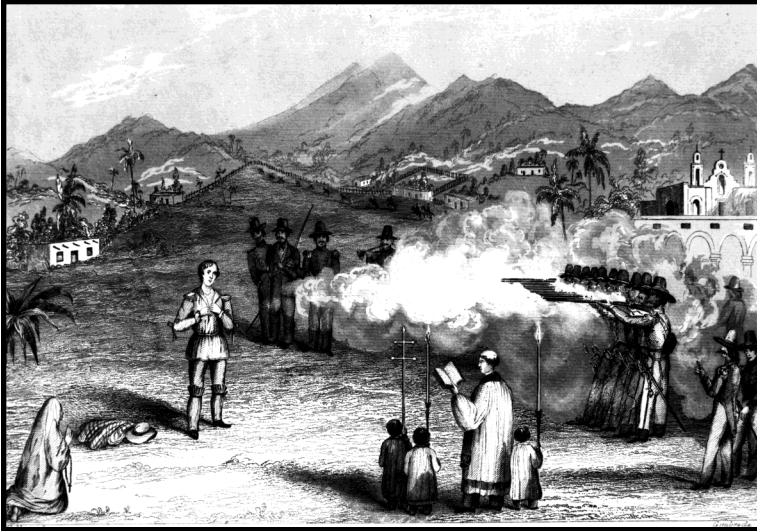




## The Scottish Texans



*Ewen Cameron's execution after the "Black Bean Episode" in 1843*

Scots came to Texas as individuals and very small groups of families, not as colonists. Their notable activities and few settlement patterns showed them in the light of rigorous uniqueness rather than the clan-forming reputation known in Europe.

Some of the first Scots in Texas were explorers, mapmakers, and naturalists. William Dunbar and Thomas Drummond were both naturalists commissioned to report on the Texas area. Dunbar was chosen by U.S. President Thomas Jefferson in 1805 for explorations as political as scientific; Drummond reported to the University of Glasgow.

Later Scots came as families and developers. Neil McLennon, from the Isle of Skye, after stops in North

Carolina and Florida, arrived on the coast of Texas with a group of friends and family in their own three-masted schooner. Moving inland, they suffered Indian attacks in Robertson's colony in 1838. McLennon continued on with his family to become an early settler on the Brazos river near present day Waco. McLennon County bears his name.

Many of the Clan Cameron found Texas exciting enough for a home. Among them was John Cameron, who came to Texas in 1827, bought land, and by 1835 was a secretary in the state government at Monclova. But he allied himself with the revolutionaries and joined the siege of Béxar.

Ewen Cameron arrived during the Texas Revolution, enlisted in the army, and later received land warrants which he claimed in San Patricio County. There he participated in frontier defense vigorously enough to earn the name "Bruce of the West."

Later, at the battle of Mier, when Texan forces were captured by Mexican troops, Cameron fought with rocks because he could not reload fast enough. As a prisoner in 1843, he was elected commander by the Texans when they were forced to draw black and white beans to determine who would be executed. Cameron drew a white bean, giving him the choice of life, a choice he could not take. He was shot after he attempted to escape.

Not all Scots were remembered as warriors. William Cameron, who did serve in the Civil War, was a lumberyard owner in Dallas and Denison. Later moving his operations to Waco, his William Cameron Company was eventually in charge of 60 retail locations. Before his death Cameron established himself in the timber and sawmill business, as a flour mill operator, and as a banker.

In the 1880s a number of Scottish stonecutters were contracted to make the journey to Texas as a group. Texas granite had been chosen for much of the new state capitol design, and native Scots brought experience with hard stone. Originally hired as strikebreakers themselves, the Scots faced other labor disputes while on the capitol job, but they cut and finished much of the stone for the present building. A few stayed in Texas and added their skills to later construction projects.

From 1890 to 1936, the Matador Land and Cattle Company, operating in the Panhandle and backed with Scottish money, was led by manager Murdo Mackenzie. The Matador herd, at 70,000 peak, was long regarded as one of the best in the United States.

Beginning just before the start of the 20th century, Texas Scots organized. By 1890 the Universal Order of Scottish Clans had a few lodges in Texas and was well established several decades later. The Scottish Society of Texas, dating from 1963 with a representation of more than 50 clans, holds annual Highland Games. A “Gathering of the Clans” is an often-held competition of field events, piping, and dancing in several Texas cities.

These events, new only to Texas, provide Scottish identity for individuals who otherwise blend easily into Texas culture.



*Murdo Mackenzie  
Manager of the Matador Land and Cattle Co.*



*Scottish stonecutters working on the Texas capitol in Austin, 1880s*

# THE SCOTTISH TEXANS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

The “push-pull” theory says that people migrate because things in their lives *push* them to leave, and things in a new place *pull* them.  
*Instructions: Decide what political factors push and pull people. Complete the graphic organizer below using the word bank.*



## Economic Push Factors

## Economic Pull Factors



## WORD BANK

Lost Job

Higher Wages

Available Work

Low Pay

## Scottish Settlers in Texas

The first Scots in Texas came as individuals or in very small groups. Some of them came as explorers, while others worked as mapmakers and naturalists to study the natural environment of Texas. In 1805, a Scottish man named William Dunbar was hired by President Thomas Jefferson to explore Texas and report what he found. Thomas Drummond was another naturalist who explored Texas, and he reported his discoveries to the University of Glasgow, a school in Scotland.

In the 1880s, a large number of Scots were hired to help build the state capitol in Austin. Texas granite was being used for the building project, and some Scots had experience working as stonecutters. When the capitol was finished, some stayed in Texas and worked on later construction projects.

By the late 1800s, the Scottish population had grown, and they began to form cultural organizations, such as the Universal Order of Scottish Clans and the Scottish Society of Texas. Today, many Scots celebrate their heritage at Highland Games, which feature field events, piping and dancing.

Why did William Dunbar and Thomas Drummond come to Texas?

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In the 1880s, what job were Scots hired to do in Austin?

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How do some Scots today celebrate their heritage?

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Digging Deeper

Using *Texans One and All: The Scottish Texans*, answer the following questions about why Scottish immigrants moved to Texas and what their life was like in the state.

Some Scottish Texans are remembered as warriors. Choose one Scottish immigrant described in *Texans One and All*, and explain why he is remembered as a warrior and how he contributed to Texas Independence.

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Land in Texas gave many settlers and investors new economic opportunities. Why were Scottish investors interested in the land in West Texas in the 1870s and 1880s?

How many head of cattle did the Matador Land and Cattle Company have at its peak?

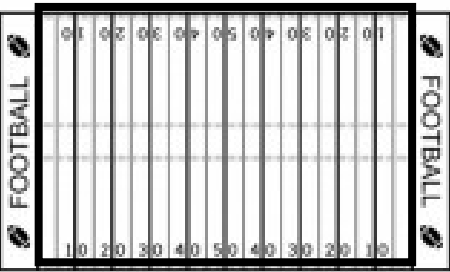
How do some Scottish Texans celebrate their cultural heritage?

Why do you think Scottish Texans feel it is important to remember their cultural traditions, like Highland Games?

How do you celebrate your cultural heritage?

Using Math Skills

The Matador Land and Cattle Company owned 300,000 acres of land in the Texas Panhandle.



One acre of land is about 9/10 of a standard football field (without the end zones).

Shade in the approximate size of an acre of the football field.

Use the equation below to calculate the number of football fields that would make up the land owned by Matador Land and Cattle.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \frac{9}{10} \rightarrow \frac{\hspace{1cm}}{1} \times \frac{9}{10} = \frac{\hspace{1cm}}{10}$$

Don't forget to simplify!

300,000 acres =  football fields

Summarize What You Learned

Write 2 sentences to summarize what you learned about Scottish Texans and economic push and pull factors.

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