

Texas Tides Document Analysis Sheet # 1 - Grade 7

The Growth of the Railroads

Teaching excerpt: a letter from R.C. Patton to Charles W. Hurt

Sabine Pass
Feb 7th 1872

Mr. Chas W. Hurt
Melrose

Dear Friend,

I have been informed by Miss Mollie Moore that you were put at Melrose...I am in hopes I can get off soon on business, and if I do I will mix a great deal of pleasure in it by coming up to see you. We have quite a lively little place here, two of the Morgan Ships are now in port, and every wharf is crowded with cotton besides. We have some prospects of a Railroad. A company of surveyors arrived here last night from St Louis, and went to work this morning. From what I can learn their intended route goes through Angelina and Nacogdoches. Now Charley, I know it is against your religion to write, but if you knew how anxious I am to see that old familiar fist, I think you would deviate for once. Hoping you may!

I am as Ever Your Friend

R. C. Patton

Answer the following questions, using this letter. Underline important sentences to help answer the questions.

What is the date of the letter? _____

Who wrote it? _____ To whom was it written? _____

According to your textbook, what was happening in Texas when this letter was written? _____

From clues given in the letter, what does the author of the letter appear to be doing?

The author expresses both personal and economic information in this letter. List details.

Personal Information: _____

Economic Information: _____

Why do you think that this letter was written? Use quotes from the document as evidence.

What have you learned from this letter about Texas History?
