

## Document E

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**Source:** James H. Cook, *Longhorn Cowboy*, 1942.

**Note:** James Cook was born in 1857 in Michigan. The son of a sailor, Cook left home when his mother died and, at age 15, soon found himself catching wild cattle in the thorny brush country in south Texas. Riding mostly with Indian and Mexican *vaqueros*, Cook took well to this dangerous work, known as brushpopping.

(T)he time had come for the drive to begin.... For months the cow catchers in their various camps had worked gathering cattle over a large area.... It was not an easy task to round up such a herd ... but with our large outfit of skilled riders, we soon had a herd of 2,500 thrown together....

During the first year I was on the trail, every river from the Red to the Arkansas was "big swimming." We were fortunate in having no serious accidents to our men while crossing swollen streams, but we lost a number of cattle and horses by drowning.

Bad thunder and hail storms added difficulty. At times we went for days with scarcely a wink of sleep because of winds and rain which made the cattle hard to control. In some places on the trail the ground was boggy from long spells of rain, and we had to ... snatch a little sleep as opportunity permitted. When three riders were free at a time, they would go a little distance from the cattle, dismount, and lie down in the form of a triangle, each man using his neighbor's ankles for a pillow to keep his head out of the mud and water.

... It was easy to drift into sleep, jogging around the herd. My method of combating sleepiness was to mix chewing tobacco with saliva and rub it on my eyelids.... Above all else in the mind of the cowboy ran the thought, "Stay with the cattle; hold the herd."

When weather was bad we scarcely had enough to eat. Buffalo chips, our only fuel on the prairie, would become so soaked with rain during days of storm that we could not get enough dry ones to make a little coffee, let alone bake bread.

Before clear days came we had an experience with a tornado which I wouldn't care to repeat. Arriving at the Canadian River in Indian Territory ... I seen such queer-looking clouds.... I was on herd with the horses. Everybody but the cook and me went with the cattle. We were as nearly ready as we could make ourselves for the oncoming storm when hailstones began to strike all about us.... The stones were hammering my head so fiercely that it seemed to be on fire....

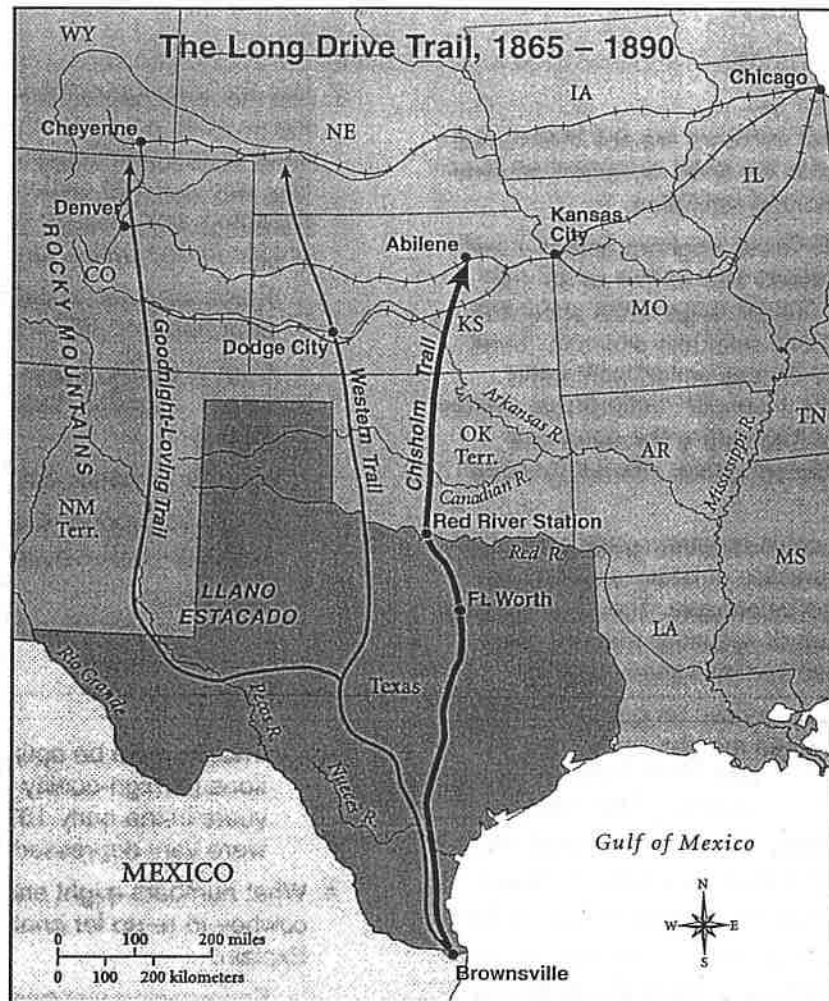
Suddenly I came to a gulch fifteen feet deep.... I could neither turn my horse nor stop him. Over we went, with one hundred badly frightened horses at our heels.... Water was pouring down the little gulch where I lay. I had to get out of the way quickly or be drowned, for the water soon rose to seven or eight feet. I crawled to the top of the bank and drifted with the storm, the hailstones raising blood blisters on my face and hands.... Any minute I knew I could expect some huge hailstone to knock me senseless; if it did, I would drown in the icy lake at my feet. [I was] praying one minute for the Lord to save me, and wondering the next if my body would ever be found.

### Document Analysis

1. List five challenges James Cook faced on his drive north.
2. Is there any evidence in the document that Cook re-upped for another drive?
3. What in Cook's account would most make you want to re-up?
4. What in Cook's account would cause you not to re-up?

## Document A

Source: Map created from various sources.



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## Document Analysis

1. From the Background Essay, why did the cattle trails tend to begin in south Texas?
2. A typical cattle drive covered about 15 miles per day. Figuring a six-day week (no work on the Sabbath) and no delays, how many weeks did it take to go from Brownsville to Abilene?
3. How did cattle get from Abilene or Dodge City to Chicago?
4. Using facts and inferences drawn from the map, what are some reasons a Texas cowboy might want to re-up for another cattle drive next year?
5. Using facts and inferences drawn from the map, what are some reasons a Texas cowboy might not want to re-up for another cattle drive next year?