

TEXAS HISTORY TOP TEN: Cattle

The Bullock Texas State History Museum's website is filled with artifacts, oral histories, highlights from curators, and interesting stories. The Texas History Top Ten tool is perfect if you only have a short amount of time, want a broad overview, or want to find hidden gems about a particular topic. Use this lists to help expand your content knowledge while planning classroom lessons for your students, or send your students on assignment to explore the Top Ten lists on their own.

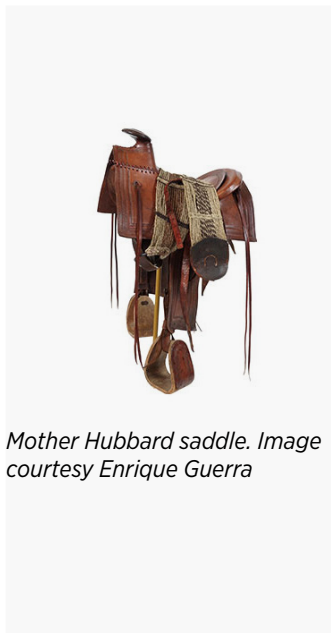
Cattle

The history of Texas cattle ranching is intertwined with the history of the state itself. From the earliest Spanish vaqueros to modern cowboys, ranchers have shaped the social, economic, and political identity of Texas since the 15th century.

- 1. [Cattle drive authorization letters](#)**
Letters authorizing the first cattle drive from Texas to help with the American Revolution
- 2. [Barbed wire](#)**
Five varieties of early barbed wire, "the fence that ended the open range"
- 3. [Rodeo sculpture](#)**
Sculpture of rodeo legend Bill Pickett, the cowboy credited with inventing steer wrestling, called bulldogging
- 4. [Rodeo equipment](#)**
Equipment of bull rider Myrtis Dightman, the first African American to compete in the National Finals Rodeo
- 5. [Cattle brand quilt](#)**
Frances Punchard made this cattle brand quilt which includes brands from 29 Texas ranches



Myrtis Dightman Bull riding rope and bells. Image courtesy Myrtis Dightman Jr., Houston



Mother Hubbard saddle. Image courtesy Enrique Guerra

- 6. [Mother Hubbard saddle](#)**
The saddle of choice for American cowboys, a lighter version of the saddle favored by the vaqueros
- 7. [Vaqueros and Cattle Ranchers Campfire Stories](#)**
Hover over the characters and select "Vaqueros" (explore the stories), then come back to the mosaic and select "Cattle Ranchers" to see stories from vaqueros on horseback to cowboys in pickups
- 8. [Rodeo! The Exhibition](#)**
With this past exhibition, explore the origins of Texas rodeos and stock shows and what makes them an integral part of Texas history
- 9. [Chronology of Vaqueros and Cattle Folk](#)**
Select the "Vaqueros" and "Cattle Folk" icons on the timeline (unselect "Texas History Timeline") to trace the chronology of cattle in Texas
- 10. [Oldest continuous celebration in Texas](#)**
The annual Doans Picnic honors the pioneers who settled the area during the time of the cattle drives

Types of Resources

The Bullock Museum has a diversity of resources and voices to tell the many Stories of Texas. While using the Texas History Top Ten, explore a variety of tools:

Artifacts

Get an up-close look at the artifacts the Museum has displayed, and learn about their importance in Texas history. *View the full Artifact Gallery [here](#).*

Campfire Stories

Using the mosaic embedded in the Museum's floor, interact with Texans from the past gathered around a campfire to share their stories. Discover how people shape Texas's past and future. *View the mosaic [here](#).*

Special Exhibitions and Events

Explore some of the stories and artifacts from the Bullock Museum's past temporary exhibitions and special events focusing on unique aspects of Texas history. *View all past special exhibitions [here](#).*

Texas History Timeline

Use the interactive timeline tool to mix and match different events and stories to see how they line up in the chronology of Texas history. *View the full timeline [here](#).*

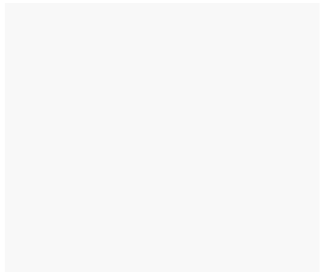
Texas Story Project

Read oral history stories submitted by diverse Texans about their connections to the past. The Texas Story Project is best for finding stories that you wouldn't find in textbooks, like family stories and Texas folklore, and are generally not written by professional historians. *View the full Texas Story Project [here](#).*

Assorted Resources

Watch videos or participate in an [interactive distance learning program](#).

New Top Ten lists will be added over time to round out the full scope of the Texas History curriculum, so keep returning to the [website](#) for updates. Looking for more resources on these topics beyond the Top Ten, or curious how other teachers have used what is found on these lists? [Email Education@TheStoryofTexas.com](mailto:Email.Education@TheStoryofTexas.com).



Discover the AT-6A "Texan" Airplane in the Artifact Gallery

