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Cowboys and Cowgirls

Related Areas

Art

Language

Social Studies

Focus

Develop an understanding of the real American cowboy and cowgirl as opposed to the romantic portrayal.

Activity

Group activities include researching history, biographies, articles of clothing, day-to-day life, and artifacts of cowboys and cowgirls of all ethnic backgrounds in the "Wild Wild West." These activities are to culminate in display boards for a "Western Museum" to be viewed by peers.

Vocabulary

complementary colors, monochromatic colors, branding, logo design, artifacts, exhibit display

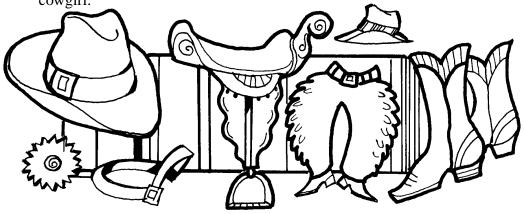
Materials

pencil; display boards; large sheets of butcher paper; glue; spray mount; colored paper; video of *High Noon*; video of a cowboy cartoon

Implementation

Day 1

- 1. Introduce students to cowboys and cowgirls and discuss and list famous cowboys/cowgirls in real life, comic books, TV, and film.
- 2. Introduce students to western history in a library and/or using the Internet.
- 3. Show examples of exhibit displays.
- 4. Go to a western museum (e.g., Autry Museum in Los Angeles, California).
- 5. Divide students into groups. Then each group selects a leader and divides out responsibilities for each requirement in the display: brand for ranch, draw character and indicate name of all articles of clothing, photos, artifacts of day-to-day life, and written biography of assigned cowboy or cowgirl.



Cowboys and Cowgirls (cont.)

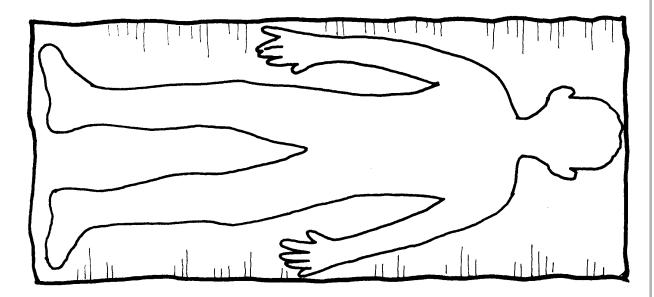
Implementation (cont.)

Day 2

- 1. Discuss logo design (everyday brands such as Coke®, IBM®, Apple®, etc.).
- 2. Show examples of ranch brands.
- 3. Students draw a brand of their display.

Day 3

1. Draw an outline around a student who lies down on butcher paper. Use this as a model for cowboy or cowgirl by drawing western articles of clothing (to be clearly labeled).



Days 4-6

Mount and display western invitations for school.

Extended Activities

- 1. Act out and film a western.
- 2. Make a cartoon strip of a cowboy.
- 3. Make food of the west (e.g., no-bake Cowpie Cookies).