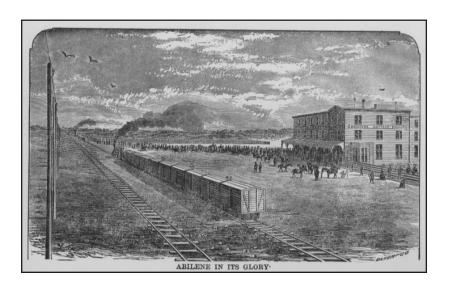


### **NATIONAL EISENHOWER MEMORIAL**

### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

### **LESSON**

## Wild West to Midwest



Duration

One 45-minute period

**Grades** 

7–12

**Cross-curriculum Application U.S. History, Geography, Art** 

### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

### **Historical Background**

Returning to his hometown of Abilene, Kansas, in 1945 Dwight D. Eisenhower told the gathered crowd that "the proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene."

The town in which Eisenhower grew up experienced dramatic changes in the years before the arrival of Dwight Eisenhower, his brother, and his parents in 1892. And later in the 1860s and 1870s, Abilene connected cattle herds from the west with the railroad line to the east. Violence in the streets of Abilene gave the town a reputation for being a part of the "wild west."

Over the next thirty years, however, Abilene transitioned from a rowdy trading post to a relatively quiet, stable midwestern town. This story of change can be linked to broader shifts occurring throughout the country in the latter half of the 19th century. For example, as the Eisenhowers arrived in Abilene, scholars and politicians had begun commenting on the end of westward expansion and the "closing" of the American frontier. These changes also shaped the life of Dwight Eisenhower, familiarized him with rapid social and economic change, and provided many opportunities as he grew up.

### **Objective**

Students examine a variety of sources, including maps, photographs, and newspaper articles to learn about the historical context of Eisenhower's boyhood home of Abilene, Kansas. How did Abilene become the kind of town that Eisenhower's parents would choose for raising a family? How might growing up in the midwest have influenced Eisenhower? How does this transformation relate to the modernization of the United States that began during the late-19th century and accelerated in the early-20th century? How do these primary sources indicate change over time?

Using what they have learned from primary sources, students will create a poster (on paper or digitally) advertising the town of Abilene to a family such as the Eisenhowers with three small children. Students will develop a factual understanding of the past as well as demonstrate critical thinking in sourcing evidence and supporting an argument.

### **Essential Question**

What is the significance of Eisenhower's Kansas origins?

### **Primary Sources**

### Photographs/Illustrations of Abilene, Kansas 1865-1900:

» "Loading Cattle at McCoys, Abilene, Kansas, 447 miles west of St. Louis, Mo." Alexander Gardner. 1867. Library of Congress. ID: 2005684526.

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/stereo.1s00053/

Teacher notes: The 1867 photo shows a train that will carry cattle from Abilene to markets in the East.

### *Interesting details:*

- Note the wide open space and lack of buildings.
- The fence in the background was likely part of the cattle pen.
- There are two pictures side by side because this photo was created for a stereoscope— a viewer that people could look into and see a 3D-like image.
- "Abilene in its Glory." Baker-Co. 1874. Kansas Historical Society. http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209715

Teacher Notes: This source is a drawing of a hotel and its surroundings in downtown Abilene. Interesting details:

- The artist placed the train in the foreground, highlighting the importance of the railroad to the town.
- There appears to be a large crowd of people.
- In the background there appears to be a fenced-in pen—perhaps the same cattle pen in the first photo.
- "Theodore Roosevelt Campaign stop." 1900. Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. Teacher Notes: This is a photo of a very crowded campaign rally in downtown Abilene for Theodore Roosevelt.

### *Interesting details:*

- Abilene's development can be seen in the photo. There are many shops downtown along with power lines and telephone lines.
- Families with young children are visible in the photo indicating that the town was no longer a "wild west" cattle town. Early cattle towns tended to be populated mostly by young men.

- » "Sand Springs Water." 1900. Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. Teacher Notes: This photo from 1900 depicts a fountain in downtown Abilene. Interesting details:
  - Electric lights on the "Sand Springs Water" sign.
  - Also there appear to be electric lights on the streets. Electric street lights were common in American cities by 1900 even though most homes still relied on gas lamps for lighting.

### Maps, 1859–1900

"Mitchell's sectional map of Kansas." 1859. Library of Congress. <a href="http://www.loc.gov/item/2005625305/">http://www.loc.gov/item/2005625305/</a>

Teacher Notes: This map shows Kansas in 1859—only nine years after Kansas became a state. Interesting details:

- Have students look for Dickinson County. Abilene is in Dickinson County, but the town is not listed on the map.
- The map does not depict all of Kansas and most western countries were established after 1860.
- Most of western Kansas does not appear on the map.
- Several large Indian reservations are present in the state.
- » "Old Chrisholm Cattle Trails." A.W. Ziegelasch. 1873. Kansas Historical Society. <a href="http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208627/">http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208627/</a>

Teacher Notes: This map shows the Old Chisholm Cattle Trail that ran from Texas to the railroad in Abilene.

*Interesting details:* 

- In Texas, several smaller trails fed into the Chisholm trail.
- Cattle companies would drive the cattle to the railroad in Abilene and then the cattle travelled by train to a town such as Atchison, Leavenworth, or Kansas City on the Missouri River. There the cattle travelled by boat to St. Louis, a major city.

» Map of Kansas. 1884. Library of Congress.

http://www.loc.gov/item/98688483/

Teacher Notes: This map, created for the United States Department of Interior, shows a much more developed and populated state compared to the 1859 map. Interesting details:

- This map shows the entire state.
- All the counties have names, unlike the Mitchell's sectional map. Abilene is identified on this map, located in Dickinson County.
- Several railroad lines cross the state.
- The Pottawattomie Indian reservation in Jackson County and the Kickapoo reservation in Brown County are smaller than in 1859, while the Delaware Indian Reservation in Jefferson and Leavenworth County are no longer depicted on the map. As more and more Americans moved to western states like Kansas, the land designated for these reservations became smaller and smaller.
- » Map of Dickinson. 1885. Library of Congress.

http://www.loc.gov/item/2012593086/

Teacher Notes: This 1885 map shows Dickinson County and its largest town, Abilene. Interesting details:

- The map shows continued development in Abilene and the surrounding area.
- Each plot of land is labeled with the name of the owner indicating that the county's land is being used by a variety of people.
- Notice the county now has two major railroad lines and there does not seem to be any reference to the Chisholm Trail indicating that cattle drives were not as important in Dickinson and Abilene compared to 1859.
- » "Boyhood Environmental Neighborhood Home." 1900. Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library.
  - Teacher Notes: This map shows the neighborhood in Abilene where the Eisenhower family lived. The map shows the neighborhood as it would have looked in 1900.



### *Interesting details:*

- The streets are laid out in a grid pattern indicating a planned town.
- The map has several homes labeled along with a fairground and a carnival ground implying that many families live in Abilene.
- Abilene had multiple schools in 1900.
- The map shows the creamery where Dwight's father, David, and later Dwight, worked.

### Newspaper Articles and Advertisements, 1870–1893:

- "The Texas Cattle Trade." Emporia News. September 30, 1870. Library of Congress. http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016419/1870-09-30/ed-1/seq-2.pdf Teacher Notes: The article, "The Texas Cattle Trade," appears in the middle of the page near the top between an article entitled "The War News" and an ad for life insurance. *Interesting details:* 
  - The paper is printed in Emporia, Kansas—a city about 100 miles from Abilene.
  - The article describes the cattle trade and cattle drives from Texas to Abilene including details of the route, numbers of cattle, and prices.
  - Quote: "The magnitude of the trade, carried on in a section of the country that was until recently an uninhabitable waste, is perfectly amazing."
- Front page advertisements. Abilene Reflector. December 24, 1885. Library of Congress. http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84029385/1885-12-24/ed-1/seq-1.pdf Teacher Notes: This source shows the front page of the Abilene Reflector, a newspaper still published in Abilene.

### *Interesting details:*

- By 1885 Abilene was large enough to have its own newspaper.
- The date is Christmas Eve.
- The ads feature a wide array of products—toys, books, women's clothes.
- These ads imply that Abilene has a sizable population of families with children.
- Advertisements. Abilene Reflector. April 6, 1893. Library of Congress. http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84029386/1893-04-06/ed-1/seq-7.pdf Teacher Notes: Advertisements in a 1893 Abilene Reflector. *Interesting details:* 
  - Compared to the ads from 1885 this ad highlights more luxury items. For example, these items are jewelry, lace, and fine clothes.



- The ads emphasize high quality as well as low prices.
- The Eisenhower family lived in Abilene in 1893, and Dwight's parents, David and Ida, may have seen this very advertisement. Students might think about what goods might have interested them.

### **Materials**

- Wild West to Midwest Handout
- Supplies for creating posters—teachers may opt to have students create a physical poster or a digital poster. For ideas on creating digital posters see Teachinghistory.org's review of Glogster, a digital poster making tool.
  - <a href="http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/tech-for-teachers/25055">http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/tech-for-teachers/25055</a>>.
- Magnifying glasses (optional)

### **Preparation**

- Print one copy of the Wild West to Midwest handout for each student.
- Print out copies of the primary source materials and group them into images, maps, and newspapers.

### **Procedure**

- 1. As a class, have students consider recent changes where they live. What has changed in their area since they were younger? Are there new buildings? Buildings or places that are no longer there? What would be different if they could immediately travel back in time 30 years? Would your school still be there? Would local restaurants, parks, or sports fields still be there? List examples on the board of what would be different and what would be the same. (Alternatively, students could "go back in time" using websites like History Pin < http://historypin.org> or What Was There? < http://whatwasthere.com> to explore historical photos from their region, and see what has changed over time.)
- 2. Introduce Dwight Eisenhower, future general and U.S. president. Explain that his hometown of Abilene, Kansas, underwent rapid changes in the 30 years before Dwight Eisenhower and his parents moved there in 1892. Explain that by examining these changes we can better understand the dramatic changes happening in the United States between 1865

and 1900. Ask students to think along the way about how these changes to the town of Abilene provided more opportunities for Eisenhower growing up. (*Note: For example, as the town grew, new schools were established and new businesses opened providing job opportunities. In addition, as new railways and the telegraph connected Abilene with the rest of the United States, it would have provided a young person such as Dwight Eisenhower more opportunities to learn about college in general and West Point in particular.)* 

- 3. Divide students into groups and provide each group with one type of source: images, maps, or newspapers. If available, provide each group with a magnifying glass for closer inspection.
- 4. Instruct each group to place their sources in chronological order.
- 5. Explain that each group will then come up with a list of specific details in the sources (evidence) that indicates change over time. Hand out the Wild West to Midwest Handout to each student. If necessary, go over the handout as a class. Point out that for each source students should record the year, the title, list important details they notice, and then circle the details that have changed over time.
- 6. Come back together as a class and have each group share their results in two columns on the board: How did Abilene change? How do we know? Then ask: What changes in the town might have provided opportunities for Dwight Eisenhower as a boy? How do the different kinds of sources (maps, images, and newspapers) compare? What did students learn from each?
- 7. Assignment: Eisenhower remembered his parents raising him in Abilene, Kansas, "They raised six boys and they made sure that each had an upbringing at home and an education that equipped him to gain a respectable place in his own profession, and I think it's fair to say they all have. They and their families are the products of the loving care, labor and work of my father and mother; just another average Abilene family." With this in mind, each student will create a poster advertising 1890s Abilene. The poster should make the town appealing to a family such as the Eisenhowers looking for a new home. In making their posters, students should use what they learned from the various sources to highlight the changes in Abilene over the preceding 30 years.

### Differentiation

Students at lower levels of reading ability can be assigned to the photo or map group and higher level readers can be assigned to the newspaper group. For further support, student may create posters in groups.

Teachers may also make use of the Teacher Notes that accompany the above sources. Providing these notes to students may help them to notice important details within the sources.

Advanced students could compare changes in Abilene between 1860 and 1890 to another city using the *History Pin* or *What Was There?* websites. Advanced students could also explore photographs and architectural drawings of the Eisenhower home found in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) that can be accessed online at the Library of Congress (see *Related Resources* below). Students could use the primary sources found online in these collections to create a presentation for the class.

### **Assessment**

Students will be assessed on their poster and how it reflects an understanding of the primary sources and the changes that occurred in Abilene before the 1890s. In addition, students can be assessed on their group's work with primary sources. For example, did the group notice key details in the source and use them to support an interpretation?

Per the lesson plan rubric, student work on the handout and poster should demonstrate a factual understanding as well as critical thinking in using evidence to support an argument. The rubric evaluates student work in four categories: Factual Understanding, Sourcing, Evidence-Based Claim, and Presentation.

### **Related Resources**

Lesson Plans

- » The West—Lesson Plans. Public Broadcasting Service.
  - http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/lesson\_plans
  - From the website accompanying *The West*, a documentary by Ken Burns, this site features ten lesson plans related to the settlement of the American West.



### Secondary Sources and Digital Resources

Eisenhower, the Frontier, and the New Deal. Timothy Rives. Eisenhower Presidential Library.

https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2015/fall/ike-frontier.pdf This essay details Dwight Eisenhower's background in Kansas and explains how his identity as a man of the American West shaped his career.

What Was There? Teachinghistory.org. http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/tech-for-teachers/25346 A brief post by a history teacher on ideas for incorporating the *What Was There?* < <a href="http://">http://</a> whatwasthere.com > website in the classroom. The site allows users to upload historical photographs and place their location on a map. In addition, some photos can be directly

compared to the current Google street view image for the same location.

### Primary Sources

» Kansas Memory. Kansas State Historical Society. http://www.kansasmemory.org

This web archive features a wide variety of online resources on the history of Kansas and is divided into collections by county.

Chronicling America. Library of Congress. http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

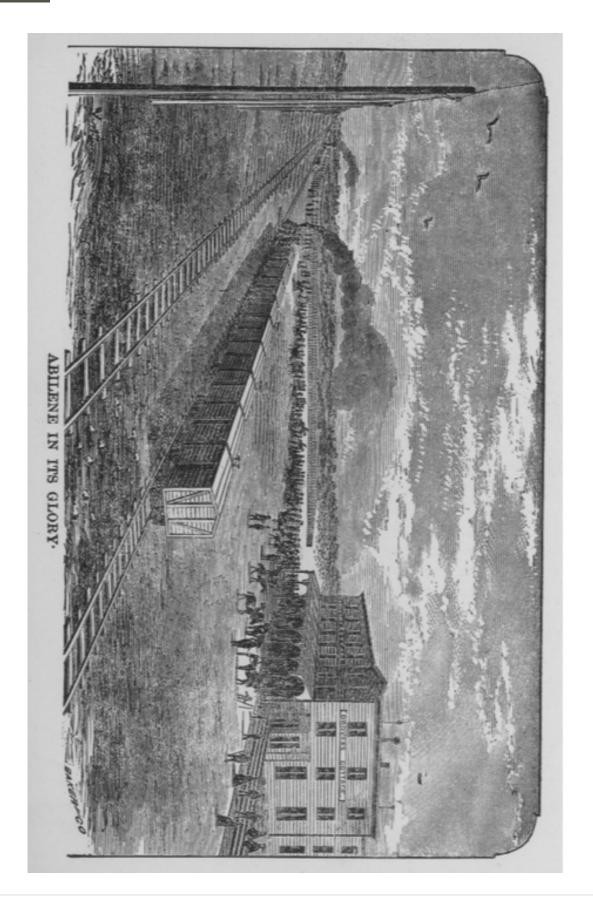
A deep and rich repository of digitized historical newspapers from 1836 to 1922 from the Library of Congress. The collection can be searched by year and location. The site also

contains a subject guide for newspaper articles covering major historical events.

- » *Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)*. Library of Congress. <a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh</a>
  - This collection from the Library of Congress contains photos and architectural plans for buildings listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey. Included in the collection is Eisenhower's boyhood home in Abilene, Kansas.
- » The Significance of the Frontier in American History. National Humanities Center. <a href="http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/gilded/empire/text1/turner.pdf">http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/gilded/empire/text1/turner.pdf</a>
  Historian Frederick Jackson Turner delivered this paper in 1893 at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Turner argued that the western territories in the United States were effectively settled and the frontier of westward expansion was at an end. Further, he asserted that the frontier had shaped American history and that American ideals of democracy and individualism were based in frontier culture. This "closing" of the frontier was an important factor shaping Dwight Eisenhower's hometown of Abilene, Kansas and possibly influencing Ike.

of Congress. "Loading Cattle at McCoys, Abilene, Kansas, 447 miles west of St. Louis, Mo." Alexander Gardner, 1867. Library



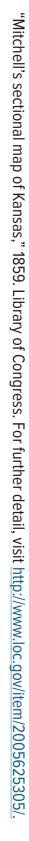


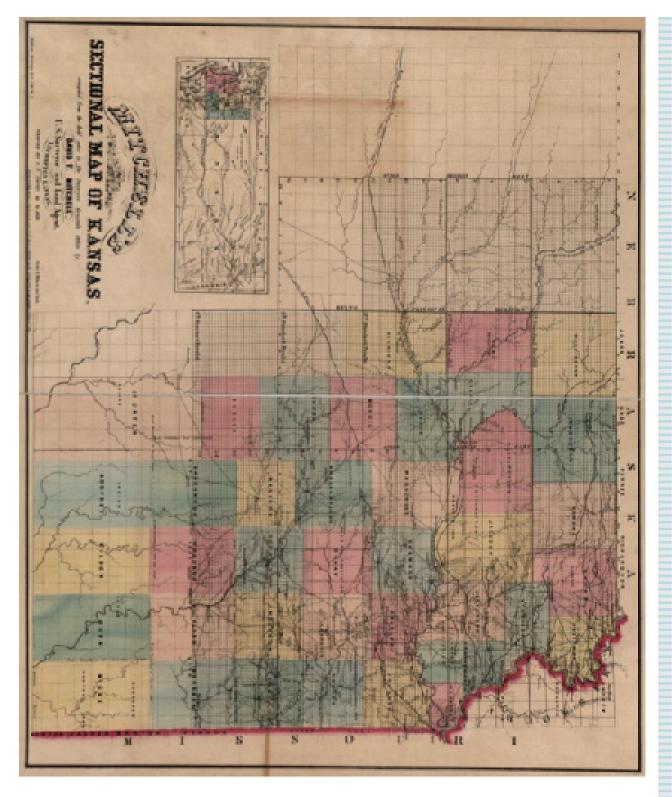






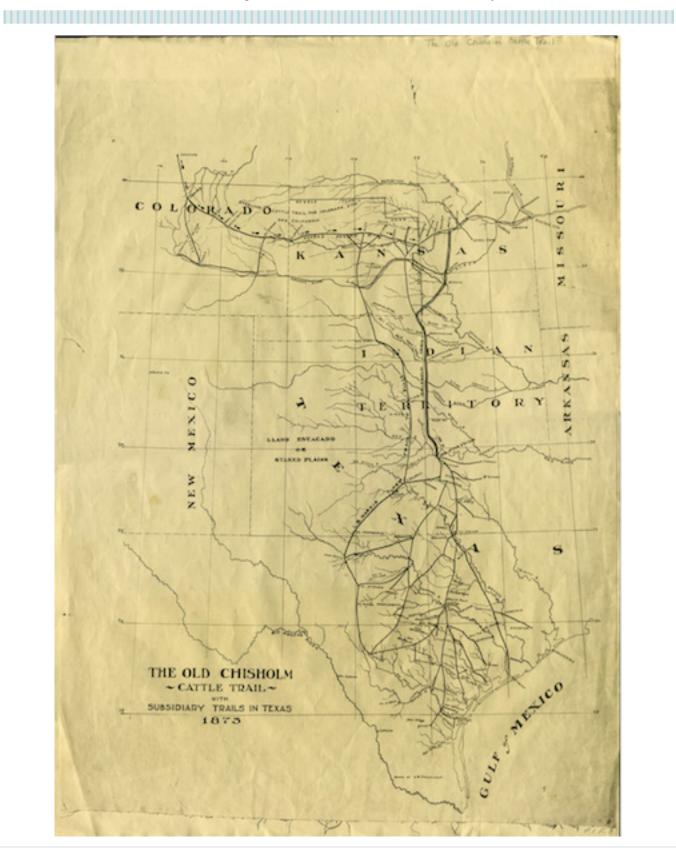


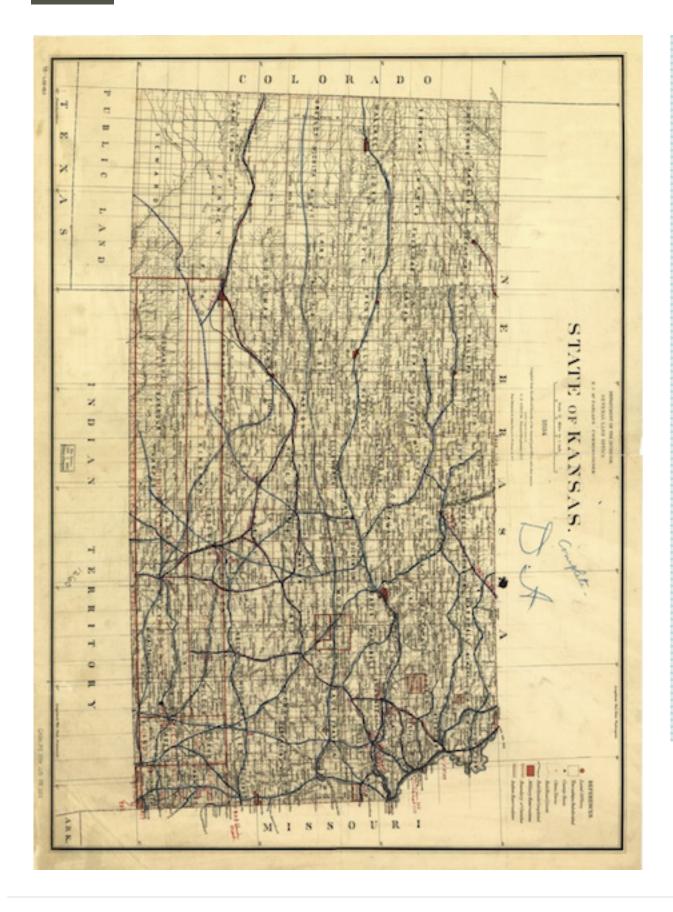




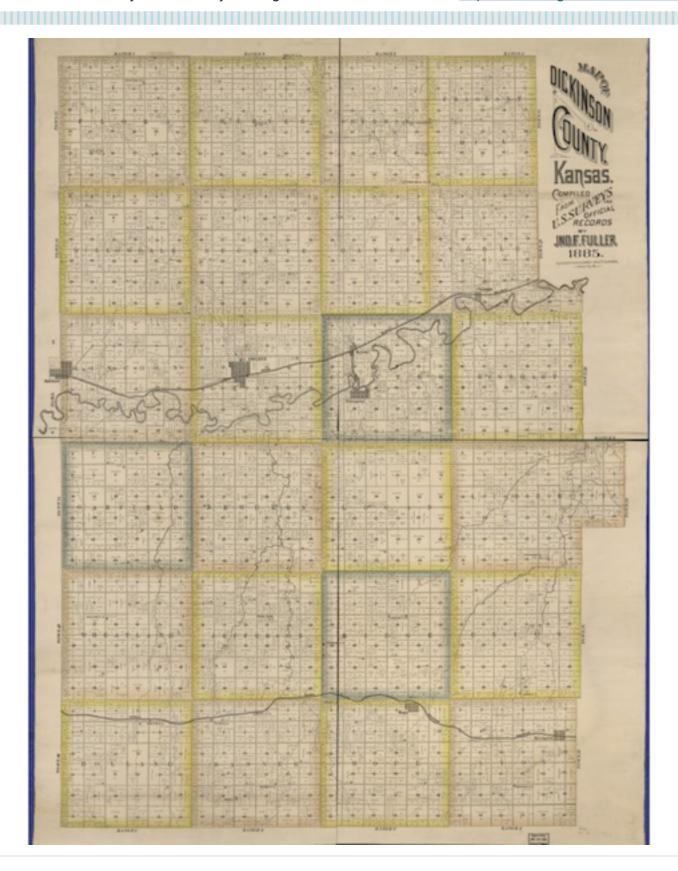


"Old Chrisholm Cattle Trails." A.W. Ziegelasch, 1873. Kansas Historical Society.





Map of Dickinson County, 1885. Library of Congress. For further detail, visit <a href="http://www.loc.gov/item/2012593086/">http://www.loc.gov/item/2012593086/</a>.

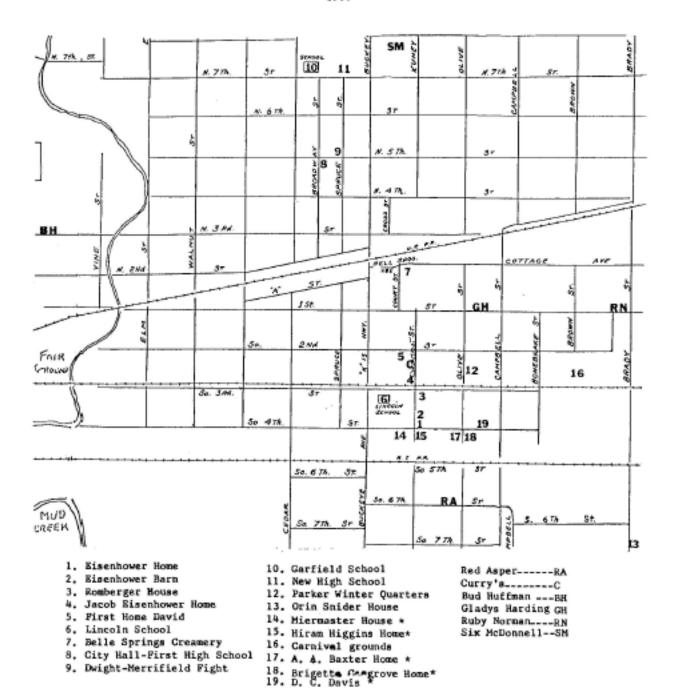




"Boyhood Environmental Neighborhood Home," 1900. Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library.

### BOYHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL AREA HOME

1900



<sup>\*</sup> Dickinson County Title Company

### **NATIONAL EISENHOWER MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

"The Texas Cattle Trade," Emporia News, September 30, 1870. Library of Congress.

### THE TEXAS CATTLE TRADE.

The following is a condensed statement of the main facts and features of interest in the Abileae cattle trade, taken from an article recently published in the Topeka Record, and written, evidently by some one who knows all about the business. The magnitude of the trade, carried on in a section of the country that was recently an uninhabited waste, is perfectly amazing:

The traffic in Texas cattle has within the last few years assumed a position among the leading interests of the country.

among the leading interests of the country.

The trade here mainly concentrates at Abilene, on the Kansas Pacific Railway, 160 miles west of the Mississippi river, 440 miles from St. Louis, and 670 miles from Chicago.

Last year about 60,000 head of cattle were shipped eastward from Abilene, within a period of some three months; and about one-third as many more were sent forward from other points in the State.

Already, since June 1st. about 37,000

Already, since June 1st, about 37,000 have been shipped eastward from Abi-

have been shipped eastward from Abilene alone.

There are in the vicinity, for sale,
about 35,000 head of ordinary beef and
stock cattle, and several thousand cows,
calves, yearlings, and two-year-old.
The total number of cattle of all
kinds, both sold and remaining on
hand, at Abilene this year can eafely be
put down at a hundred and fifty thousand.

The cattle come principally from

and.

The cattle come principally from Northern Texas. They are bought there by the herd, at the following prices per head:

Beef cattle	 				ď.		٠.		811	00
Mülch Cows									12	-00
Three.years-old.									7	600
Two-years-old			E			9.			- 4	00
One-year-olds			8						. 9	-50
4400										

One-year-olds

The average distance driven is about 100 miles. The time consumed in driving, two months. Cost of driving, S2 per head, exclusive of 20 per cent. risk from stampeding, stealing, etc. Most of the droves are brought through the Indian Territory, on what is known as the "Chisholm trail." Droves are usually made up of equal numbers of grown steers, cows, and three, two or one year olds. When only beef cattle are bought, the price is put higher—say \$12 to \$14 per head.

Arriving at Abliene in good order, a mixed drove is held at about the following average figures:

	TOO TO TO BE TOO BOTTON		
I	Beef cattle	820	Oil
ı	Milch cows	12	-CK
I	Three-years-old	- 7	00
ı	Two-years-old	4	00
ı	One-year-olds	- 5	OK.

They sell in Saint Louis and Chicago at an average of 312 cents per pound— oftener above than below that figure. Several sales were made in Chicago last Saturday, on a dull market, at 5 cents; and a day or two before that transactions were noted at 52 cents for 1,150 averages.

The treight from Abilene to St. Lovie

The freight from Abilene to St. Louis or Chicago ("special rates") is \$6 to \$7 per head. Contracts are made by the ear load—a ear holding twenty. The freight from Abilene to New York of Boston is nearly four times as much as to St. Louis or Chicago; and there is, in addition, a 20 per cent transportation risk, growing out of the increased extent of the route, and the greater time consumed in getting to market.

After being grazed through the summer, the same cattle are worth 20 per cent more. Beef cattle, of average flesh, ready for market, are valued at \$25. The freight from Abilene to St. Louis

Eisenhower Memorial

Front page advertisements, Abilene Reflector, December 24, 1885. Library of Congress.





### **NATIONAL EISENHOWER MEMORIAL**

Advertisements, Abilene Reflector, April 6, 1893. Library of Congress.



Eisenhower Memorial

## Wild West to Midwest Handout

became a prosperous midwestern town by the 1890s when the Eisenhower family selected it for their new home. Introduction: Dwight Eisenhower, future general and U.S. president, grew up in Abilene, Kansas, where his family moved in 1892 when Dwight was two. Before the Eisenhowers arrived, this town had changed in many ways. A wild west cattle town in the 1860s, Abilene

**Directions:** Place your sources in order from earliest to latest. Examine the sources carefully as you fill out this sheet.

**Source Type** (image, map, or newspaper):

	Source 1	Source 2
Year		
Title (or brief		
description)		
Observe:		
1. What details do		
you notice?		
2. Circle the ones		
that demonstrate		
change over time.		

## Wild West to Midwest Handout cont.

Year T	Source 3	Source 4
Year		
Title (or brief		
description)		
Observe:		
1. What details do		
you notice?		
2. Circle the ones		
that demonstrate		
change over time.		

# What change in Abilene do you think mattered most to the Eisenhower family? Defend your answer.



### **Wild West Rubric**

	Fully Meets Expectations  3 points	Minimally Meets Expectations  2 points	Not Yet Within Expectations  1 point
Factual Understanding	The poster demonstrates understanding of the main idea of each source (or piece of evidence) and identifies its key details	The poster demonstrates understanding of the main idea of each source (or piece of evidence) but does not identify key details.	The poster does not demonstrate understanding of the main idea of each source (or piece of evidence).
Sourcing	The poster demonstrates understanding of each source's origin: especially when it was created and the creator's goal.	The poster demonstrates partial understanding of each source's origin: when it was created and the creator's goal.	The poster demonstrates insufficient understanding of each source's origin: when it was created and the creator's goal.
Evidence-Based Claim	The poster makes a reasonable claim advertising for Abilene and uses appropriate sources and evidence to support that claim.	The poster makes a reasonable claim advertising for Abilene but the sources and evidence only partially support that claim.	The poster makes a claim advertising for Abilene that is not supported by appropriate sources and evidence.
Presentation	The poster is well-organized and clear with an attractive layout. No (or only minor) spelling and grammar errors.	Poster is somewhat disorganized and unclear. Layout detracts from message. Several spelling and grammar mistakes.	Poster shows little or no organization. Unclear or confusing layout. Repeated major spelling and grammar errors.