



ACTIVITY 6

Weather on the Ranch



RANCH LIFE SERIES / BOOK 1 / RANCHING AND LIVESTOCK

Chapter 5

Content Area

Science

Topic

Weather

Objective

Students will observe the cause and effect of weather on the ranch.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

K.10B, 1.10D, 2.10B, 3.10A





Weather on the Ranch

CONTENT AREA: Science

TOPIC: Weather

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- SECURITY BRIEFING (page A6-2): 1 per student or student group
- WEATHER ON THE RANCH - ORGANIZER (page A6-5): 1 set per student or student group
- WEATHER ON THE RANCH - TEACHER KEY (page A6-6): 1 set per student or student group
- Pencil or pen
- THE BOTTOM LINE (page A6-6): 1 per student or student group

READING STRATEGY:

Students will read Chapter 5 (pages 23-28) as they complete the activity below.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each student (or student group) will receive a WEATHER ON THE RANCH - ORGANIZER to fill out.
2. As they read through the chapter, students will identify and notate on their organizer how different types of weather affect every day life on the ranch. (A few answers have been provided, as not all answers to the questions can be found in Chapter 5.)
3. Teachers will use the WEATHER ON THE RANCH - TEACHER KEY to check student work.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

- Have students (or student groups) complete THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the activity.

Weather on the Ranch



SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

*It's me again, Hank the Cowdog. The **weather** outside is rumblin' and I remembered I hadn't told you anything about weather on the ranch! As the Head of Security, I must be on constant alert when it comes to weather here on the ranch. It is my job to bark and alert Loper when the weather starts to get rowdy.*

Let me explain...

*When I hear **thunder** it could mean **lightning strikes**, **hail stones**, or a **Texas twister (tornado)**. When the **temperature** drops to **freezing**, I can't snuggle up to a fire. I am on high alert for a **snow storm** or even a **blizzard**! The weather on a ranch can damage property or cause harm to the **plants and animals**.*

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Chapter 5
2. As you read, write down the observations I describe onto the **WEATHER ON THE RANCH - ORGANIZER**.

WRAP UP:

Fill out **THE BOTTOM LINE** worksheet after you have completed the activity.

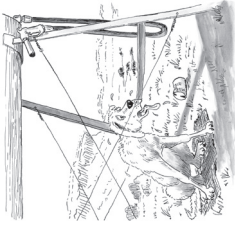
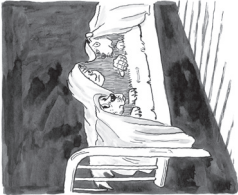






NAME: _____

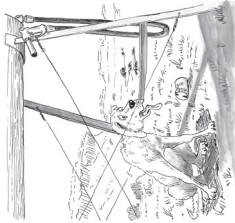
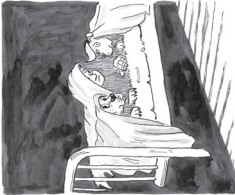
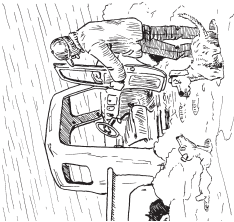
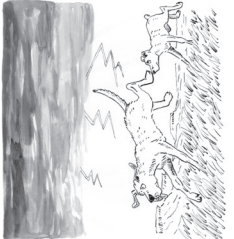
DATE: _____

The Weather on Hank the Cowdog's Ranch

TYPE OF WEATHER	OBSERVATIONS	CAUSE OF WEATHER	AFFECT OF WEATHER ON THE RANCH
 DROUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cracks in the ground Grass turns brown and stops growing Hot, dry winds 	<p>Prolonged periods with no rain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife struggles to find water Cows produce less milk for their young Producers will die Natural water sources dry up
 HAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass gets beat down 	<p>Strong updrafts and cloud temperatures below 0°C cause hail to form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle have to be moved to other pastures Food might have to be supplemented with hay or cow cake
 SNOW & BLIZZARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snow piles up in drifts Fence posts, roads and equipment can be covered with snow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds during a snow storm cause drifts Temperatures below 0°C cause precipitation to freeze and fall as snow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranchers can't move between pastures to feed cattle Cattle can starve to death in this weather
 LIGHTNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clouds build up, but instead of rain, they deliver lightning 	<p>Dry air</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass fires Cattle can't eat burned grass Wind can carry grass fires for miles

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

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 <p>DROUGHT</p>			
 <p>HAIL</p>		Strong updrafts and cloud temperatures below 0°C cause hail to form.	
 <p>SNOW & BLIZZARDS</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High winds during a snow storm cause drifts • Temperatures below 0°C cause precipitation to freeze and fall as snow 	
 <p>LIGHTNING</p>			

Weather on the Ranch



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

THE BOTTOM LINE

The weather on the ranch can cause a lot of damage to *plants* and *animals*. Predict what would happen in each of the events below.

Answer the questions below:

1. During a blizzard on the ranch snow drifts covered the fences and roads to the pastures. How would this event affect the ranch?
2. After 6 months of no rain the air is dry and warm on the ranch. In the distance there are storm clouds building up. What weather might result from the storm clouds? (There are different possibilities)
3. During a drought what might happen if a West Texas wind storm hit the ranch?
4. How does weather affect your life?
How does it change your activities?

