

1.

What Is A Cowboy?

A long time ago, there were lots of cowboys in North America. Some were young and some were old; most were men and very few were women. They rode horses and looked after cows.



A cowboy with his horse

Practice questions

(a) Most cowboys were...

Tick **one**.

men.

☐

girls.

☐

women.

☐

boys.

☐

(b) What animals did cowboys look after?

An American cowboy

Stetson: wide
brim to keep
sun and rain
off face

Bandana: can be
pulled over face
in dust storms

Checked shirt

Lasso: to catch cows

Big buckle

Belt

Boots

- 1 Which **two** pieces of clothing did cowboys use to protect their faces from the weather?

1. _____

2. _____

- 2 Write **one** item that cowboys used for working with animals.

A cowboy's job

Two hundred years ago in North America, a huge area of grass covered most of the land. Because people wanted to eat meat, they kept cows on this land.

Cowboys were needed to move the cattle from one place to another. This could take months, so the cowboys lived and worked together and became friends.



A group of cowboys

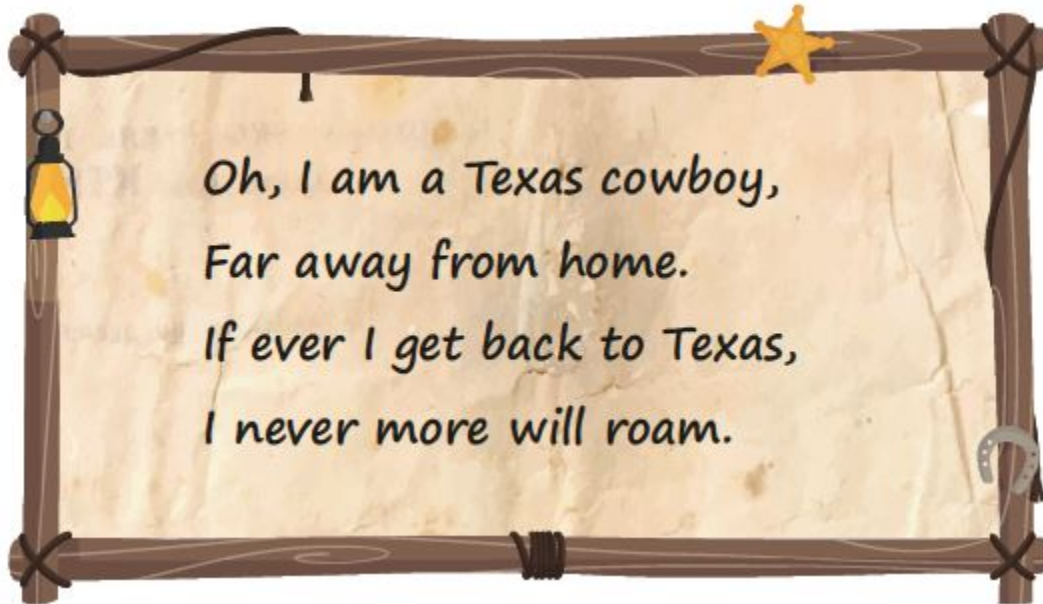
- 3 What covered most of the land in North America two hundred years ago?

- 4 What job did the cowboys do?

- 5 Why did cowboys become friends with each other?

Cowboys and their horses

Cowboys also became close to their horses. They could not do their job without horses and so a special bond grew between a cowboy and his horse. Horses had to carry bags, bedding, water bottles and a cowboy. Cowboys travelled so far with their horses that this became a song they often sang:



Texas is a place in North America where many cowboys were from.

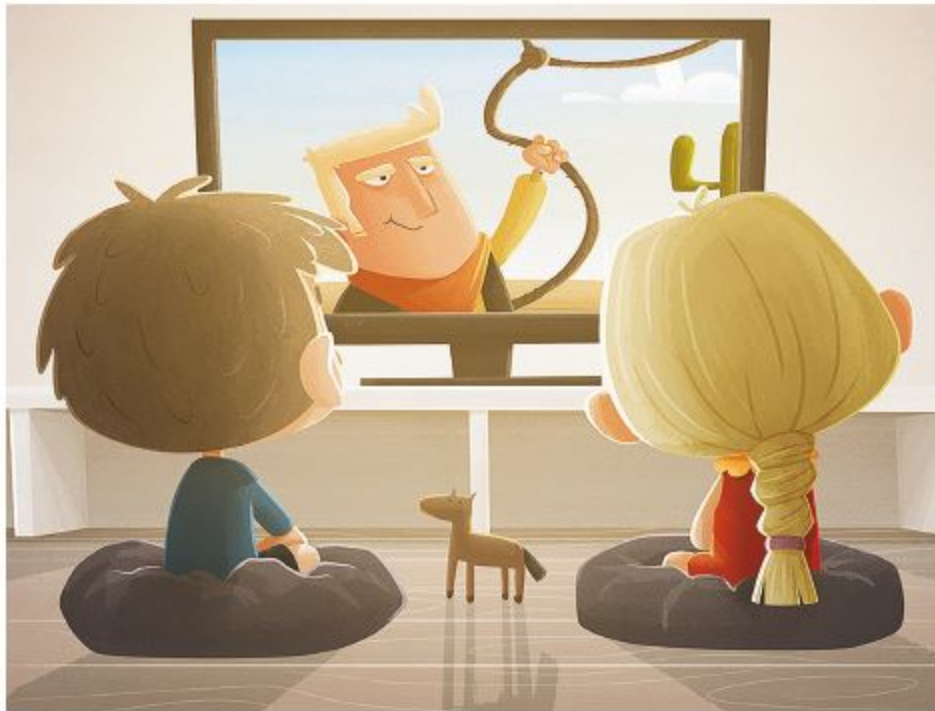
6 Why did horses have to be strong?

7 Where is the cowboy in the song from?

Cowboys in films

Cowboys came in many different shapes and sizes, but all cowboys had to be able to ride horses. Cowboy films often show cowboys who are handsome, clean and young, having lots of adventures.

In real life, cowboys were often quite old. They were covered in dust and had little time to wash or shave. Usually their horses were more handsome than they were!



There are many films about cowboys.

8 What skill did all cowboys need?

9 Real cowboys are different from cowboys in films.

Put **three** more ticks in the table to show what cowboys are like.

One has been done for you.

	real cowboys	cowboys in films
have adventures		✓
are clean		
are dirty		
are old		