	Miles
Galveston	0	Wichita Springs	1062
Baytown	10	Waco	1172
Port Neches	20	Fort Worth	1282
Orange	30	Dallas	1392
Beaumont	40	Fort Worth	1502
Port Arthur	50	Fort Worth	1612
Galveston	60	Fort Worth	1722
Galveston	70	Fort Worth	1832
Galveston	80	Fort Worth	1942
Galveston	90	Fort Worth	2052
Galveston	100	Fort Worth	2162
Galveston	110	Fort Worth	2272
Galveston	120	Fort Worth	2382
Galveston	130	Fort Worth	2492
Galveston	140	Fort Worth	2602
Galveston	150	Fort Worth	2712
Galveston	160	Fort Worth	2822
Galveston	170	Fort Worth	2932
Galveston	180	Fort Worth	3042
Galveston	190	Fort Worth	3152
Galveston	200	Fort Worth	3262
Galveston	210	Fort Worth	3372
Galveston	220	Fort Worth	3482
Galveston	230	Fort Worth	3592
Galveston	240	Fort Worth	3702
Galveston	250	Fort Worth	3812
Galveston	260	Fort Worth	3922
Galveston	270	Fort Worth	4032
Galveston	280	Fort Worth	4142
Galveston	290	Fort Worth	4252
Galveston	300	Fort Worth	4362
Galveston	310	Fort Worth	4472
Galveston	320	Fort Worth	4582
Galveston	330	Fort Worth	4692
Galveston	340	Fort Worth	4802
Galveston	350	Fort Worth	4912
Galveston	360	Fort Worth	5022
Galveston	370	Fort Worth	5132
Galveston	380	Fort Worth	5242
Galveston	390	Fort Worth	5352
Galveston	400	Fort Worth	5462
Galveston	410	Fort Worth	5572
Galveston	420	Fort Worth	5682
Galveston	430	Fort Worth	5792
Galveston	440	Fort Worth	5902
Galveston	450	Fort Worth	6012
Galveston	460	Fort Worth	6122
Galveston	470	Fort Worth	6232
Galveston	480	Fort Worth	6342
Galveston	490	Fort Worth	6452
Galveston	500	Fort Worth	6562
Galveston	510	Fort Worth	6672
Galveston	520	Fort Worth	6782
Galveston	530	Fort Worth	6892
Galveston	540	Fort Worth	7002
Galveston	550	Fort Worth	7112
Galveston	560	Fort Worth	7222
Galveston	570	Fort Worth	7332
Galveston	580	Fort Worth	7442
Galveston	590	Fort Worth	7552
Galveston	600	Fort Worth	7662
Galveston	610	Fort Worth	7772
Galveston	620	Fort Worth	7882
Galveston	630	Fort Worth	7992
Galveston	640	Fort Worth	8102
Galveston	650	Fort Worth	8212
Galveston	660	Fort Worth	8322
Galveston	670	Fort Worth	8432
Galveston	680	Fort Worth	8542
Galveston	690	Fort Worth	8652
Galveston	700	Fort Worth	8762
Galveston	710	Fort Worth	8872
Galveston	720	Fort Worth	8982
Galveston	730	Fort Worth	9092
Galveston	740	Fort Worth	9202
Galveston	750	Fort Worth	9312
Galveston	760	Fort Worth	9422
Galveston	770	Fort Worth	9532
Galveston	780	Fort Worth	9642
Galveston	790	Fort Worth	9752
Galveston	800	Fort Worth	9862
Galveston	810	Fort Worth	9972
Galveston	820	Fort Worth	10082

Advantages Claimed for Texas over any other Section.

1. **Climate:** The climate of Texas is the most healthy and comfortable in the world. It is neither too hot nor too cold, and it is free from the diseases and epidemics that are so common in other parts of the world.

2. **Land:** The land of Texas is the most fertile and productive in the world. It is covered with a rich soil, and it is watered by the great rivers of the West. The land is also free from the diseases and epidemics that are so common in other parts of the world.

3. **Resources:** Texas is rich in natural resources. It has the largest deposits of cotton, wheat, and other agricultural products in the world. It also has the largest deposits of oil, gas, and other minerals in the world.

4. **Transportation:** Texas is the most accessible part of the world. It is connected to all parts of the world by the great railroads of the West. It is also connected to all parts of the world by the great rivers of the West.

5. **Government:** The government of Texas is the most efficient and economical in the world. It is free from the corruption and waste that are so common in other parts of the world.

6. **Population:** The population of Texas is the most numerous and most energetic in the world. It is free from the diseases and epidemics that are so common in other parts of the world.

7. **Future:** The future of Texas is the most bright and most promising in the world. It is free from the diseases and epidemics that are so common in other parts of the world.

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Activity Resource: Rebranding Starr and Sons

We have to trouble you with another advertising job we wish to get up some framed notices - the text of which we enclose - The size can be about the same as the piece of paper on which we have written the text. It should be printed nicely some coloring so as to make it a nice and attractive - all type to be clear & distinct. No fancy lettering that a country fellow could not read - the words "Texas Lands" and "1,000,000 acres" should be in plain large type - as large as the size of the notice will admit of - the balance of the text can be in much smaller type - the words "90 Counties" might be of about 1/2 the size of the large type in the "Texas Lands" - We would like to have about 25 frames with Glass, - and the number of the printed boards might be greater - say fifty more, if the additional fifty do not add much to the cost - We could invest in this matter - say about Seventy-five dollars - if that am't be necessary. - I have but little idea how much such a job would cost. - We intend to screw them up on all the passenger steamboats running to Shreveport and Jefferson also in Rail Road depots and Hotels on the lines of travel to this part of Texas. - Also we think we can get them up on the passenger cars on this Railroad. Please have the frames made to your own idea. I suppose they should be as plain as will suit - to save cost.

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