



ACTIVITY 9

The Cowboy's Equipment



RANCH LIFE SERIES / BOOK 2 / COWBOYS AND HORSES

Chapter 8

Content Area

Social Studies

Topic

Geography: How People Adapt and Modify Their Environment

Objective

Students will be able to analyze the importance of equipment to a cowboy.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

K.5B, 1.6C, 1.10B, 2.8A, 3.4A, 3.4B, 4.9C, 5.8B, 5.9A





The Cowboy's Equipment

CONTENT AREA: Science & Social Studies

TOPIC: Geography: How People Adapt and Modify Their Environment

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- SECURITY BRIEFING (pages A9-2): 1 per student or student group
- THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT - SADDLE/BOOTS/CHAPS/SPUR (pages A9-3 to A9-6): 1 per student
- THE BOTTOM LINE (page A9-8): 1 per student or student group

READING STRATEGY:

Working in table groups, students will decide which piece of equipment they will research, and each will read aloud the pages corresponding to their equipment below. Groups can meet together in different areas of the classroom.

- Saddle: Pages 51-54
- Boots: Pages 55-61
- Chaps: Pages 62-65
- Spurs: Pages 66-68

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Organize students in groups of four and assign each student one of the four pieces of equipment: saddle, boots, chaps, spurs. Student receive the THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT - SADDLE/BOOTS/CHAPS/SPUR sheet that corresponds with their piece of equipment.
2. As students complete their reading, they will identify 3 traits their piece of equipment has that helps a cowboy do his or her job and write them on the bottom of their equipment sheet.
3. Students will present their piece of equipment to the class using the traits they found in their reading as support evidence for the importance of their piece of equipment on the ranch.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

Have students (or student groups) complete THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the activity.

The Cowboy's Equipment



SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

Howdy friends, it's me, Hank the Cowdog. It is amazing that as the Head of Security I don't have to have any equipment to get my job done. I can protect this ranch with just my four paws and awesome sniffer. Cowboys, on the other hand, need a lot of equipment to get their jobs done daily. What equipment do you feel is the most important for a cowboy?

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Students will be organized into groups of four people and assigned a different piece of equipment (saddle, boots, chaps, or spurs).
2. Each student will be given the corresponding THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT sheet for his or her piece of equipment.

Students will read the following text for their piece of equipment:

Saddle: Pages 51-54

Boots: Pages 55-61

Chaps: Pages 62-65

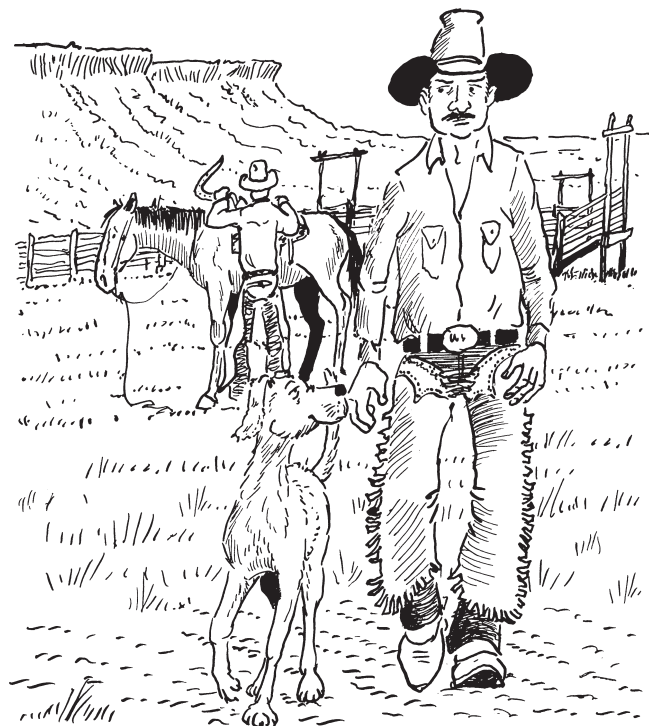
Spurs: Pages 66-68

As you read, identify 3 traits that describe your piece of equipment. Write these traits on the bottom of your THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT sheet.

3. Using the traits on your THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT sheet, present your piece of equipment to the class, describing in as much detail as you can its importance to the ranch.

WRAP UP:

Fill out THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet after you have completed the activity.



– THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT –

saddle



*This saddle was made by Apache Saddles (Amarillo, TX), probably 1950s or 1960s.
It is part of the artifact collection at the National Ranching Heritage Center.*



List 3 characteristics of the above piece of equipment that aids a cowhand in completing his or her ranch work on a daily basis:

1.

2.

3.

– THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT –

boots



*These boots were made by M.L. Leddy's in the 1970s.
They are part of the artifact collection at the National Ranching Heritage Center.*

*List 3 characteristics of the above piece of equipment that aids a
cowhand in completing his or her ranch work on a daily basis:*

1.

2.

3.

– THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT –

chaps



*These chaps were made in the 1950s or 1960s.
They are part of the artifact collection at the National Ranching Heritage Center.*

*List 3 characteristics of the above piece of equipment that aids a
cowhand in completing his or her ranch work on a daily basis:*

1.

2.

3.

– THE COWBOY'S EQUIPMENT –

spur



*These spurs were made by Oscar Crockett in the 1960s.
They are part of the artifact collection at the National Ranching Heritage Center.*

*List 3 characteristics of the above piece of equipment that aids a
cowhand in completing his or her ranch work on a daily basis:*

1.

2.

3.



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

THE BOTTOM LINE

A good cowboy must rely on quality equipment. Use our cowboy and equipment visuals to answer the questions.

Answer the questions below:

1. Name the most important trait of a cowboy's saddle.
2. Name the most important trait of a cowboy's boots.
3. Name the most important trait of a cowboy's chaps.
4. Name the most important trait of a cowboy's spurs.
5. Which piece of equipment do you feel is the most important for a cowboy to have? Explain