

CHAPTER 2

On the ranch



The next stop on Hayley and Lauren's Texan adventure is Nick's ranch. A ranch is a big farm with large herds of cattle. There are more ranches and farms in Texas than in any other state in the USA. There have been ranches in Texas for nearly three centuries. Nick's ranch started nearly two hundred years ago – in 1836.

Nick drives the girls and the new cow back to the ranch. When they arrive, he puts the cow into a small pen. Then he shows Hayley a special tool. It is for putting a tag in the cow's ear. The tag has a number on it. When the cow joins the rest of the herd, Nick will know which one she is.

Nick asks Hayley to put the tag in the cow's ear. This is a surprise for Hayley and she doesn't look very happy about it.

'It's easy if you do it quickly,' Nick explains.

He puts the tool in the right place on the cow's ear. Lauren can't

watch, but Hayley finishes the job quickly. The cow moos loudly. Hayley is worried that she has hurt the cow. But Nick does not want her to think about that.

'The cow forgot already,' he says.



Next the cow must have an injection to keep it healthy. Nick wants Lauren to do this, but she is too afraid.

'I can't do that!' she says.

Hayley is nervous but she agrees to try. Nick shows her the right place and Hayley gives the cow its injection.

'Very good,' says Nick.

Hayley feels differently. 'I'm sorry!' she says to the cow.

The two girls have thought of a name for the cow. They are going to call her Manchester Moo!

'What?' Nick says. He can't understand what they are saying. 'We have to teach y'all how to speak Texas!' he laughs.

But Nick does not want the girls to think of the cow as a pet. He tells Hayley and Lauren that a vet is going to look carefully at the cow. Nick can only have strong and healthy cows in the herd.

'If the vet says she has to go,' says Nick, 'we'll change her name from Manchester Moo to Manchester Hamburger!'

THE FIRST HAMBURGERS

Why do we use the word 'hamburger'?

The name first came from the city of Hamburg in Germany. In the eighteenth century, Hamburg was an important port, and ships from many countries came there. Sailors liked a special kind of beef from Hamburg. The beef had a lot of salt in it, so it kept well on the ships.

In the second half of the nineteenth century many Europeans moved to America. Many of them came on ships from Hamburg and they brought their favourite foods with them, including Hamburg beef.



Who made the first hamburger?

People from Seymour in the state of Wisconsin say that in 1885, Charles Nagreen sold meatballs at a fair. It was difficult to walk round the fair and eat the meatballs at the same time. So Charles put flat meatballs in bread and called it a 'hamburger'. Now people call him Hamburger Charlie and there is a burger festival every year in Seymour.

But was this the first hamburger? Nobody really knows. There are many stories like this from different towns around the USA. Every town wants to be the home of the hamburger!

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
port sailor festival

Back at the ranch, Nick's mother, Dolly, wants to show the girls how to make a real Texan hamburger. She brings some minced beef into the kitchen.

'You start with this,' Dolly explains. She pulls off two pieces of meat and gives one to each girl. 'Make it into a ball,' she tells them, 'and then make it flat with your hands.' After that, she adds salt and pepper.


In Texas there is only one way to cook a burger – and that's on a grill. When they are ready, the burgers go into buns.



Nick watches the girls as they try their first real Texan burgers. 'Are they OK?' he asks.

Both Hayley and Lauren love them. 'It just looks so nice,' says Hayley. 'They're very good.'

For Nick the secret of a good burger is easy – the farmer has to look after his animals and the meat has to be fresh. The meat in these burgers is really fresh: it has come from Nick's ranch!

 **Now watch Clip 4 and answer the questions on pages 24–25.**

 CLIP 4**1 Watch the clip and answer the questions.**

- Where do the girls go with the cow?
- Before she joins the herd, what does the cow need?
- What is the cow's name?
- Who is Dolly?
- How do Texans usually cook burgers?
- Do Lauren and Hayley like their first Texan burgers?

2 Focus on language. What are Nick and Hayley talking about?

Match the sentences with the subjects. Now watch the clip again and check your answers.

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| a) 'She forgot already.' | i) Hayley |
| b) 'I'm so scared.' | ii) the ear tag |
| c) 'Very good. A pro!' | iii) the injection |
| d) 'You can't get attached to them.' | iv) hamburgers |
| e) 'They look so nice.' | v) cows |

3 Complete each sentence with the missing words.

ear injection pen tag

- When they arrive at the ranch, Nick puts the cow in a small _____.
- The cow needs a _____ with a number on it.
- Hayley puts a tag in the cow's _____.
- Lauren doesn't want to give the cow an _____.

4 How does Dolly make burgers? Put the sentences in the right order. Now watch the clip again and check your answers.

- Add salt and pepper.
- Cook the burger on a grill.
- Make the ball flat with your hands.
- Make the meat into a ball.
- Pull off some meat.
- Put the burger in a bun.

5 What have you learnt about life on a cattle ranch? List at least three things.