

### Brief Description

Master StoryTeller Calvin Sims dressed in spectacular authentic western attire complete with a full size western horse shares stories that stimulate young minds. The compelling visuals captivate the audience's attention as Calvin leads the young people on an exciting learning adventure. Children are treated to a funny, interactive story, interesting western artifacts and crafts and they get to meet a real live horse.

### Expanded Description

Before the story is told, children will be given a brief demonstration of several authentic western artifacts such as a lasso, bull whip, riding quirk, spurs, chaps, boots and the cowboy's hat. Each article is described and demonstrated. Children learn how each item is used.

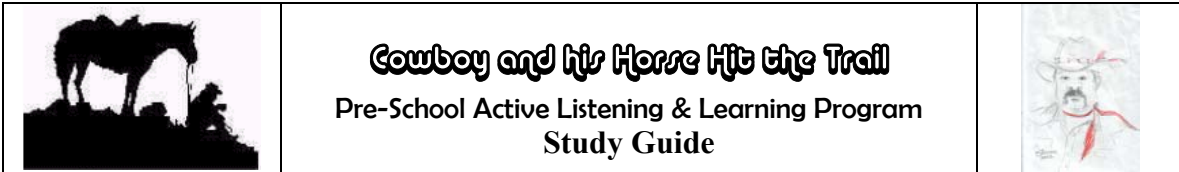
The lesson on western artifacts is reinforced as each article plays an important part in the story. Throughout the presentation the horse is offered as an incentive to pay attention, thus helping to encourage active listening skills.

The entire presentation is interactive. The strong imagery is exciting to even the most withdrawn pre-schooler. Active learning activities are energetic and fun for young children with even the shortest attention span. The excitement is captivating and makes young students enthusiastic about participation and learning.

The climax of the program is the formal introduction of the students to the horse. Elements that were introduced during the story concerning the horse are demonstrated thus reinforcing active learning exercises a second and most vivid time. Children will retain many elements of this program because the format is truly unforgettable.

Optionally and time permitting, at the end of the program, children will have an opportunity to pet and/or feed the horse carrots, apples and/or hay. (NOTE: StoryTeller will provide anti-bacterial hand sanitizer and paper towels. The school must provide adult supervision of the use and disposal of these items).

*programming nominated for the President's "Coming Up Taller" award*



### Background information on *The West*

When Meriwether Lewis & William Clark along with the other members of the ‘*Corp of Discovery*’, including Shoshone Princess, Sacagawea & Williams Clark’s Slave and Companion, York returned from the first successful expedition of exploration and Native American Diplomacy, the destiny of America was forever altered.

The Louisiana Purchase, which occurred during the time of the expedition coupled with the net proceed of treaties and information from the Lewis & Clark expedition launched the westward expansion.

A new breed of Americans responded to this new dynamic of western migration. These men and women braved tremendous hardships that demanded tremendous character and integrity as well as near superhuman strength and resolve. They fought hostile Indians, braved brutal elements and carved out of a wilderness, the greatest nation in the history of the world.

This amazing feat - building such a great nation in the history of the world – was accomplished in a miraculously short period of time. At only 228 years old (as of this writing), American leads cultures that are thousands of years old. A testimony to the tremendous character and integrity of our American ancestors. Heroes all.

### Background on The StoryTeller’s Garb

Every article of the cowboys attire was a dire necessity. Some elements reflected his ingenuity at gaining an advantage over an animal 10 times his weight. Other articles were instrumental in his survival. Some of the articles he wore were even tools, therefore turning the cowboys body into a tool.

The Boots’ pointed toe allows the cowboy to get his feet into the stirrups quickly. The higher heel prevents the foot from going too far in. The chaps are to the cowboy's legs what gloves are to the hand. The spurs help to get the horse’s attention if he becomes distracted. The children are taught that the spurs do not hurt the horse and that it would be cruel to purposely hurt any living creature including each other.

The cowboy’s hat is explained along with an explanation of the value of any ornaments that serve the dual purpose of conversation piece with what may otherwise be hostile Indians.

The purpose and value of articles of the cowboys clothing are demonstrated and explained then used in the story to further illustrate their use and importance.

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**Cowboy and his Horse Hit the Trail**  
Pre-School Active Listening & Learning Program  
Study Guide



Background on the character

The character is a fictitious young cowboy. He has just turned twelve years old, the age that a boy often had a man's responsibility on the frontier. The young man had anxiously awaited his twelfth birthday so that he would be old enough to join the ranch hands.

The ranch hands are out on a cattle roundup and the young cowboy must ride several miles alone to catch up with them at the rendezvous. Along the way, the young man must use the tools of the period to fend for himself on the trail because the trip requires him to camp out overnight.

The young cowboy demonstrates skill as well as responsibility as he not only rides his horse but takes good care of him.

The story is captivating and exciting for young people who relate to the youthful hero who uses his whip to run off a coyote and prevent a stampede.

Vocabulary list

**Brim**

Part of a cowboy hat that catches rain, dust and provides shade and protection for the cowboy's eyes.

**Camping**

To live temporarily in a camp or outdoors.

**Cheese cloth**

A very lightweight cotton gauze coated in wax or paraffin.

**Chicory**

Dried ground roasted root of chicory used to flavor or adulterate coffee.

**Coyote**

A buff-gray to reddish gray No. American canid (*Canis latrans*) closely related to but smaller than the wolf.

**Drag**

The back or end of a herd.

**Frontier**

A part of a country that is unsettled and may be unexplored.

**Giddy up**

Commands that tells a horse to go.

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**Hard tack**

Bread made by a cowboys and eaten as a snack to ward off hunger.

**Herd**

Collection of livestock usually horses, cows, buffalo, sheep or goats.

**Hondo**

A loop that a rope is threaded through to make an adjustable loop.

**Lasso**

Rope use to catch animal. The cowboy twirls the rope above his head as he takes aim and throws the large loop of the lasso over an animal encircling and capturing the animal.

**Mane**

Long flowing hair along the neck of a horse used to ward off insects.

**Pioneer**

Those people who were the first to settle and/or explore a region.

**Ranch hand**

Ranch worker, cowboy.

**Reins**

Rope like attachments to a horse and a bit that fits behind the horses teeth. Used to control the horses direction and movement.

**Rendezvous**

A festive gathering of cowboys, pioneers and frontier people.

**Riding quirk**

Small whip worn around the wrist.

**Saddle**

Seat for the rider of a horse.

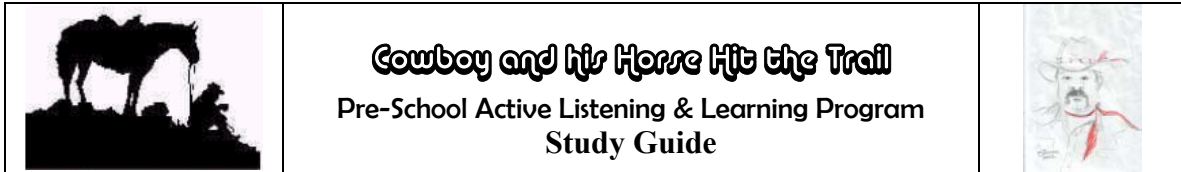
**Sage brush**

Dead dried very flammable bush.

**Salt pork**

Pork fat covered with salt as a preservative.

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### Stampede

When a herd panics and runs out of control causing massive destruction.

### Stirrup

Part of a saddle. Loop that is stepped into to mount the horse. Loops on either side of a horse used to maintain balance while riding.

### Tack

Anything used to take care of or ride a horse.

### Trail

Wilderness road. The route from one place to another.

### Whip

Device used to make a loud crack and drive herd animals in a controlled manner.

### Whoa

command that tells a horse to stop.

### Pre-Program Questions

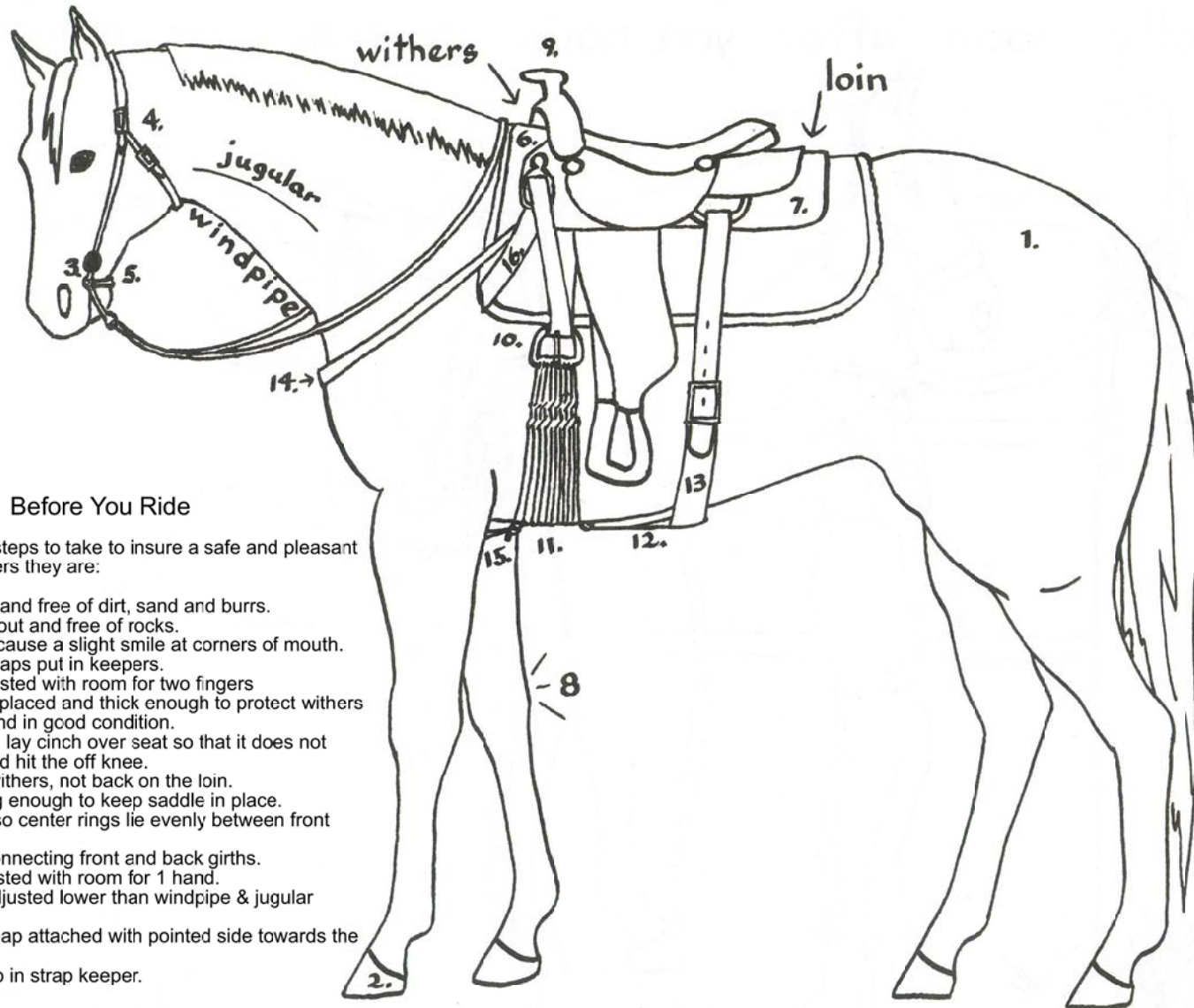
1. What state do we live in?
2. Is that state in the East or West?
3. What is East of our state?
4. What is West of our state?
5. What is a cowboy?
6. How did the cowboy travel?
7. What does a horse look like?
8. What does a horse eat?
9. What does a cowboy wear?
10. What tools did a cowboy use?

### Post-Program Questions

1. Why are the cowboy's boots pointed at the toe?
2. Why does the cowboy's hat have a wide brim?
3. Do horses eat meat?
4. Where does the cowboy sleep on the trail?
5. How does the horse sleep?
6. What is the horse afraid will happen to him?
7. How does a horse defend himself?
8. What does the cowboy use to drive the herd?
9. What happens if you sit on a running horse?
10. What tool does every cowboy know how to use?

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## Color & Learn



### Before You Ride

There are several steps to take to insure a safe and pleasant ride. By the numbers they are:

1. Horse brushed and free of dirt, sand and burrs.
2. Hoofs cleaned out and free of rocks.
3. Bit adjusted to cause a slight smile at corners of mouth.
4. Loose bridle straps put in keepers.
5. Curb strap adjusted with room for two fingers
6. Blanket evenly placed and thick enough to protect withers
7. Leather oiled and in good condition.
8. When saddling, lay cinch over seat so that it does not swing down and hit the off knee.
9. Saddle up on withers, not back on the loin.
10. Front girth snug enough to keep saddle in place.
11. Girth adjusted so center rings lie evenly between front legs.
12. Leather loop connecting front and back girths.
13. Back girth adjusted with room for 1 hand.
14. Breast collar adjusted lower than windpipe & jugular veins.
15. Breast collar snap attached with pointed side towards the ground.
16. Extra girth starp in strap keeper.