

# Oilmen Who Loved the Land: Samuel Lloyd Noble and Roy J. Turner

1. Read and discuss the stories of Samuel Lloyd Noble and Roy J. Turner.
  - Discuss vocabulary words. Students will use contextual clues to guess the meaning and use dictionaries or the definitions included to find the actual meaning.
  - On an Oklahoma map, students will locate the homes of the two men.
2. Samuel Lloyd Noble and Roy J. Turner were both oil men, in addition to their agricultural activities.
  - Students will compare and contrast the agricultural activities of the two men in a short paper. Describe their involvement in the oil business and their philanthropic activities.
3. Students will use an online search engine or library resources to research a topic of interest related to the reading passage (land conservation, oil business, Roy Turner's term as governor, Hazford Rupert the 81st, etc.) Students will write short papers based on their research.
4. Samuel Lloyd Noble was inspired to help restore agricultural land based on what he could see from the air when he flew into Ardmore. Today we can get satellite views of land all over the world from our computers.
  - Students will use an online map to find a satellite image of the Ardmore area in Oklahoma. Students will describe what they see. Students will identify the vegetation zone for the Ardmore area. Students will compare the Ardmore area with other parts of the state, based on the satellite images.
5. Students will read and discuss the story about Samuel Lloyd Noble.
  - Students will use an online search engine to find information about the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.
  - Students will select one area from the three listed below and find what research is being done in that area.
    - Ag Division
    - Forage Improvement
    - Plant Biology
  - Students will present the information as a summary or power point presentation.

## Oklahoma Academic Standards

### GRADE 3

Economics: 1,2,3.

Geography: 1CE; 2C.

History: 10

Speaking and Listening:  
R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading  
and Writing Process: R.2,3.  
Critical Reading and Writing:  
R.7; W.2. Vocabulary:  
R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3,4;  
W.1,2,3

### HIGH SCHOOL

Oklahoma History: 1.1; 4.4

Speaking and Listening:  
R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Critical  
Reading and Writing:  
W.2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5.  
Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3

## Vocabulary

**contractors**— a person who agrees to perform work or provide supplies at a certain price or within a certain time

**erosion**—a wearing away by the action of water, wind, or glacial ice

**foundation**— an institution supported by funds given for a specific purpose

**oil drilling rig**— a machine that creates holes in the earth sub-surface for the purpose of bringing oil to the surface

**onshore**— situated on land

**prosperity**— the state of being prosperous or successful

**ranch**— a place for the raising of livestock (as cattle, horses, or sheep) on range

**security**— the state of providing safety

**stewardship**— the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

# Oilmen Who Loved the Land: Samuel L. Noble and Roy J. Turner

---

## SAMUEL LLOYD NOBLE

In 1921, at the age of 24, Lloyd Noble borrowed \$15,000 from his mother to buy his first **oil drilling rig**. From this first purchase, he became one of the most successful and respected **onshore drilling contractors** in the United States.

As Noble's success in the oil business grew, he became more involved in Oklahoma's political and cultural activities. His greatest love lay with **stewardship** of the land. Noble owned three **ranches** in Carter County. He regularly flew in and out of Ardmore to manage his businesses. From the air he could see the **erosion** and other effects resulting from poor farming practices in Oklahoma and north Texas.

Noble regarded the land as very important to the future growth, **prosperity** and **security** of our country. In 1945 he formed the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. He named the **foundation** after his father, who he said was the most generous man he had ever known. The primary purpose of the foundation was to help farmers and ranchers preserve and restore their land through research and educational programs. The Noble family still operates the foundation.

## ROY J. TURNER AND HAZFORD RUPERT THE 81ST

Roy Turner was governor of Oklahoma from 1947 to 1951, but he may have been more famous for his prize bull, Hazford Rupert the 81st.

Hazford Rupert 81st was the 1936 **international** champion and the nation's first "million-dollar bull." Featured in various articles in *Time* and *Life* magazines, the bull in its lifetime produced hundreds of **descendants** valued at well over \$1 million.

Turner was born near Kendrick in 1894. He built his Hereford Heaven ranch, near Sulphur, with **royalties** from his oil-rich land. Hereford Heaven produced some of the most important **sires** and **dams** in the national Hereford **registry**. In 1963 Turner sold Hereford Heaven to Winthrop Rockefeller.

Governor Turner built highways (including Turner Turnpike) and farm-to-market roads, **consolidated** some small school districts, and secured passage of a common school **bill** that provided free text books. President Harry Truman asked Turner to become secretary of agriculture in 1949, but Turner declined the offer. While governor of Oklahoma and after leaving office, Turner sponsored livestock exhibitions and judging contests for 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America.

Turner's hobby was writing and singing country and western songs. One of his songs was named for his ranch, Hereford Heaven.

