The Old Stone Capitol, Austin (1875)
Daily Life, 1850–1910

Reading Focus

• What were some of the advantages and disadvantages of city life?
• What problems confronted Texas farmers?
• What hardships did African Americans, Tejanos, and women in Texas face?

Texas prison workshop of the 1800s.
Daily Life, 1850–1910

Population Growth and Cities

Benefits of City Living
• Newspapers and telegraph connections helped cities become information centers.
• Cities developed into economic and cultural centers.
• Public transportation enabled cities to spread over a larger area.

City Problems
• Diseases spread quickly.
• Water was often impure.
• The lack of a sewage system left terrible odors and helped spread disease.
• Crime increased as cities grew.

A trolley is a streetcar powered by overhead cables.
Daily Life, 1850–1910

Rural Communities

• **Farmers** in West Texas struggled with droughts. Many gave up and left the area. **Ranchers** had more success, because cattle adapted better to the dry conditions.

• **African Americans** and **Tejanos** endured segregation in schools and the workplace. Lawlessness and biased viewpoints often resulted in violence against African Americans and Mexican Americans.

• **Economy:** Prices for farm products were low, and railroad shipping rates were high. Many farmers were forced to sell their farms and take other jobs.

• By the late 1800s, only one Indian reservation remained in Texas. A new rail line through Polk County in the 1880s boosted the lumber industry and created jobs for the Alabama-Coushatta Indians.
# Daily Life, 1850–1910

## Civil Rights

| **African Americans** | White Texans fought for legal segregation, or the separation of racial groups. Jim Crow laws enforced the segregation of African Americans. They could not ride in the same train cars or attend the same schools as white Texans. Between 1870 and 1900, more than 500 African Americans were lynched in Texas (they were murdered by mob action without a fair trial). |
| **Mexican Americans** | Mexican Americans also experienced segregation. Many were restricted to low-paying, unskilled jobs. |
| **Women** | Married women could not buy or sell property without their husband’s permission. Women could not sue in court, serve on juries, or vote. |
Daily Life, 1850–1910

More about Women

What enabled women to learn more skills?
The chance to receive an education.

What was the state’s first coeducational college?
Baylor University in Waco

When was it established?
Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas
In the 1800s, most white Texans believed in

A. racial equality.
B. legal segregation.
C. women’s suffrage.
D. civil rights for all.

One of the first professions available to Texas women was

A. meatpacking.
B. the legal profession.
C. railroad work.
D. teaching.
Daily Life: Assessment

In the 1800s, most white Texans believed in

B. legal segregation.

One of the first professions available to Texas women was

D. teaching.
Back in the day when school was cool...

“We enjoy sitting here with our hands tied behind our backs!!”