MAGOFFIN HOME
STATE HISTORIC SITE
El Paso, Texas

Post-Visit Guide Grade 4

Overview: All Aboard for El Paso

In this lesson, students will analyze primary sources to understand the role of the railroad in El Paso's rapid population growth in the late 19th century.

Social Studies TEKS

(4) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in Texas during the last half of the 19th century. The student is expected to:

(C) identify the impact of railroads on life in Texas, including changes to cities and major industries.

(8) Geography. The student understands the location and patterns of settlement and the geographic factors that influence where people live. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and explain clusters and patterns of settlement in Texas at different time periods such as prior to the Texas Revolution, after the building of the railroads, and following World War II.

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired 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; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and 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 in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Activity resources

Vocabulary

- **development:** the act of creating something over time; causing something to grow and improve
- **investor:** someone who supports a project with money in order to make money for themselves
- **population:** the entire number of people living in a country or area

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Historical Context

When the Magoffins lived in El Paso, the city experienced a tremendous boom. Brought on by the development of area railroads from 1881-1893, El Paso was transformed from a sleepy southwestern town into a bustling modern city with a booming population and industry. Between 1880 and 1890, the population grew by more than ten times. By 1920, it had boomed to over 100 times the number of people as had lived there in 1880. The railways brought people, goods, and money to and through El Paso from all around the United States and Mexico.

The Magoffins experienced this rapidly changing El Paso firsthand. They were not only citizens of El Paso, but more importantly, leaders in its growth Joseph was elected mayor four times between 1880 and 1900, and Octavia was well known in El Paso society for her charitable works.

Joseph Magoffin won his first race for mayor of the city of El Paso in 1881. In that same year, he co-founded the State National Bank in El Paso with two gentlemen who were also investors in the Texas & Pacific Railway. Joseph was an active promoter of the railroads. In in a letter to her daughter Josephine in December of 1890, Octavia wrote,

"Your Papa left this morning for Denver...Judge Davis went with him, they are to meet some Rail Road officials [and] try [and] get the White Oaks R.R. built. They will return on Sunday."

Activity: Magoffin Home Visit

5 minutes

Ask students to reflect on their visit to the Magoffin Home by completing all columns of their **KWL chart**. Have students share their experiences including any new questions raised by the visit.

Activity: El Paso Population Growth

10 minutes

Distribute/display the **El Paso Population Growth graph chart**.

Review the concept of *cause and effect*. As a class, have students examine the graph and answer these questions:

- What is the title of this graph? [El Paso Population Growth]
- What are the *x* and *y* axis labels? [x= Years, y= Pop. in 10,000s]
- How many total years does this graph cover? [40]
- By how many people did the population increase from 1880-1920? [76,824]
- About what year does the star mark on the chart? [approx. 1883]
- What was happening in El Paso at that time? [construction and development of the railroad]
- What cause and effect does this graph represent? [cause= construction and development of the railroad, effect= major growth in population]

Primary Source Activity: All Aboard for El Paso

25 minutes

Tell students that they will be using primary sources to investigate the growth and operation of the railroad in El Paso during the late 1800s, a time of extreme growth in the city.

Divide the class into pairs or small groups. Distribute the **All Aboard primary source materials** and the accompanying **worksheet**. If possible, provide or project an enlarged image of the 1883 railroad system map for closer inspection.

Share responses after the activity is complete and check for accuracy. Ask students what additional questions the investigation raised about railroads, El Paso, or the use of primary source documents.

Answer Key:

1. *Galveston News*, September 1, 1883
2. New Mexico, Louisiana
3. Mexico
4. Gulf of Mexico
5. Railroad Construction in the United States (top left), List of Railroad Towns in Texas (bottom left)
6. Southern Pacific
7. 1285 miles
8. mountains
9. Texas and Pacific
10. Texarkana, Dallas, Fort Worth
11. Texas and Pacific
12. City ticket office at corner of old Central Hotel
13. Pullman cars, buffets and sleepers
14. 120,000
15. Answers will vary.

ELA Extension Activity: Riding the Rails

ELA TEKS

(18) Writing/Expository and Procedural Texts. Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students are expected to:

(A) create brief compositions that:

(i) establish a central idea in a topic sentence;

(ii) include supporting sentences with simple facts, details, and explanations; and

(iii) contain a concluding statement.

(B) write letters whose language is tailored to the audience and purpose (e.g., a thank you note to a friend) and that use appropriate conventions (e.g., date, salutation, closing).

(19) Writing/Persuasive Texts. Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues. Students are expected to write persuasive essays for appropriate audiences that establish a position and use supporting details.

Tell students to imagine that they are living in El Paso in the 1880s. Have them write a letter to a friend in another Texas city, highlighting the exciting growth and improvements in El Paso. The goal of the letter is to persuade their friend to hop on the next train and ride the rails to El Paso for a visit. Their letter must include supporting details and facts learned from lessons and their visit to the Magoffin Home.

For an additional extension, students may create illustrated tourism posters to promote 1880s El Paso as a popular stop on the Texas & Pacific Railway. Host a competition for the best, most persuasive posters.

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Resource Image: Union Depot in El Paso

Union Depot in El Paso
Citation: [Train Depot in El Paso, Texas], Photograph, Date unknown. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting The Grace Museum, texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth822606/. (Accessed July 15, 2017).

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Resource Image: Pullman Palace sleeping car

Carleton Watkins (American, 1829 - 1916) *Pullman Palace Sleeping Car (Interior)*, 1870 - 1875, Albumen silver print
12.9 x 8.6 cm (5 1/16 x 3 3/8 in.) The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

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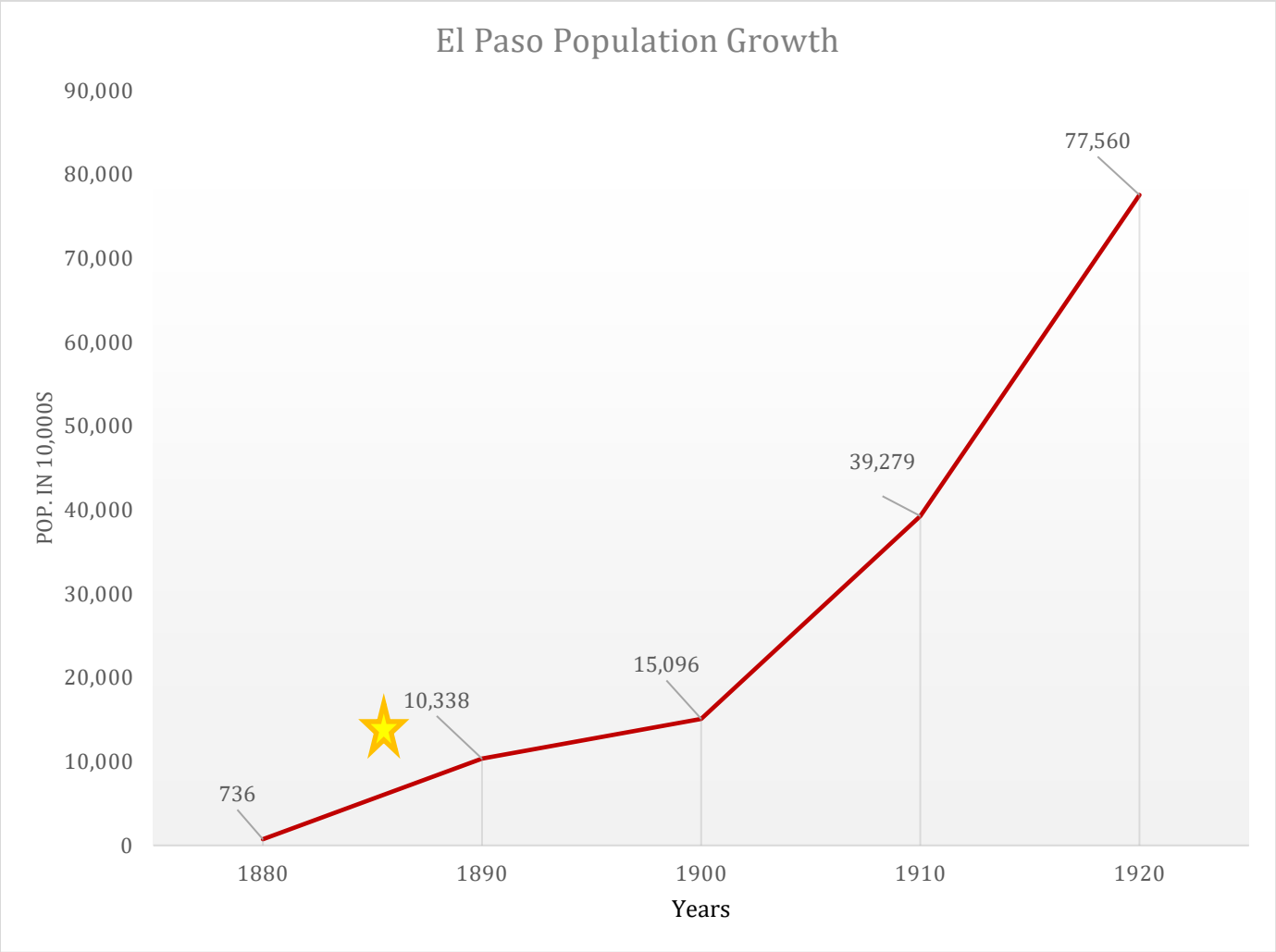
Activity Image: El Paso Population Growth Graph

Population data from the *Texas Almanac*, available online at http://texasalmanac.com/sites/default/files/images/CityPopHist%20web.pdf.



Arrival of railroad in El Paso

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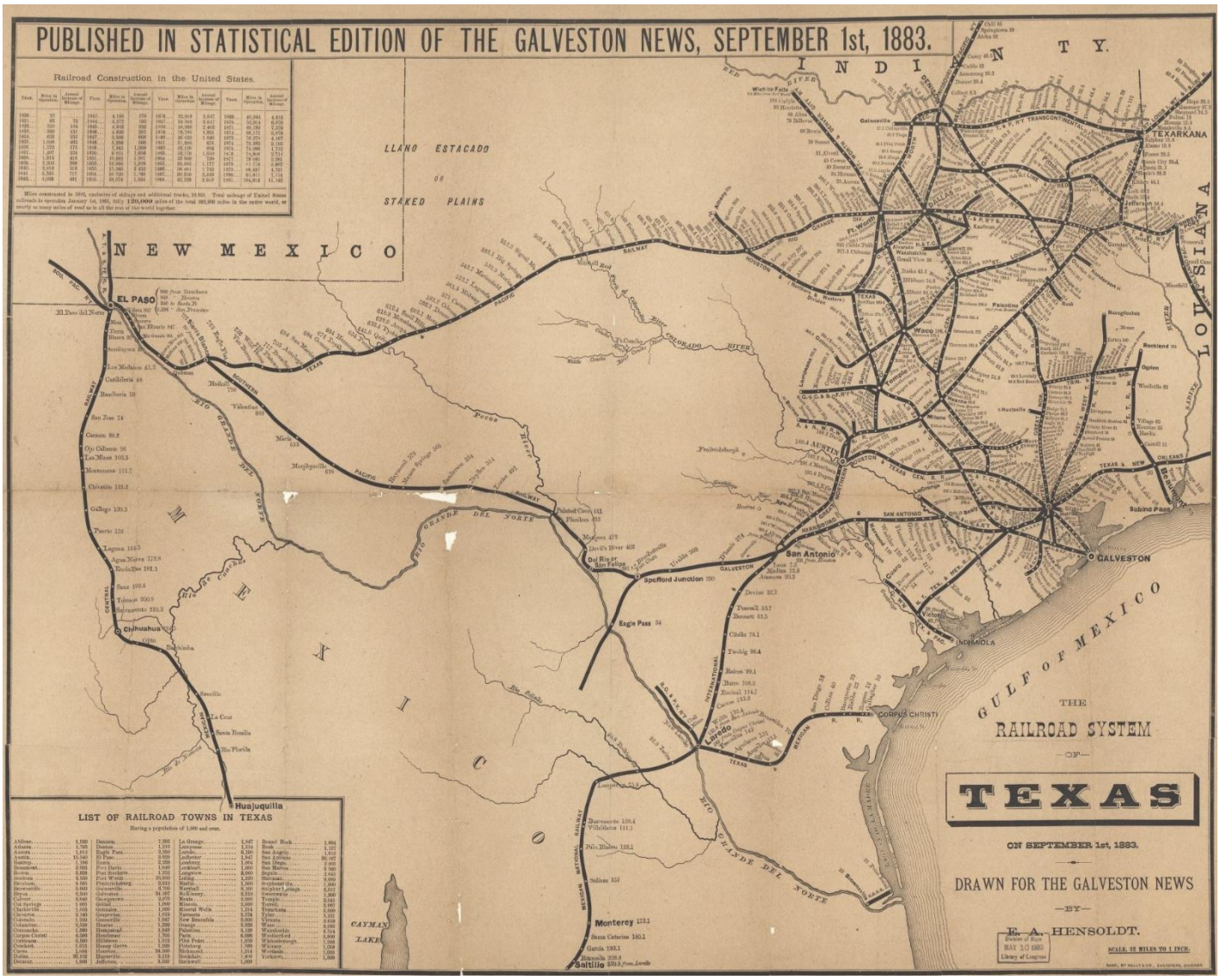
Primary Source Activity Image: Texas Railroad System Map, 1883

Hensoldt, E. A, and Rand McNally and Company. *The railroad system of Texas on September 1st, 1883*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., engravers, 1883. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2001622093/. (Accessed July 25, 2017).



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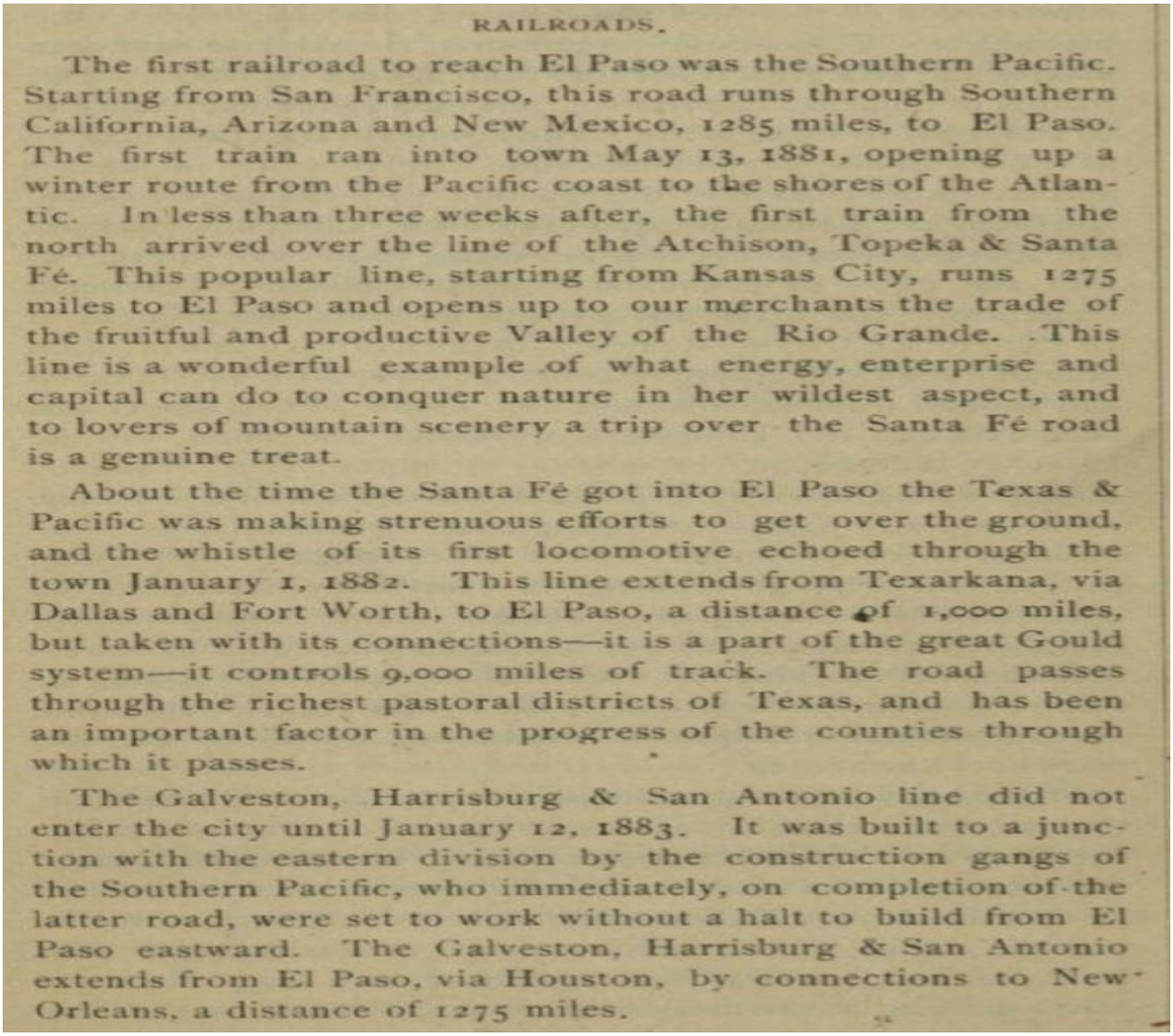
Primary Source Activity Image: Mexico Business Directory, 1885

[El Paso, Texas and Paso del Norte, Mexico Business Directory for 1885], Book, 1885. University of North Texas Libraries, *The Portal to Texas History*, texashistory.unt.edu, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth213965/m1/7/. (Accessed July 15, 2017).



RAILROADS.

The first railroad to reach El Paso was the Southern Pacific. Starting from San Francisco, this road runs through Southern California, Arizona and New Mexico, 1285 miles, to El Paso. The first train ran into town May 13, 1881, opening up a winter route from the Pacific coast to the shores of the Atlantic. In less than three weeks after, the first train from the north arrived over the line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé. This popular line, starting from Kansas City, runs 1275 miles to El Paso and opens up to our merchants the trade of the fruitful and productive Valley of the Rio Grande. This line is a wonderful example of what energy, enterprise and capital can do to conquer nature in her wildest aspect, and to lovers of mountain scenery a trip over the Santa Fé road is a genuine treat.

About the time the Santa Fé got into El Paso the Texas & Pacific was making strenuous efforts to get over the ground, and the whistle of its first locomotive echoed through the town January 1, 1882. This line extends from Texarkana, via Dallas and Fort Worth, to El Paso, a distance of 1,000 miles, but taken with its connections—it is a part of the great Gould system—it controls 9,000 miles of track. The road passes through the richest pastoral districts of Texas, and has been an important factor in the progress of the counties through which it passes.

The Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio line did not enter the city until January 12, 1883. It was built to a junction with the eastern division by the construction gangs of the Southern Pacific, who immediately, on completion of the latter road, were set to work without a halt to build from El Paso eastward. The Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio extends from El Paso, via Houston, by connections to New Orleans, a distance of 1275 miles.

Primary Source Activity Image: El Paso Daily Times, 1885

El Paso Daily Times. (El Paso, Tex.), Vol. 5, No. 173, Ed. 1 Thursday, November 19, 1885, Newspaper. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth502599/m1/2/. (Accessed July 15, 2017).

Atchison. Topeka & Santa Fe R. R.

City Ticket Office at corner of old Central Hotel.

Has the best Eating Houses, best track and cars of any other line out of El Paso.,

ALWAYS ON TIME.

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ELEGANT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ALL CLASSES OF TRAVEL TO

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AND ALL POINTS

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B. J. MCQUIN, Local Agent, El Paso

Texas and Pacific Railway.

CITY OFFICE - OLD CENTRAL HOTEL.

THE SHORTEST ROUTE

FROM EL PASO TO GALVESTON, NEW ORLEANS, ST LOUIS, ANI ALL EASTERN POINTS.

One Change of Cars between El Paso and New York, Philadelphia, Washington and all other Principal Eastern Cities.

SOLID TRAINS RUN THROUGH TO ST. LOUIS WITH PULLMAN BUFFET CARS. TDROUGH SLEEPERS TO NEW ORLEANS.

Rates as Low as any Other Line.

GO EAST VIA THE POPULAR ROUTE. FOR INFORMATION AS TO RATES, Etc., CALL ON OR ADDRESS,

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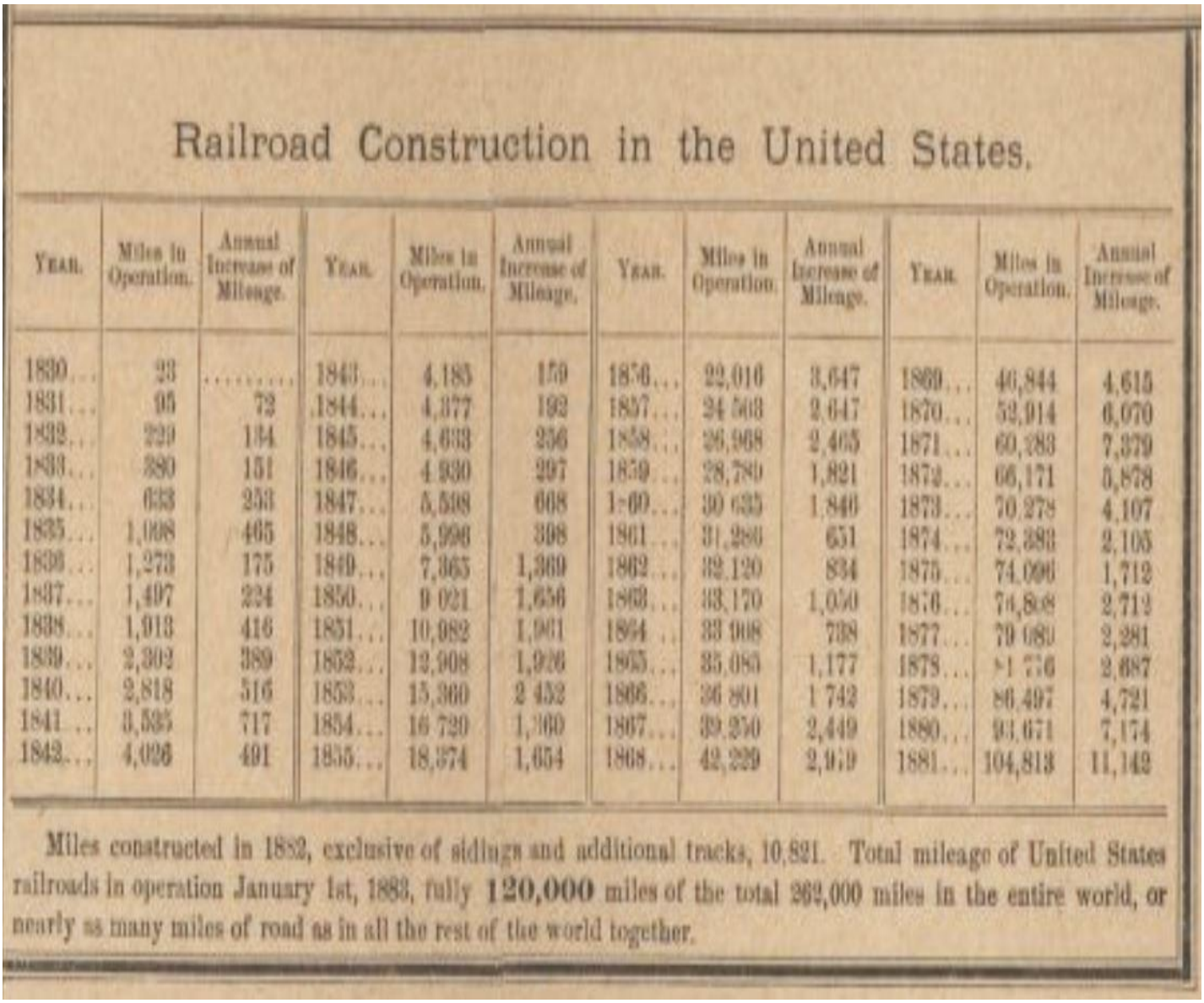
B. W. McCULLOCH, Gen'l Pass. and Ticket Agt. Galveston
W. H. NEWMAN, Traffic Manager. Galveston.

SANTO DOMINGO CATTLE Company
Hacienda de Santo Domingo, Carrizal District, Chihuahua, Mexico.
Manager and Superintendent: LORD DELAVAL BERESFORD, El Paso and San Jose.

Primary Source Activity Image 1: Railroad Construction Table, 1883

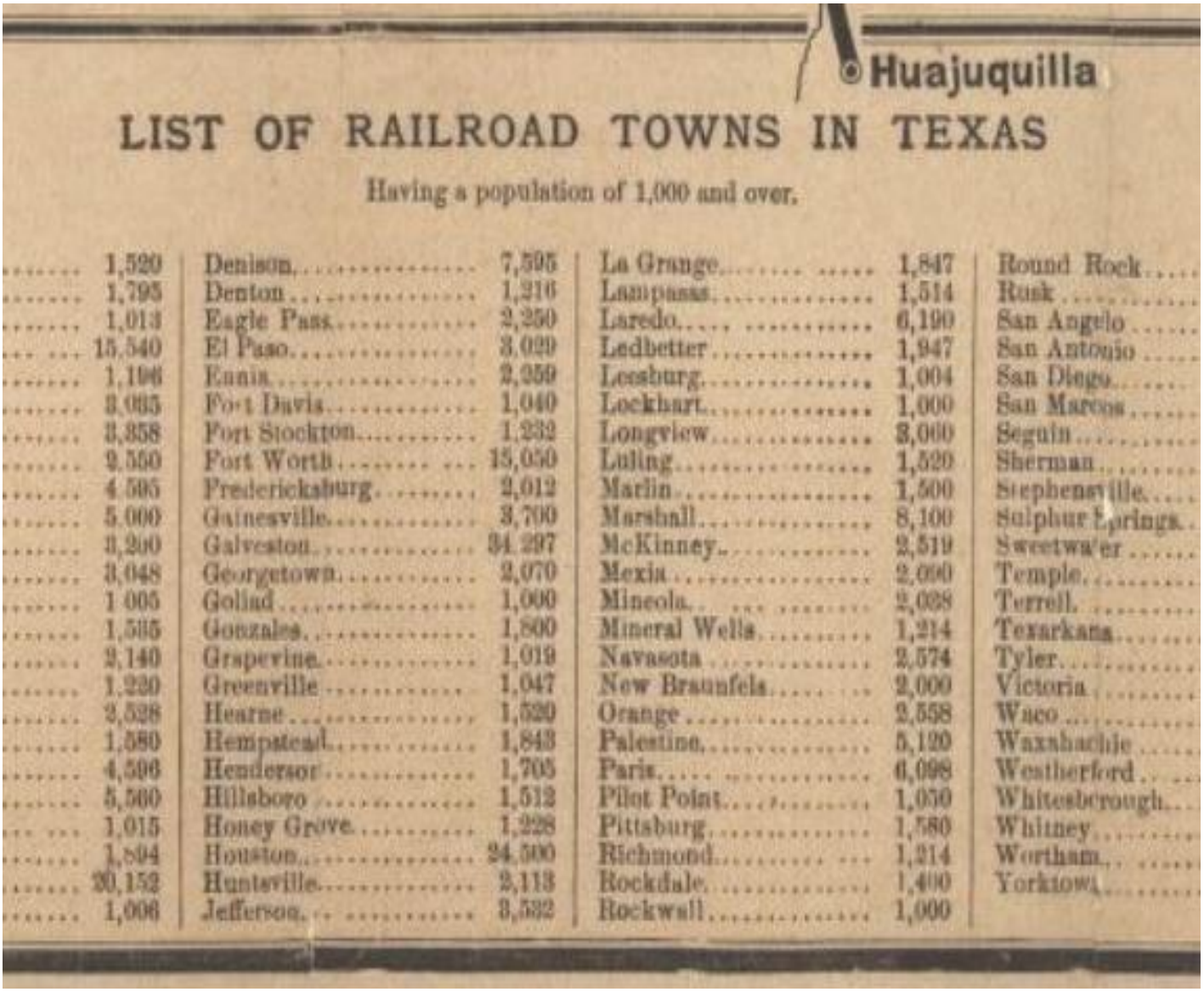


Railroad Construction in the United States.

Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase of Mileage.	Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase of Mileage.	Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase of Mileage.	Year.	Miles in Operation.	Annual Increase of Mileage.
1830...	23	.....	1843...	4,185	179	1856...	22,016	3,647	1869...	46,844	4,615
1831...	95	72	1844...	4,377	192	1857...	24,503	2,647	1870...	53,914	6,070
1832...	229	134	1845...	4,633	256	1858...	26,968	2,465	1871...	60,293	7,379
1833...	380	151	1846...	4,930	297	1859...	28,789	1,821	1872...	66,171	5,878
1834...	633	253	1847...	5,598	668	1860...	30,635	1,846	1873...	70,278	4,107
1835...	1,098	465	1848...	5,996	398	1861...	31,286	651	1874...	72,383	2,105
1836...	1,273	175	1849...	7,365	1,369	1862...	32,120	834	1875...	74,096	1,712
1837...	1,497	224	1850...	9 021	1,656	1863...	33,170	1,050	1876...	76,808	2,712
1838...	1,913	416	1851...	10,982	1,961	1864...	33 908	738	1877...	79 089	2,281
1839...	2,302	389	1852...	13,908	1,926	1865...	35,085	1,177	1878...	81 776	2,687
1840...	2,818	516	1853...	15,360	2 452	1866...	36 801	1 742	1879...	86,497	4,721
1841...	3,535	717	1854...	16 720	1,360	1867...	39,250	2,449	1880...	93,671	7,174
1842...	4,026	491	1855...	18,374	1,654	1868...	42,229	2,979	1881...	104,813	11,142

Miles constructed in 1852, exclusive of sidings and additional tracks, 10,821. Total mileage of United States railroads in operation January 1st, 1883, fully **120,000** miles of the total 262,000 miles in the entire world, or nearly as many miles of road as in all the rest of the world together.

Primary Source Activity Image 2: Railroad Construction Table, 1883



Huajuquilla

LIST OF RAILROAD TOWNS IN TEXAS

Having a population of 1,000 and over.

.....	1,520	Denison.....	7,595	La Grange.....	1,847	Round Rock.....	
.....	1,795	Denton.....	1,216	Lampasas.....	1,514	Rusk.....	
.....	1,013	Eagle Pass.....	2,250	Laredo.....	6,190	San Angelo.....	
.....	15,540	El Paso.....	3,029	Ledbetter.....	1,947	San Antonio.....	
.....	1,196	Ennis.....	2,259	Leesburg.....	1,004	San Diego.....	
.....	3,085	Fort Davis.....	1,040	Lockhart.....	1,000	San Marcos.....	
.....	3,858	Fort Stockton.....	1,232	Longview.....	3,000	Seguin.....	
.....	2,550	Fort Worth.....	15,050	Luling.....	1,529	Sherman.....	
.....	4,595	Fredericksburg.....	2,012	Marlin.....	1,500	Stephensville.....	
.....	5,000	Gainesville.....	3,700	Marshall.....	8,100	Sulphur Springs..	
.....	3,200	Galveston.....	34,297	McKinney.....	2,519	Sweetwater.....	
.....	3,048	Georgetown.....	2,070	Mexia.....	2,000	Temple.....	
.....	1 005	Goliad.....	1,000	Mineola.....	2,028	Terrell.....	
.....	1,585	Gonzales.....	1,800	Mineral Wells.....	1,214	Texarkana.....	
.....	2,140	Grapevine.....	1,019	Navasota.....	2,574	Tyler.....	
.....	1,220	Greenville.....	1,047	New Braunfels.....	2,000	Victoria.....	
.....	2,528	Hearne.....	1,520	Orange.....	2,558	Waco.....	
.....	1,580	Hempstead.....	1,843	Palestine.....	5,120	Waxahachie.....	
.....	4,596	Henderson.....	1,705	Paris.....	6,098	Weatherford.....	
.....	5,560	Hillsboro.....	1,512	Pilot Point.....	1,050	Whitesborough....	
.....	1,015	Honey Grove.....	1,228	Pittsburg.....	1,580	Whitney.....	
.....	1,894	Houston.....	24,500	Richmond.....	1,214	Wortham.....	
.....	30,152	Huntsville.....	2,113	Rockdale.....	1,400	Yorktown.....	
.....	1,006	Jefferson.....	3,532	Rockwall.....	1,000		

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Primary Source Activity: All Aboard for El Paso

Use the primary sources to answer the questions.

Texas Railroad System Map

1. What newspaper published this map? On what date?

2. What states appear on this map, in addition to Texas?

3. One railroad that begins in Galveston ends in what other country?

4. What large body of water is shown on this map?

5. What two tables of information are included on this map?

Mexico Business Directory Article

6. According to the article, what was the first railroad to reach El Paso?

7. How many miles long is the Southern Pacific railroad from its start to El Paso?

8. On the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, what scenery would travelers see on their way from Kansas City to El Paso?

9. What railroad arrived in El Paso in 1882?

10. What three other cities were on Texas and Pacific route to El Paso?

El Paso Daily Times advertisements

11. Which railroad advertises the shortest route from El Paso to New Orleans?

12. Where would passengers go to buy tickets for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad?

13. What kinds of rail cars do both the T&P and ATSF railroads advertise?

Railroad Construction Table 1

14. How many total miles of operating railroads were in use in the U.S. on January 1, 1883?

Railroad Construction Table 2

15. Write the names of **three** 1883 railroad towns that you recognize from this table.