

WINDOWS TO THE WEST
NATIVE NORTH AMERICA &
THE FRONTIER WEST

NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Native Americans have made their homes on the North American continent for thousands of years. Each environmental region influences the communities living within it. **Use one example from the gallery’s artwork to explain how the environment influenced a cultural trait of Native societies, such as housing.**

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

European peoples began populating North America in the 15th century. How would you describe their encounters with Native cultures? **Give one example from the gallery’s exhibition that supports your thoughts.**

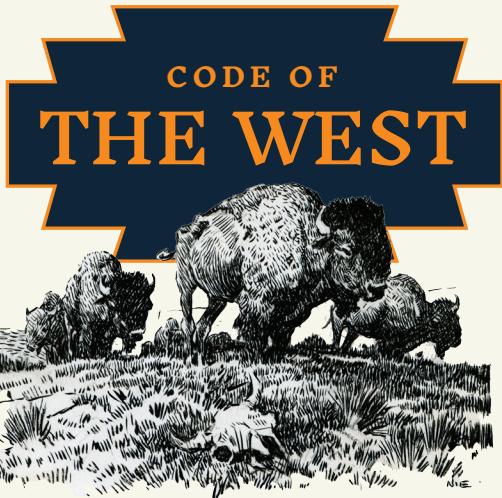
NATIVE TRADITIONS

Explore the bison hunt robe and the tattooed image of a Hidatsa war chief. **Explain what you learned about common Native traditions, using either example.**



EVIDENCE OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Locate the hunting jacket or dress and leggings with glass beads. Examine the clothing and read the labels to learn more about these artifacts. **How did trade impact the cultures of both Europeans and Native Americans?**



Live each day
with courage.

Take pride in
your work.

Always finish what
you start.

Do what has
to be done.

Be tough, but fair.

When you make a
promise, keep it.

Ride for the brand.

Talk less and
say more.

Remember that
some things
aren’t for sale.

Know where
to draw the line.



WINDOWS TO THE WEST
ATHERTON GALLERY
SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Explore the American West through the places, people and events that shaped its history.

Let us guide you through your journey to discover new meanings about who we are today.

WINDOWS TO THE WEST
GRANDEUR & WILDLIFE

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

In the early 1800s, the American West’s natural environments were vast, untamed and awe-inspiring. The sights reflected a grandeur that captivated early explorers and increasing numbers of settlers. **What does “grandeur” mean to you? Describe one painting that you think best describes the idea of grandeur.**

EARLY PERSPECTIVES

The Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery (1804-1805) produced detailed accounts of the region, as they followed the Missouri and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean. Find one landscape that shows what this expedition might have seen for the first time. **Write a two-sentence diary entry reflecting what their reactions might have been.**

ENVIRONMENT TODAY

Explore more of the artwork in this gallery space. How might you describe the physical environment of the West? Environments are defined by landforms, waterbodies, climate and natural vegetation. **Describe at least three different types of environments that make up what we call the American West.**

WILDLIFE OF THE WEST

Many plants and animals call the West home. **Identify some of the varied wildlife native to the American West as depicted in the gallery’s paintings and/or sculpture.**



WINDOWS TO THE WEST
MOVEMENT AND INNOVATION

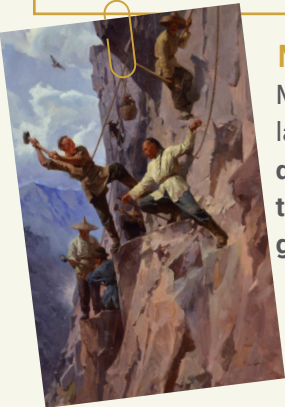


MODES OF MIGRATION

Movement and Innovation are two primary activities that defined 19th century western settlement. **Identify the multitude of ways in which the people migrated westward and moved throughout the American West.**

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Such new forms of transportation relied upon mid 19th century innovations. **Based on your understandings, explain how one form of transportation, which relied heavily on new technology, changed migration and settlement of the West.**



MANPOWER

Many who immigrated to the West made a lasting impact on the region. **Identify and describe one group of immigrants and the significant impact they had on the growth of the American West.**

WHY PEOPLE MOVE

People migrated westward and moved within the region for many reasons. Some were pushed from their surroundings while others were pulled toward something more desirable. **Find an example of a mass migration prompted by economic opportunity and describe what you see.**

WINDOWS TO THE WEST
CONFLICT AND COALESCENCE

CONFLICT IN THE AMERICAN WEST

As in many places and times throughout history, conflict can occur when different cultures meet. **Explore this space and describe two or more types of conflict depicted in the artwork.**

THE NATURE OF
CONFLICT

Think about a conflict happening today or one from another time in history. **How is it similar or different from a conflict in the American West?**



COALESCENCE

Many times, following a period of conflict, something new is created. A coalescence or merging of two cultures creates a new identity from the best of both traditions. **Identify and explain how one example from the gallery represents an end to conflict and the merging of different people and their cultures.**

WINDOWS TO THE WEST
THE COWBOY

MULTICULTURAL ORIGINS OF THE
COWBOY

The cowboy is a unique story that can only be told in the American West. However, the historical roots of the cowboy major task- managing livestock- has roots in other places and cultures. **Briefly explain one fact about the origins of the cowboy's and his work.**



A COWBOY'S TOOLS

Many specialized articles of clothing and equipment evolved to meet the needs of the working cowboy. **Identify two examples of such clothing and tools used by the cowboy yesterday and today. Explain their purpose.**

THE RODEO

Explore the gallery for evidence connecting the everyday jobs of a cowboy and the events we see in today's rodeo competitions. **Briefly explain that connection.**

MYTH VERSUS REALITY

Some of us have images in our minds of the American cowboy, which might be more myth than reality. **Identify one thing in the gallery that supports the idea of a cowboy "myth" (legend) and one that depicts the reality of the cowboy life and experiences.**



WINDOWS TO THE WEST
PEOPLE & LIFEWAYS



CALLING THE WEST THEIR HOME

The people that call the West their home is as diverse as the landscape. It is the people and environments they overcame that shaped the Western identity. **List examples of different cultural and ethnic groups of the West.**



WAYS OF LIFE

Western lifeways are as diverse as people and landscapes. Like culture, the economy of the West is determined by the environment. **Identify different economic activities depicted in the gallery that represent how people in the West use the land to grow and prosper.**

NATURAL RESOURCES AND
CHALLENGES

While the West is abundant in natural resources, its environment can also be challenging for people to thrive. **Explain one way in which the West's resources have provided significant opportunities to its people and one way that the West's environment has created obstacles to overcome.**

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum preserves and interprets the evolving history and cultures of the American West for the education and enrichment of its diverse audiences of adults and children.