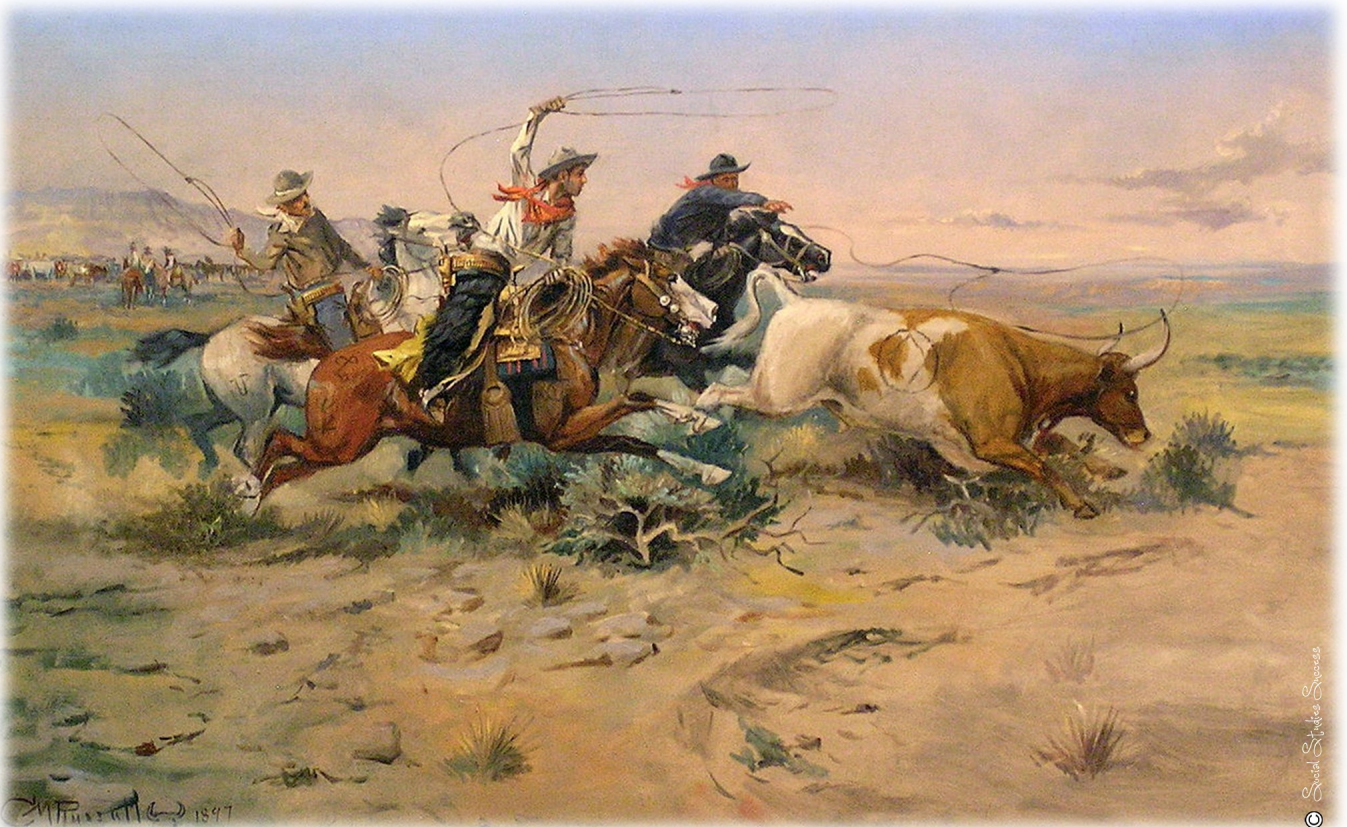


The Cowboy Way of Life

Reading, Puzzle, and
Cowboy Activity





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Clip Art and Fonts



Directions

1. This lesson is designed for your students to understand the cowboy way of life.
2. Place your student into groups of 3. Give each group a set of the puzzle pieces. Challenge your students to assemble the puzzles based on the images and their prior knowledge. Review the answers with the class.
3. Pass out the reading, "*Cowboys vs. Indians*". Allow your students to read and discuss the questions on the page. Debrief the questions with your class.
4. As a processing assignment, give each student The Cowboy activity to label and annotate.

This is how cattle were identified. The mark was registered and could only be used by one rancher. This was a legal mark of ownership and the only method of sorting the cattle by the owner when they were rounded up. A hot iron was heated and used to mark the cattle.



Brand

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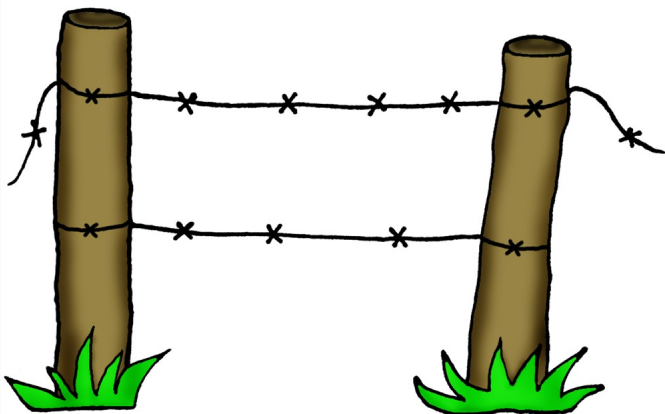
These animals were valuable for their thick hides which were used to make leather. Leather was used to make clothing, saddles, and all sorts of gear. They were also valuable for their tallow, or fat, as well as their meat. The era began due to high demand and high price. Prices would rise and fall. The last years of the drives brought low prices for ranchers. Low prices led to little or no profit and contributed to the end of the era.



Cattle Industry

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Prior to this invention, the only method of fencing animals in was wood. This was expensive, time consuming, and wood was not available in abundance on the open prairie. It was not an easy option for large cattle herds requiring miles and miles of fencing. This invention allowed fences to be built across the open prairies of West Texas. As land owners began fencing in their properties, it became more and more difficult to drive cattle.



Barbed Wire

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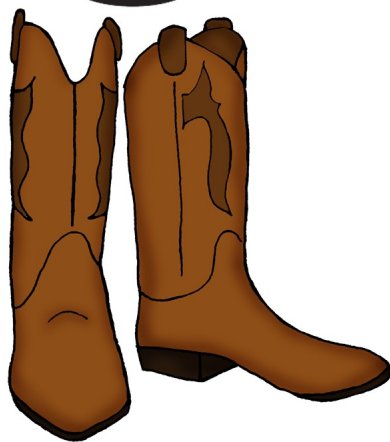
Blankets rolled and carried for sleeping. Also called sugans, soogans, hot rolls, or dream sacks.



Bedroll

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Made with high heels to keep them from slipping through saddle stirrups and as a brace in roping. Soles are usually slick leather to keep them from catching when dismounting.



Cowboy Boots

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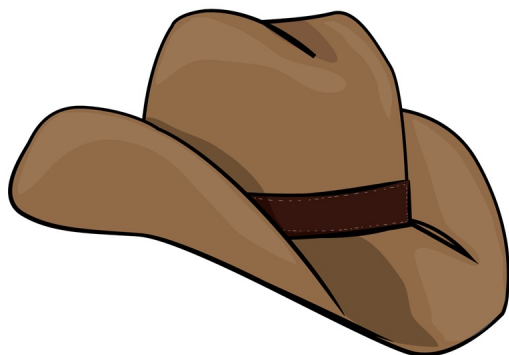
Derived from the Spanish *las chaparreras*, or *chaparejos*. Leggings worn by cowboys as protection against the brush and weather. Usually made of leather.



Chaps

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Made with a four to six-inch brim, acts as an umbrella in stormy weather, and a shade from the sun in hot weather. John B. Stetson is credited with designing and marketing the first one, which he called the "Boss of the Plains."



Cowboy
Hat

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Comes from Spanish "la reata" meaning to catch or fasten. A long rope of braided rawhide. The rope has a loop or eye attached at one end through which the other end runs.



lariat

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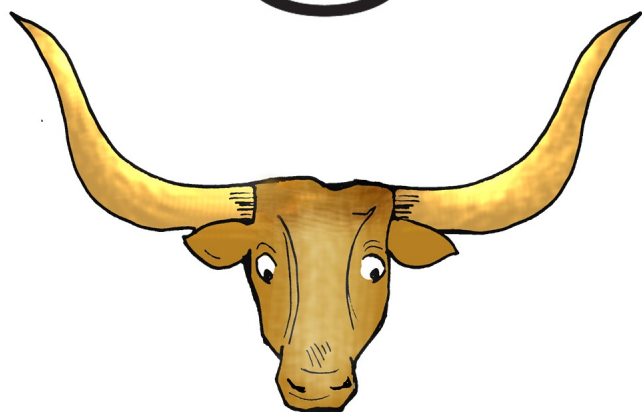
Kerchief or scarf worn at the neck, sometimes elaborately knotted. It is usually large and most often made of silk. It is used for warmth in the winter and protection from the dust in the summer.



Wild
Rag

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This specific breed of cattle in Texas are characterized by their large horns, which can span over 6 feet. Spanish in origin, they adapted to life in the harsh environment of Texas.



Longhorn

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Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads

"Cowboys vs. Indians"

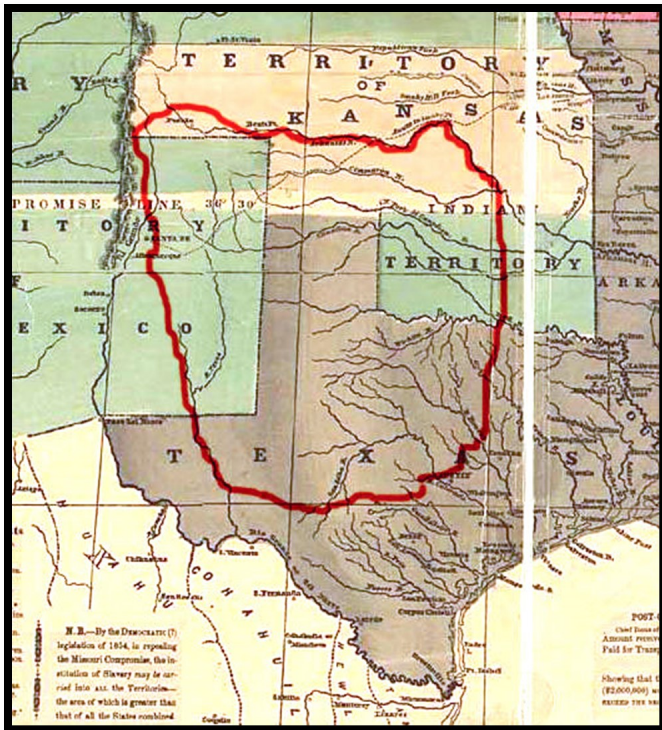
As the cattle drives moved large herds of cattle across the territory of the Comanche, conflict occurred. Millions of buffalo had been killed by the buffalo hunters in the late 1800s. Driven by hunger and a desire to protect their territory, the Comanche began attacking the cowboys moving cattle along the cattle trails.

Britton Johnson was an African American cowboy who lived in West Texas. During a cattle drive to the north, a band of 25 Comanche warriors attacked him and his men. Although they put up a fight, they were killed by the Comanche.

Another attack occurred on the Goodnight - Loving Trail. Charles Goodnight, Oliver Loving, and their cowboys were attacked as they were moving cattle along the Pecos River. 200 Comanches attacked the men on the trail. Oliver Loving was shot and soon died. Farther down the trail, Charles Goodnight was also attacked but survived.

The attacks by the Comanche on the cattle trails were effective. By the end of the 1860s, it became too dangerous for cowboys to move cattle along the Goodnight - Loving Trail, causing it to be abandoned.

Comancheria, Comanche Tribal Lands



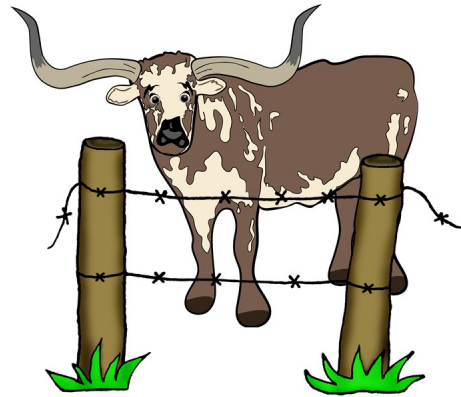
Cattle Trails in Texas



What relationship do you see between the two maps?
 What impact do you think these two groups of people had on each other?

The Cowboy

Directions - Label and explain the purpose of the equipment required by a cowboy in Texas. You need to include the following: branding iron, cowboy hat, wild rag, lariat, chaps and boots. Also include a description of barbed wire, Texas longhorn, and the cattle industry.





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About the Author

For more than 25 years, I have brought my love of Social Studies to teachers and students. My journey includes a variety of roles - classroom teacher, instructional coach, curriculum coordinator, university professor, and professional development trainer. Working with middle school students has been one of the highlights of my career.

After thirteen years in the classroom teaching 7th and 8th grade history, I transitioned into the role of an instructional coach at a high school campus. This window into other teachers' classrooms motivated my inner calling to improve social studies instruction. I realized how important quality teachers are in changing the way students learn history.



My next step was to central office. I served a district of over 55,000 students as a Social Studies Coordinator. My goal of improving Social Studies instruction continued as I worked with over 600 K-12 Social Studies teachers to implement transformative Social Studies education.

In my current role, I provide professional development, consulting services and resources to Social Studies teachers. Research into best practices is embedded into all of my resources. I want every child to understand the importance of Social Studies in their life - and every teacher to have the tools to reach them.

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Dawn