

## Remote Learning Packet

*There is no need to submit this packet at the end of the week. Enjoy your summer break!*

### **Week 9: May 25-29, 2020**

**Course:** Texas History

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### **Monday, May 25**

Happy Memorial Day! No School!

### **Tuesday, May 26 - Friday May 29**

- Kolaches, a tasty fruit or cheese filled pastry, arrived in Texas with Czech immigrants in the mid 1800's. Use the recipe in this packet to bake kolaches for your family!
- Read "Working on an Oil Rig: Questions with Mr. Bernardo" (starts on page 3)
- Write a list and make a map of places in Texas to one day visit with your family. Here are some destination ideas based on what we have studied this year:
  - Cities
    - Austin - The Capitol Building, the Bullock Museum (home to La Belle, the ship of French explorer La Salle. You might visit Fort St. Louis by the coast too, though little remains), the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
    - Fort Worth - The Stockyards
    - Fredericksburg - National Museum of the Pacific War, Pioneer Museum
    - San Antonio - The missions, including the Alamo of course! Many are connected by a biking trail.
    - Waco - Waco Mammoth National Monument, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum
  - Historic Sites
    - Gonzales Memorial Museum - where the original cannon is on display
    - Pecan Point - site of the first American settlers in Texas
    - San Jacinto Monument - site of the battle which won Texas its independence
    - Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site - where the Texas Declaration was signed
  - Parks
    - Big Bend National Park
    - Stephen F. Austin State Park and San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site - the place Austin established as Texan settlers' headquarters while he was an empresario
  - Other
    - The Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Polk County
    - Czech Stop - I-35 Exit 353

# Bohemian Kolaches

*(recipe from Taste of Home)*

**Prep Time:** 30 min + rising time

**Bake Time:** 10-15 min

**Yield:** ~28 rolls

## Ingredients:

- 2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar, divided
- 2 cups warm 2% milk (110° to 115°)
- 5-3/4 to 6-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 large egg yolks, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups canned prune, poppy seed, cherry or lemon pie filling
- 1 large egg white, beaten

## Instructions:

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in warm milk; let stand 10 minutes. In large bowl, combine 2 cups flour, remaining sugar, egg yolks, salt, butter and yeast/milk mixture. Mix until smooth. Add enough remaining flour to make a stiff dough.
2. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes. Add additional flour, if necessary. Place dough in greased bowl, turning once to grease top.
3. Cover; let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.
4. Punch dough down and allow to rise again.
5. Roll out on floured surface to 1/2-in. thickness. Cut with large glass or 2-1/2-in. cutter. Place on greased baking sheets; let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes.
6. Firmly press indentation in center and fill each roll with a heaping tablespoon of filling. Brush dough with egg white.
7. Bake at 350° for 10-15 minutes or until rolls are light golden brown.



## **Working on an Oil Rig: Questions with Mr. Bernardo**

*Thank you, students, for submitting your questions for Mr. Bernardo a few weeks ago.  
Please enjoy reading his responses and seeing his photographs.  
Optional videos of tasks and of a rig move will be available on Google Classroom.*

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## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE JOB

**How long have you been workin on an oil rig?**

1 year, 2 months

**Which part of the crew are you, a derrickman, a driller, a motorman, or something else?**

Floorhand. Here are all the positions:

Position (in order of rank)	Job
<p style="text-align: center;">Floorhands (2-3 on a rig)</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mr. Bernardo holding a pressure washer wand.</i></p>	<p>Clean rig, perform all tasks on rig floor: drilling, tripping in and tripping out (pulling pipe in and out). Assist Motorman and Derrickman at more advanced tasks. Clean up after repairs. They do all the grunt work and anything that involves heavy lifting or getting dirty. They usually stay on the rig floor most of the day.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Motorman</p>	<p>They are the rig mechanics. They make all the repairs, monitor oil levels. There are three big motors that the rig relies on and they make sure they are properly maintained. The unofficial job of the motorman is to be the driller's eyes. Since he doesn't have a permanent spot he can walk around and see who's slacking off and what not. He also loads and unloads all the supplies with the forklift, and makes a checklist of supplies.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Derrickman</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Derrickman stands here to rack (pull) back the pipe</i></p>	<p>The derrickman stands on top of the 'pits' (look like dumpsters with platforms on top). He mixes all the chemicals, makes sure the mud weight is correct. (You can get fired if the mud is the wrong weight, as it can cause a hole to cave in). The derrickman also goes on the board (see picture, that yellow platform). He climbs about 150' high and racks back the pipe or pushes it forward depending on whether we are going in or out of the hole.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Driller</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The driller shack, located on the rig floor.</i></p>	<p>The driller sits in the driller shack. He takes orders from the company man, uses his years of knowledge to monitor numbers on a screen, make sense of things you can't see. He has done all the positions so he tells people better ways of performing tasks. The driller controls the top drive which is a gigantic drill. He controls the big hand-like machine that connects the pipe together. He takes all the responsibility if anything does wrong even, if he did not make the mistake</p>

Tool Pusher	He used to be a driller. He orders supplies, orders any kind of machine part. He takes his orders directly from the company man and higher-ups in our company. He's in charge of managing everybody from our company as long as they are on our location. He gets rid of the bad workers and can promote or demote people under him. He also takes responsibility whenever something goes wrong.
Company Man	He works for a different company, the company we contract for (ex. Shell, Exxon Mobile, EOG). He represents the big company and makes all the decisions on behalf of them. He's the guy who hires and fires our company as a whole. If we all get fired they call that 'stacked'. It happens when our contract is finished if they're not happy with us or if they don't have any more money to continue.

**How many pounds do you have to lift to be a floor hand?**

50-100 by yourself. If it's too heavy usually somebody will help you or you'll use a hoist or forklift. A hoist is a cable with a hook that can lift more than 2000 pounds. It's hooked up to the top of the rig and uses hydraulics.

**Do you dig new holes every time to retrieve oil?**

Yes that's what we're hired for.

**What happens when a hole caves in?**

That happened to our last hole. It took a month to figure it out. We tried drilling through it again, drilling around it, and also filling up the cracks with some kind of chemical mix to make it more solid. It happened another time and they drilled around that area.

**How long does it take to drill a hole 21,000 ft deep?**

2-3 weeks if everything goes well. Sometimes the bit gets dull, or the pieces above the bit that give us information break and we have to trip in/trip out, making it take longer.

**How much oil do you pump out in one day?**

Don't know. We never get to that point. After we move the rig and leave, the completion crew deals with that. That's when you see pumpjacks and tanker trucks instead of a rig.



*The change house*

**What is the typical day on the job for oil rig workers? What time do you have to wake up?**

Day Shift

- 5:00AM Wake up, eat, put on PPE (coveralls, helmet, boots, h2s monitor)
- 5:30 Safety meeting, We discuss today's tasks and recent injuries from other rigs
- 6:00 Swap out with night crew (aka 'relief'), exchange info on current tasks.
- 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM Current Task
- 6:00 Take off PPE, shower, eat
- 9:00 Sleep

### Possible Daily Activities

Activity	Difficulty Level	How often we do it	Description
Drilling	Easy	Could be 12 or 14 day hitch or 1	Make connections and clean rig with pressure washer in between
Tripping In/Out	Hard	At least every 4 days, sometimes all 14 days of hitch. Takes up to 48 hours depending on how deep we are	Pull all pipe out or put it all back in. This part is why we get paid \$23.50 starting pay.
Run Casing	Easy	Every couple of weeks	That's when we're done with each section. Casing is the pipe used to pull out oil. We use drill pipe daily.
Walk Rig	Medium	once every three weeks	The whole rig walks, or slides about 5 meters to the next hole. We usually have three holes next to each other
Rig Move	Medium	once every few months	Take apart rig and put it one by one in trucks and move to different location

#### How does it feel on the oil rig?

It's usually that you're either hungry, tired, mad, too cold or too hot, but poking fun at people makes you forget about it.

#### Is the rig very big?

We work on medium and large rigs. The big rigs (harder to work on) are 3-4 stories high, the medium sized rigs are 2-3 stories high.

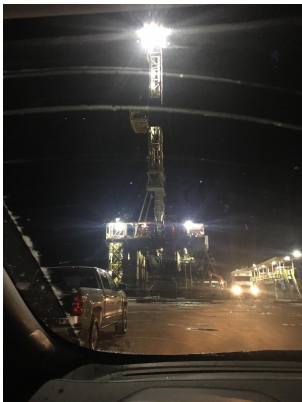
#### Is your job hard?

Took me 4 months to get physically in shape; mentally it's a choice. Everybody feels like quitting twice a week. People break down and leave about once a month.

#### In your time as an oil rig worker, what is the most difficult or dangerous position that your job has put you in?

One time I worked extra on a different rig. The rig manager said, "Get off the rig floor." Then I saw him run down the stairs. I started running too. As soon as we got down a piece of the rig blew 30 feet above the rig.

We prevented a blowout (where a huge pocket of gas causes oil to shoot out), but did it wrong and almost burned down the rig in the process. Had the wind gone the other way we would have burned down.



#### Have you ever had an accident on the oil rig?

Crushed my finger once. Now it's permanently bent. It's my own fault because you're not supposed to put hands on between pinch points. I wasn't awake yet that day. Many people who have been in the business for more than 7 years have seen somebody die. It was more dangerous back then.

Story: We were in a rig move once. I heard somebody yelling in agony off the top of his lungs. Our derrickman yells, "Somebody's dying." We all rush to a spot where they were moving a part of the rig with the crane. A guy goes "Five foot bar, five foot bar." Somebody grabs a 5-foot bar. As we move the 5-foot bar we hear more yelling. Finally we move the 5 foot bar to a spot where the guy stopped yelling. Apparently some guy had a finger caught between a metal piece that was being moved. That guy wasn't even supposed to be there.

**Has someone ever fallen in a hole?**

Haha, no. There are lots of safety precautions around the hole. If we're not drilling it's either sealed with a device on top or we have a hole cover. What's more likely is that we drop a small metal object in there and the whole crew gets in big trouble.

**Do you get to work on the Gulf coast?**

No. Not much drilling there after that big oil spill. I worked on a rig with all Louisiana workers who had worked in the Gulf coast and got laid off after all those rigs went away.

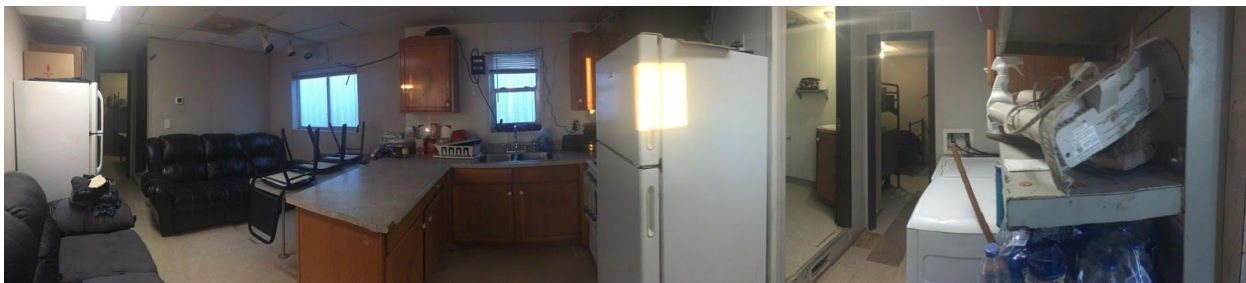
**Do you like your job?**

I like the money, and feel good after we do something hard, but it's hard and painful.



*The drilling hole, before the rig goes on it.*

**QUESTIONS ABOUT LIVING AT THE RIG SITE**



**Do you have two homes? There and in a different location?**

Yes. 14 days in West Texas, 14 days at home in Irving, Texas. I go from no Donut Shops to more than a dozen.

**Do y'all have to eat spam and pineapple juice? What's the food like?**

Hahaha. We eat whatever we bring to the rig. Mostly frozen food because it's quick. I don't like cooking anything fancy because it takes too long and I'm usually pretty tired at the end of the day. If you work offshore, though, they cook for you, you get a lunch break and they do your laundry.

**How do you get food?**

We bring it to the rig.

**Since it is far away from stores, do you have to make sure you have enough supplies? If you run out of something, are you able to go to the store or do you have to wait it out?**

Yes. Best if you can do enough for 14 days but most people go to Walmart in the middle of the week. You lose sleep doing that.

**Do you miss living in the city?**

I still live in the city. We work 14 days on and then I go live in Irving where your school is.

**Do you bring books with you or do you not have much time to read?**

I tried and was too tired after work. I've got like 3-4 hours of free time after work before we really should sleep. But between laundry and making food I just watch TV or hang out and then sleep.



*The rig, behind the trailers where the crew and company men live.*

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OIL INDUSTRY**

**Where does the oil go after it's pumped? The gas station?**

I never see that part but I think it goes to the refinery and then the gas station.

**As you know, the oil industry is not dying, but always changing. However, there have been substitutes to oil on the rise, such as solar power, nuclear power, ethanol, etc. and though these substitutes are not going to overtake the oil industry anytime soon, there is considerable public momentum to increase their utilization. What do you think about these substitutes, or, what is your opinion on them?**

It would be great if that could happen. I think batteries have to be much better before wind and solar power will be useful. Elon Musk will probably make that stuff happen.

**How is the current price of oil in the stock market affecting your work?**

After Covid happened, prices dropped below 30. We all knew we were getting laid off, it was just a matter of when. I got laid off April 27, 2020. Drillers will be working floorhand positions.

**Has COVID-19 affected your life as an oil rig worker?**

Yes. Got laid off because of it. Politics I don't understand and less usage of oil. When oil prices went under 30 we all knew we were getting laid off, just didn't know when.



## PICTURES



*Rig behind the housing for the crew and companymen*



*A lot of rigs are on farmland.*



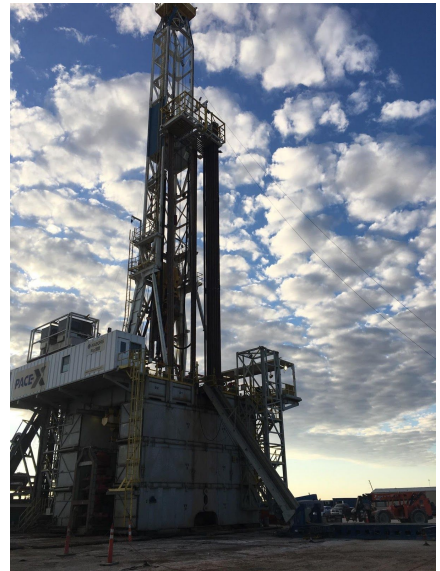
*Another shot of the crew's trailers.*



*Front of the rig. The blue machine is what brings up the drill pipe. It is called a pragma*



*Mr. Bernardo in the derrickman area. Behind is the pits (chemicals, etc.)*



*The white structure is the doghouse, where the driller stays. The floor hands work on the rig floor adjacent to it.*



*The hole on the ground, before the rig is moved on top of it.*



*Derrickman and Floorhand*



*A shot of the rig floor.*



*This is called the stack. The stack goes right above the hole. It is a safety measure as it contains multiple ways of stopping gas from coming up. The red wire looking things are hydraulic hoses filled with hydraulic oil. They open and close valves.*



*This is where the derrickman mixes chemicals. We pour in sacks of chemicals and pumps bring those chemicals into a mix that contains dozens of barrels of diesel (if we're making oil base). Sometimes we will put in a chemical called bayrite. That will change the thickness of the mix. Sometimes we use calcium chloride. That stuff tingles when you smell it, and it lightly burns your skin.*



*A crane taking rig apart after drilling is done.*



*Watching a rig move from our rig.*