

LAUGH AND LEARN

ABOUT THE AMERICAN COWBOY

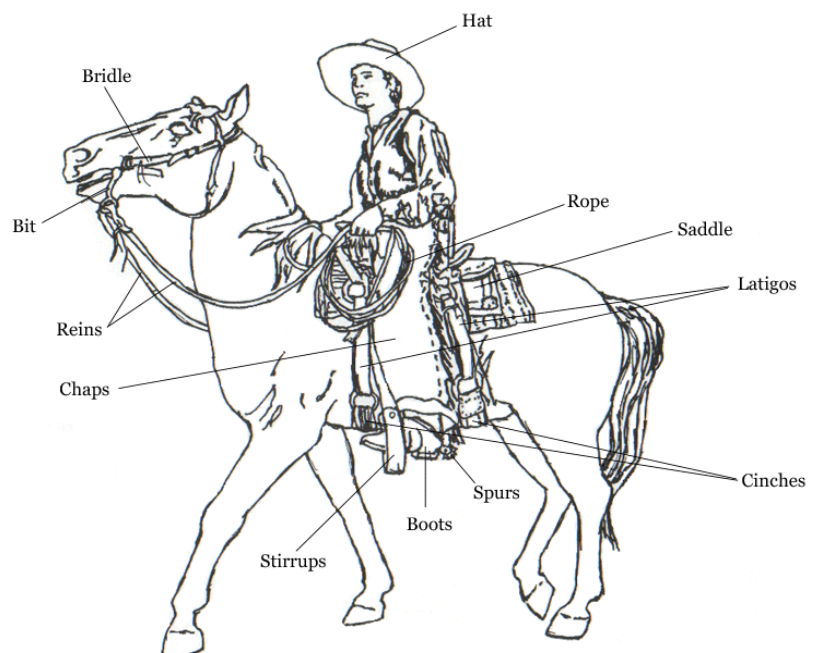


THE LEARN

AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR [1865 to early 20th century] they came from the east to work on ranches and drive the trail. A **cowboy** is an animal herder who tends cattle on ranches in North America on horseback, and performs a multitude of other ranch-related tasks. The cowboy was the glue that held the West together. Ranchers would hire cowboys to keep a watchful eye over the herds on the wide open range.

The usual Wild West cowboy gear consisted of a bridle, saddle, rawhide lariat, spurs, boots, chaps, hat, tarp, slicker, buffalo robe, blankets and most important... a Colt .45, "The Peacemaker." An old saying claims "Abe Lincoln freed all men, but the Colt .45 made them equal."

The Cowboy



- Bit, bridle, and reins...the steering wheel and brakes of riding a horse
- Saddle...the bucket seat
- Rawhide lariat...lasso...rope to throw over a cow to lead it. Cowboy tow chain
- Spurs...The gas pedal to make the horse move ahead
- Boots...cowboy style boots
- Chaps...a leather shield worn over the jeans to protect the jeans and the legs
- Hat...the cowboy's umbrella from sun and rain, and sometimes his drinking cup
- Tarp...buffalo hide to sleep on, or use as a tent in bad weather
- Slicker...raincoat made from oil treated cloth
- Buffalo robe or blankets...cowboy sleeping bag
- Colt .45...the hand held gun that could shoot six bullets

Every item of the cowhand's clothing was designed for a practical purpose. The long-sleeved cotton or wool shirts rarely had pockets, so vests were usually worn to carry small items and provide added protection. Chaps worn over boots and pants provided a shield against the harsh brush of the rough country. High leather boots protected the cowboys' feet and ankles. The boots' pointed toes made it easier for the cowboys to slip their feet into their stirrups, and the boots' high heels helped to anchor the riders' feet and prevent them from slipping out.



Kerchiefs were more than decoration. They protected the back of a cowboy's neck from the sun, filtered out dust when worn as a mask, kept his ears warm in cold weather, and, if tied over the hat, kept the wind from carrying it off. In an emergency, kerchiefs also served as temporary hobbles for horses, horse blindfolds, bandages, signal flags, towels, and protection from those hot pans and coffee pots coming off the camp fire.

Hats. The shape of the cowboy hat is from the Mexican sombrero. The broad rim helped keep the sun and rain off the cowhand's face. Cowboys used their hats to dip water out of streams for themselves or their horses to drink, to fan fires, and as pillows. To hold up under these uses, a hat had to be made of fur or beaver felt.

The typical American Cowboy was often lonely, lived in harsh conditions, frequently exposed to danger, but always kept their humor and joked about everything. They didn't make much money

and enjoyed the simple way of life. They were reserved around strangers, did not tolerate meanness, cowardice, dishonesty, chronic complaining, or mistreatment of women who were scarce [few] on the wild frontier. Tough as nails, but generous and hospitable, these were the true Wild West American Cowboys.

QUIZ FUN

A Cowboy's Guide to Life

1. There are two theories to arguing' with a woman,...
2. If you get to thinking' you're a person of some influence...
3. Never ask a man...
4. Never smack [hit] a man ...
5. Good judgment comes from experience...
6. Always drink...
7. Never drop your gun ...
8. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it ...
9. Never miss a good...
10. Don't squat with ...



- A. the size of his ranch.
- B. your spurs on.
- C. upstream from the herd.
- D. to hug a grizzly.
- E. who's chewing' tobacco.
- F. over and put it back in your pocket.
- G. and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- H. try ordering somebody else's dog around.
- I. chance to shut up.
- J. Neither one works.



THE LINKS

Jason Meadows - 100% Cowboy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYnJz4DIJWM>

Tom and Jerry Cowboys. <http://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?p=cowboy+cartoons>

My heroes, Willie Nelson, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMko5LelBdA>

The Wild Ride Camp 2011 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8JfyOueCVA>

Cowboy Poets <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCzeNIEfvVU>

QUIZ RESULTS

1. There are two theories to arguing' with a woman,... Neither one works.
2. If you get to thinking' you're a person of some influence... ordering somebody else's dog around.
3. Never ask a man the size of his ranch.
4. Never smack [hit] a man who's chewing' tobacco. [or you'll get sprayed with tobacco juice]
5. Good judgment comes from experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
6. Always drink upstream from the herd. [Take you drinking water from the river above where the cows drink and piss.]
7. Never drop your gun to hug a grizzly. [Equal to 'trust but verify.' Don't quickly trust someone who is known to cheat or hurt people]
8. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.
9. Never miss a good chance to shut up. [shut up = stop talking]
10. Don't squat with your spurs on.

THE LAUGHS

A COWBOY RODE INTO TOWN

A cowboy rode into town and stopped at the saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals always had a habit of picking on newcomers. When he finished, he found his horse had been stolen.

He comes back into the bar, handily flips his gun into the air, catches it above his head without even looking and fires a shot into the ceiling. "Who stole my horse?" he yelled with surprising forcefulness.

No one answered.

"I'm gonna have another beer and if my horse ain't back outside by the time I'm finished, I'm going to do what I did back in Texas and I don't want to have to do what I did back in Texas!" Some of the locals shifted restlessly. He had another beer, walked outside, and his horse was back! He saddled up and started to ride out of town.

The bartender wandered out of the bar and asked, "Say partner, what happened in Texas?"

The cowboy turned back and said, "I had to walk home!"

If a cowboy rides into town on Friday and three days later leaves on Friday, how does he do it? The horse's name is Friday!



"You have till sundown to get rid of those awful curtains."

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



COWBOY QUICHE

The best way to have a quiche for dinner is to make it up and put it in the oven to bake at 325 degrees. Meanwhile, get out a large T-bone, grill it, and when it's done, eat it. As for the quiche, continue to let it bake, but otherwise ignore it. [Quiche, a French pie made with eggs, milk, cheese, and vegetables or meat.]

COWBOY AT THE THEATRE

The cowboy lay sprawled across three entire seats in the posh Amarillo theatre. When the usher came by and noticed this he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The cowboy groaned but didn't budge. The usher became more impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there, I'm going to have to call the manager. The cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle. In a moment he returned with the manager. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police. The cop surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right buddy, what's your name?" "Sam," the cowboy moaned. "Where are you from, Sam?" With pain in his voice Sam replied.... "The balcony."

COWBOY BOASTING

Three cowboys of the world are sitting around camp talking about how tough they were and the tales kept getting bigger and bigger. The cowboy from Australia says, "I wrestled a 200 pound crocodile and may it cry like a baby." The Cowboy from Brazil shakes his head and says, "I wrestled to the ground a 1000 pound steer with my bare hands." The Cowboy from Texas just smiled and kept stirring the campfire with his leg.