

Title: Using Photographs to Understand Key Ideas

Grades: K-1

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.K.4 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.K.5 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.K.6 Name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.4 Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.7 Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.8 Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.

Objectives: In this lesson, students will:

- Identify questions they may have about ranching in the Midwest and use the information in the text to answer their questions.
- Identify key vocabulary words as they relate to the text and use those words appropriately.
- Use the photographs in a text to make connections to information presented in a text.

Vocabulary: beef cow, harvest, heifer, drought, grazing, branding

Materials:

[Our Star Goes West](#) by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney

Vocabulary Picture Cards (can be enlarged)

Pocket Chart or magnets to display vocabulary picture cards

Vocabulary Match Worksheet

Introduction:

1. Show students the vocabulary cards and ask them to think about what some of the agricultural words mean. Ask them if they ever wonder about life on a farm or ranch.
2. Have students share some of their questions before previewing the text.

Procedures:

1. Preview the book, Our Star Goes West with the students by showing them the front and back cover. Read the first page to students and the back cover with information about the Chaneys. Ask students to share some of the things they know about the authors from the preview.
2. As you read the text, refer to the picture cards. Show students examples of each of the identified vocabulary words when you get to those pages. Be sure and have students reread the text to explain the definitions to vocabulary words.
 - a. Beef Cow- (photograph of Star and Starburst) Have students describe what is happening and explain that there are two types of cows, beef and dairy. Dairy cows are used for milk but beef cows like Star are used for lots of other things including hamburgers.
 - b. Harvest- (photograph of snowy field). Be sure students understand that harvest means gathering crops from the fields when they are finished growing. In the book, farmers harvest their corn crop so that ranchers can rent land for feeding cattle in the winter.
 - c. Heifer- (photograph of Star with Stargage). Explain that a heifer is a female calf that has not delivered her first calf.
 - d. Drought- (photograph of dry field). Explain that a drought occurs when there is dry weather. A drought damages crops and makes it hard for livestock to find grass.
 - e. Grazing (photograph of green field). Explain that this is when cattle and livestock eat growing grass.
 - f. Branding (photograph of the branding crew). Explain that branding gives livestock a permanent symbol to identify their ranch home.
3. After reading the text, review each of the vocabulary cards and ask students to explain that process. If multiple copies of the text are available, have students

use the photographs in the text to explain to a partner what they have learned about agriculture.

Assessment/Closure:

Have students complete the "Vocabulary Match Worksheet." Then have them draw their own picture and use one of the vocabulary words in a sentence.

Extension Activities:

- Read the other books written by The Chaney's: Little Star...Raising Our First Calf and Star Becomes a Mother. Have students compare Star's life on a farm in Maryland to Star's life in the Midwest using a Venn Diagram.
- Reread the text and have students create vocabulary picture cards for some of the other vocabulary words such as cake truck, commercial Red Angus, Distillers grain, environmentalists, ethanol plants, habitat, nasal vaccination, supplement (definitions can be found in the glossary in the back of the book).
- Read Mini Milk Maids on the Moove and compare beef cattle and dairy cattle.