



Primary Press

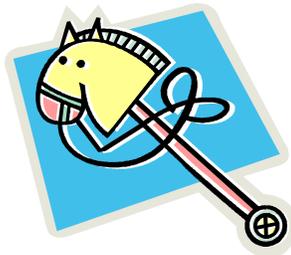
Howdy Partner



Teach children about the Wild West while playing games, reading books and making crafts this will help children understand the history of America. Children love the Wild West theme and learn by doing the hands-on activities.



Transforming your classroom into the old west can be fun and easy with some inexpensive changes. Make "wanted" posters with the children's pictures on them and display on the walls of your space. To your dramatic play area add jean shirts, handkerchiefs, cowboy boots, chaps, vests and even a real saddle put on a carpentry horse. The children will enjoy being cowboys and cowgirls. You can even make a covered wagon by attaching tent poles to a table and covering them with a flat white sheet.



Stick horses can be made out of wrapping paper tubes with a lunch bag decorated and stuffed with paper attached to the end of the tube. Decorate your horse head with wiggle eyes and feathers or yarn for the mane. The children can now have horse races or even barrel races like in a rodeo. Bring in a bale of hay and the children can "tie-up" their horses when they are finished riding.



Make a campfire with rolled up newspaper secured with masking tape and painted brown. Insert yellow, orange and red tissue paper in the middle of your newspaper to create flames for the camp-

fire. You could also bring in a blanket and a picnic basket with pretend food. The children could have their naptime around the campfire in their own sleeping bags.



Pan for gold in your sensory table. Paint a handful of rocks gold and mix them in with your sand. Add enough water to cover the sand resembling the stream bed. Give children aluminum pie plates and allow them to swish the water/sand mixture in a circular motion. The heavier "gold nuggets" will remain in the bottom of the pan. Talk about the gold rush with the children. The "gold nuggets" could be added to the dry sand table and the children could use sand sifters to look for their gold.

Enjoy this old wild west theme with the children, you both will have fun while learning something new.

County of Loudoun Family Services

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Tall hat, shining spurs

Amble down the dusty trail

On the trusty steed

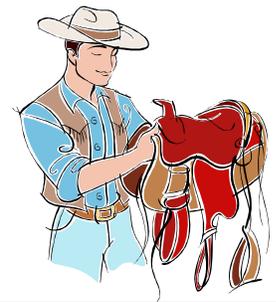


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Book Corner



The Bootmaker and the Elves

By: Susan Lowell

The bootmaker can not sell the boots he makes and is going to close his business. He goes to bed and wakes up to brand new boots that people love to buy! Each day there are new designs and types of boots that show up in the morning. He soon finds out who makes the boots at night, and decides to repay them for their help.



Little Red Cowboy Hat

By: Susan Lowell

This story is set in the American Southwest and focuses on a young girl who becomes known as "Little Red Cowboy Hat" due to both her bright red hair and her affinity for a large red cowboy hat. Little Red is given the task of bringing homemade bread and a jar of cactus jelly to her ill grandmother. Along the way she meets the wolf who hassles her and makes her feel uncomfortable but Little Red is able to escape on her trusty steed.



Cactus Hotel

By: Brenda Z. Guiberson

It is another hot day in the desert. Birds and other animals scurry about looking for food. When they get tired they stop to rest in the giant cactus. It is their hotel in the desert. Many different animals live in the cactus hotel. The cactus protects them from the elements and the animals help the cactus by eating pests that could harm the cactus.

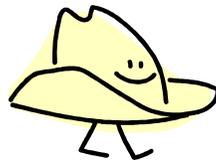
Why Cowboys Sleep With Their Boots On

By: Laurie Lazzaro

This hardworking cowboy wears his clothes to bed and while he is sleeping soundly he isn't aware that during the night he is losing an item of clothing. **Cowboy Sam and Those Confounded Secrets**

By: Kitty Griffin and Kathy Combs

This is a story of Cowboy Sam who is smart, tough and kind. He's everybody's favorite because he can keep a secret under his enormous ten-gallon hat. Sam tells everyone who shares a secret, "I'll keep it under my hat." But when his hat can't hold any more secrets and it pops off his head, Sam has to come up with a new way to protect all of the townspeople's secrets.



The Fat Stock Stampede at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

By: Dotti Enderle

When Jake accidentally unlatches the gates of all of the animal pens, it's only a matter of minutes before chaos and hilarity take over Reliant Stadium. Heifers, chickens, rabbits and pigs spring from the cages as livestock of every kind run wild around the rodeo. Jake devises a crafty and creative plan to herd up the livestock and save the show from disaster.

Rosie and the Rustlers

By: Roy Gerrard

Rosie Jones sets off with her wranglers on a trip to Cherokee territory. She is unaware that Greasy Ben and his gang of rustlers have slithered into town to rob Rosie's ranch. This book is funny with realistic pictures.



The Cowboy & the Black-Eyed Pea

By: Tony Johnson

In this adaptation of "The Princess and the Pea", the wealthy daughter of a Texas rancher devises a plan to find a real cowboy among her many suitors.

Do Cowboys Ride Bikes?

By: Kathy Tucker

This book has humorous rhyming answers to fourteen questions about what it's like to be a cowboy.

Why Cowboys Need a Brand

By: Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton

Cowboy Slim Jim Watkins has everything he needs to start his own ranch except a unique brand. Everybody knows that even Jim Watkins can't have a ranch without a brand. Cowboy Jim Watkins has a great "can do" attitude so maybe he will find his own brand.



The Zebra-Riding Cowboy

By: Angela Medearis

This is a picture book of a 19th-century folk song about a city slicker who arrives in a western town hoping to become a cowboy. The cowboys in town, who assume he knows nothing about busting broncos, give him a particularly wild horse to break in. The city slicker knows more about busting broncos than anyone could have expected.

Let's Do Some Singing & Finger Plays



The Little Cowboy

Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little cowboy, here is my hat
Here are my spurs and here
are my chaps

As soon as I get up, I work all day
I get on my horse and ride away

I've Been Riding on the Range

Sung to: "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

I've been working on the range,
All the livelong day.

I've been working on the range,
Herding dogies on their way.

Can't you hear the cowboys shouting,
"Yippity-oh-ky-yay!"

Can't you hear the cowboys shouting,
Dogies, move this way!

Cowboys all Dressed Up

5 little cowboys get up to dress
The 1st one buttons up his vest
The 2nd one wears tall boots with
taps

The 3rd one laces up his chaps
The 4th one ties a big bow tie
The 5th one tips his hat.

Good-bye!



All Day I Ride on the Prairie

Sung to: *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*

All day I ride on the prairie
All night I sleep on the ground
Oh, I am a roaming cowboy,
Who travels all over town.
Move on, move on, move on,
Little dogies, move on, move on.
Move on, move on, move on,
Little dogies move on.



Happy Trails Graduation Song

Happy trails to you
It's the end of the school year
Happy trails to you
Now summertime is here
Next year we will be in Kindergarten
But pre-K is where we left our heart
Happy trails to you
Time to say "So long!"

Armadillo Song

Sung to: *Allouette*

Armadillo, little armadillo
Armadillo, curling up so small.
Now he is curling up his head,
Curl his head, O-O-O-O
Armadillo, little armadillo.
Armadillo, curling up so small.
Now he's curling up his legs.
Curl his legs, Curl his head, O-O-O-O
Armadillo, little armadillo.
Armadillo, curling up so small.
Now he's curling up his tail
Curl up his tail, curl up his legs,
Curl up his head, O-O-O-O
Armadillo, little armadillo.
Armadillo, curling up so small.

Texas

Sung to: *Bingo*

I know a state that's big and great
And Texas is its name oh
T-E-X-A-S
T-E-X-A-S
T-E-X-A-S
And Texas is it's name-o

There was an Old Woman

There was an old woman
who lived in a boot.
She had so many cowpokes
She didn't know what to do.
She gave them all cornbread
Without any chili.
And sent them to bed
Because they were silly!

Cowpoke Snacks

Baked Bean Bread

2 cups flour
2 Cups sugar
1 cup oil
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 16oz. Can pork & beans drained
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 cup raisins

Mix sugar, oil, vanilla and beans together.

Mix all dry ingredients together and add to wet mixture. Fill 5 clean and sprayed with Pam Campbell 16oz. soup cans 2/3 full of batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes. After the bread has cooled in the can tie a colorful bandana around the center of the can.

The kids will enjoy!





More Fun and Activities



Make harmonicas out of a small plastic comb and wax paper. Wrap the wax paper around the comb and secure with a rubber band if needed and have the child hum through the wax paper. Have the rest of the group sing to the tune of "She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain."

She'll be fryin' eggs for breakfast when she comes (sizzle, sizzle)

She'll be fryin' eggs for breakfast when she comes (sizzle, sizzle)

She'll be fryin' eggs for breakfast

She'll be fryin' eggs for breakfast

She'll be fryin' eggs for breakfast

When she comes.

Additional verses:

She'll be washin' clothes on a washboard when she comes (rub, rub)

She'll be choppin' wood for a fire

when she comes (chop, chop)
She'll be swimmin' in the fish pond
when she comes (splash, splash)



Cut potatoes in half and with plastic knives have the children carve out a brand. Dip your brand in paint and press onto cow pictures.

Explain to children that burned logs from your campfire is charcoal. Provide charcoal or black chalk for children to draw or practice writing.

Cut out ten identical cowboy boot shapes from poster board. Divide the boots into five pairs and use markers to decorate each pair differently. Mix up the boot shapes and turn them upside down on a flat surface and play a game of concentration trying to find a match. Cowboy boots could also be cut out of felt, two boots for each color. Mix up the boot shapes and place them in a box and let the children find the matching colored boots and arrange them in pairs on a flannel board.



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Primary Press

Childcare Workshops for Providers

To register for these workshops,
Please visit:

www.loudoun.gov/childcareworkshop

Workshop Registration opens on the
15th of each month for the
Following month.

*If the 15th is on a weekend or holiday,
then registration opens on the next business day.*