ACTIVITY 4
Ranch Life With & Without Technology

RANCH LIFE SERIES | BOOK 1 | RANCHING & LIVESTOCK:
Chapter 4

Content Area
Social Studies

Topic
Impact of Technology

Objective
Students will compare and contrast life on a ranch with technology and without technology.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):
Ranch Life With & Without Technology

CONTENT AREA: Social Studies

TOPICS: Impact of Technology

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:
- SECURITY BRIEFING (page A4-2): 1 per student or student group
- RANCH LIFE WITH & WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY (page A4-3): 1 per student or student group
- Pencil or pen
- THE BOTTOM LINE (pages A4-6): 1 per student or student group

READING STRATEGY:
Students will read Chapter 4 (pages 15-22) as they complete the activity below.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Each student (or student group) will receive a RANCH LIFE WITH & WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY comparison chart to fill out.
2. As they read through the chapter, students will identify and notate on their chart how ranch life situations would differ with the use of or the absence of technology.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:
- Have students (or student groups) complete THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the activity.
SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

Loper needs a certain amount of machinery to operate his ranch. Pickup trucks and stock trailers make work easier for the cowboys, but it adds to the list of demands on me.

“In case you haven’t already guessed, I take great pride in my ability to lay a good strong marking on a set of tires. When a vehicle leaves my ranch, I want the world to know where it’s been. On a good day, I can knock out an entire pickup and stock trailer all by myself, and then rush to the yard gate to bark at the driver. That’s an eight-tire job. A lot of dogs wouldn’t even attempt a job that big, but it’s nothing special to me. On your bigger assignments, like the eight-tire deals, a dog’s overall physical condition and endurance become a major factor.

Factor, I should say. A major factor.

And the same goes for technology. It is a major factor in the day to day operations of the ranch!

*excerpts from “Lost in the Blinded Blizzard” by John R. Erickson

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Chapter 4 (pages 15-22)
2. As you are reading, fill out the LIFE WITH OR WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY comparison chart.

WRAP UP:

Fill out THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet after you have completed the activity.
Ranch Life With & Without Technology

NAME: _______________________________________ DATE: ___________________

COMPARISON CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PICKUP TRUCK</th>
<th>STOCK TRAILER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life WITH Technology</td>
<td>Life WITHOUT Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life WITH Technology</td>
<td>Life WITHOUT Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life WITH Technology</td>
<td>Life WITHOUT Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life WITH Technology</td>
<td>Life WITHOUT Technology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A4 - 3
## Ranch Life With & Without Technology

**Comparison Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PICKUP TRUCK</th>
<th>STOCK TRAILER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life WITH Technology</strong></td>
<td><strong>Life WITHOUT Technology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry fence supplies and windmill parts to job site</td>
<td>Pull wagon with horses to carry supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load with hay</td>
<td>Deliver by walking or with horses pulling a wagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pull a stock trailer</td>
<td>Can’t pull a stock trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climb steep hills and plow through snow and mud</td>
<td>Horses can go all terrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel several miles in one day</td>
<td>Would be much slower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE BOTTOM LINE
Technology can really make a difference in the daily life of a cowdog. Technology can change the way people work and how people meet basic needs. Ranching is a business, and it requires a big investment in technology to be successful in today's world!

Answer the questions below:

1. What was the most difficult decision you had to make in the book?

2. Do you feel that having a truck is beneficial for a ranch?

3. Give three reasons explaining how a truck can have a positive impact on ranch life.
   a.
   b.
   c.

4. What do you think cowboys would have to do if they did not have a stock trailer?

5. Name one way technology has had a positive impact on how you live your daily life.

6. Name one way your life would be different without technology.