

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Texas: A Prosperous Economy as Big as Its State

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers will vary, but students can describe the economic importance of ranching in their community, including contributions to local employment, agriculture, and the state's beef production. They can also discuss challenges such as market fluctuations and environmental sustainability.
2. Texas faces the challenge of balancing economic growth from energy production with environmental concerns such as air and water quality. The state can invest in cleaner energy technologies and regulations to mitigate environmental impacts while still benefiting from its energy resources.
3. One example is the development of the artificial heart, known as the "Texas Heart," at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston. This innovation has had a significant impact on cardiac care and saved countless lives worldwide.
4. Education and research institutions like the University of Texas and Texas A&M University contribute to Texas' economy by conducting research, fostering innovation, and producing a skilled workforce. For instance, the University of Texas at Austin has made advancements in semiconductor technology and computer science.

