

# AMERICAN COWBOY TOUR – TEACHER GUIDE



## DESCRIPTION

Trace the heart of cowboy culture from its vibrant origin story to the adrenaline-pumping world of modern rodeo. Compete in a cattle drive challenge and identify the tools and technology on which survival depends. Leave with an understanding and deep appreciation for what the cowboy represents.

## THEMATIC CONCEPTS

### Cultural traditions, strong character and hard work define the cowboy way of life.

- The cowboy's origin story comes from African and European herding traditions.
- A cowboy's clothing and tools reflect form, function, style and culture.
- American rodeo is the living legacy of the working cowboy.

## OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2025-2026]

### English-Language Arts

- 3.1 Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations. (3.1.L.1; 3.1.L.2)
- 3.3 Apply critical thinking skills to reading and writing. (3.3.R.5)
- 4.2 Develop foundational skills for reading and writing proficiency by working with sounds, letters, and text. (4.2.PWS.2)
- 4.3 Apply critical thinking skills to reading and writing. (4.3.R.7)

### Mathematics

- 3.N.2 Solve real-world and mathematical problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division (3.N.2.7; 3.N.2.8)
- 4.N.2 Solve real-world and mathematical problems using multiplication and division. (4.N.2.1; 4.N.2.4)

### Social Studies

- 3.2.2.C. Interpret thematic maps of Oklahoma using essential map elements to examine geographic features of the state.
- 3.2.3 B. Use both political and physical maps to identify Oklahoma's major landforms, bodies of water, and major metropolitan centers, recognizing the Native origins of many place names.
- 3.2.3 E. Describe the state's climate and various natural vegetation zones, explaining how climate can affect natural vegetation and economic activities.
- 3.2.3 Describe ways early inhabitants of present-day Oklahoma satisfied their basic needs and wants by interacting with the environment and using the natural resources of the region.
- 3.2.3 A. Explain the importance of the cattle industry to the early economy, including the influence of Hispanic ranching traditions on the cowboy culture and how cattle trails, such as the Great Western and Chisholm Trails, became major transportation routes.
- 3.3.3 Describe how individuals have contributed to the development of Oklahoma by describing the achievements of notable citizens.
- 3.4.1 B. Explore how the laws of supply and demand impact people's choices about buying, producing, and consuming goods and services.
- 3.4.2 B. Describe how notable Oklahoma entrepreneurs used their labor, land, and capital to build businesses and make a difference in their communities and the state.

## KEY WORDS AND TERMS

- Borders** – The defined boundaries between different political entities or jurisdictions, such as countries, states or counties.
- Center of Gravity** – The balancing point in an object where all the weight seems to be concentrated.
- Chisholm Trail** – A route used by cattle drives that led north from Texas, across Oklahoma, to Abilene, Kansas.
- Consumer** – An individual or group that purchases goods or services for personal use and not for manufacture or resale.
- Cowboy** – A man, typically on horseback, who herds and tends to cattle. Also referred to as vaquero, drover, buckaroo and more.
- Culture** – The beliefs, values, customs, language, material artifacts and assumptions about life that guide behavior and are shared by a group of people in a place or time.
- Distribution** – The way something is spread out or arranged over a geographic area, or the process of making a product or service available for use or consumption.
- Economy** – A system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services within a particular geographic region.
- Lever** – A bar or handle that moves around a fixed point, so one end of it can be pushed or pulled to move a heavy or stiff object.
- Outfit** – A group of people undertaking a particular activity together.
- Population** – The number of people living in a particular area or region.
- Region** – An area or division, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.
- Relative Location** – A position of a place in relation to other landmarks, providing context based on the surroundings, rather than a precise geographical position.
- Scarcity** – The limited availability of resources in comparison to the unlimited wants and needs of individuals and societies.
- Simple Machines** – Tools that make work easier (i.e., levers, pulleys, and ramps).
- Thematic Map** – A tool depicting the distribution of a particular topic or subject within a specific area, such as population density, climate or economic activities.
- Torque** – A twisting force that makes something turn around a point.
- Wants and Needs** – Wants are desires for goods, services, or experiences that are not necessary for survival, while needs are essential for maintaining basic living standards.
- Western Trail** – A north-south route which cows were driven from Texas to North Dakota, serving markets in the eastern and northern states in the late 1800s.

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## MUSEUM GALLERIES

**The American Cowboy Gallery**

**The American Rodeo Gallery**

*Tour may be modified to accommodate group size, time constraints, and/or gallery availability.*

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