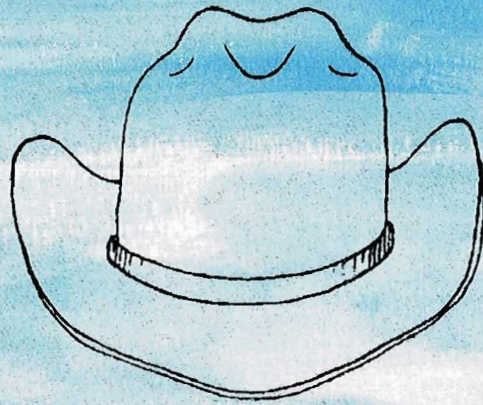


# TUMBLEWEED TOWN



...THE WEST  
OF  
THE WAY!



# TUMBLEWEED TOWN

## ...The West Of The Way!

*"The Old West is not really a time or a place but a state of mind."*

–Jim Janke



## Kick Up Your Heels!

Cowboy...horses...cattle...wide open spaces...the howl of a coyote in the night...songs and stories around a campfire...a place where a handshake means your word...There are places deep in the West where all these things are alive and well.

*Stay in touch with the western spirit in Tumbleweed Town! Tell a cowboy tale, enjoy a chuck wagon meal, hear a Bible story, make a craft and bring a virtual cowboy experience to your community! Along the trail, map out The West of the Way!!!*

Old tales of the American West are filled with interesting people who conquered adversity with courage, perseverance, adventure, inventiveness and strength of purpose. This period in America's history was dangerous and deadly. It truly was the Wild West.

**Step back in time to a day when the cowboy was king.**

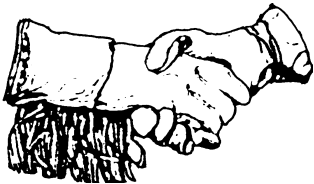
**See humble cowpokes draw near The King of Kings.**

**Saddle up to travel..The West Of The Way!**



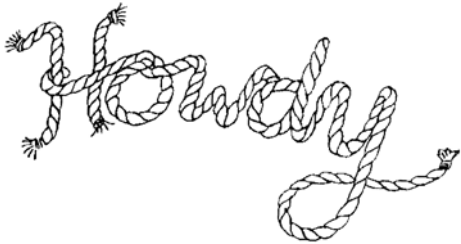
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## LET THE ROWDY FUN BEGIN!

*"Everybody has a little cowboy in 'em. You just got to let it loose."*



Hold your horses and don't rattle your hocks  
as we head to the Wild West to paint the town red.  
Let's get ourselves some cowboy fun!

**TUMBLEWEED TOWN** is for Preschool through Grade 6. Involve Grades 7-12 and college students as assistants and leaders.

**GROUPS ARE COLOR CODED.** Buckeroos and Buckerettes become the POSSE, riding the "range" in search of the "West Of The Way". Individual groups display color coded name tags—a valuable tool.

**BIBLE STATION LEADERS.** Each leader is responsible to prepare activities in their specific area. Each Bible Station is repeated to separate groups during the day. Adjust activities as age levels change.

**ACTIVITY LEADERS.** Prepare specific games, food or theme fun before TUMBLEWEED TOWN begins.

**PURCHASE SUPPLIES.** Give bills to the WRANGLER DIRECTOR or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, church discounts, catalog items and backyard scrap materials. Use church tax exemption number.

**CREATE EXCITEMENT.** Students catch your enthusiasm. Greet everyone cheerfully. When you enjoy your day, so will your Posse!

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# THE WRANGLER

*"If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there." -Will Rogers*



The TUMBLEWEED TOWN Director is the Wrangler. Lead students in their travels on their "The West of the Way" adventure. Steer your Posse to a variety of Wild West events while gently guiding them to Jesus, the real "King of the Wild Frontier".

*Divided into reasonable tasks, this day is easily completed by a dedicated teaching team of Cowboy leaders under the direction of a cheerful Wrangler—that's you!*

Your church sparkles with excitement amidst a unique display of western decorations, music and people. Stories are told and songs are sung to honor *God's Way*.

**CHARACTER AND COSTUME.** Have fun dressing as a cowboy. Wear blue jeans, chaps, cowboy boots, western hat, bandana, fringed vest, denim shirt and leather belt. Carry a coiled rope.

**DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY.** This event must be a team effort. Approach TUMBLEWEED TOWN as an exciting adventure. Trust the staff to complete their tasks.

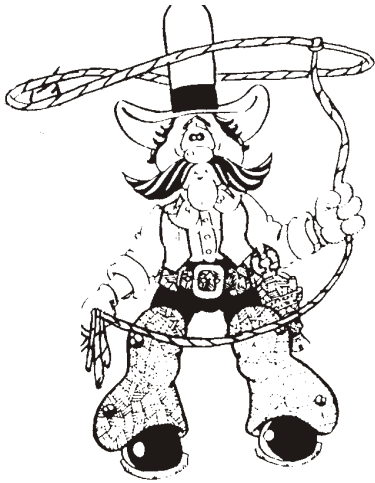
**PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH.** Statements like, "We can't do it", "We never did it this way", "There is no money", or "No one will teach" have no place in this program. If The Wrangler's attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

**PRAY!** Pray for the staff, the students and the set up. Take each detail before the Lord and then—Relax!

**PLAN!** Read this Master Copy and note areas requiring special attention. List details you must handle personally. Meet with the staff.

**ADAPT!** When it is necessary to adapt TUMBLEWEED TOWN to accommodate your local church, complete those changes during preliminary planning to avoid confusion.





**SET UP.** Give your team adequate time to set up their activity areas. Decorate during the week prior to TUMBLEWEED TOWN, making sure everything is in place before the big day.

**STAFF PRAYER.** Plan a five minute prayer session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend appreciate the "Upward" boost.

**PRESCHOOL.** Read curriculum suggestions for SADDLE PALS. Adaptations may be necessary. Speak to activity leaders to guarantee that all general activities are age appropriate. Eliminate complicated, frightening or exhausting activities.

**PURCHASE OR MAKE STAFF THANK YOU GIFTS.** There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back for more next year. Thank them privately and publically.

**CLEAN UP.** When the last event of the day is done, clean up begins. TUMBLEWEED TOWN is not complete until the church is in perfect order. Encourage staff to remove their props immediately. Provide a few empty boxes for supplies that may be stored for future events. Mark the boxes and store neatly in a dry space. Stay to help with clean up!

**COMMIT TO THE LORD  
WHATEVER YOU DO,  
AND YOUR PLANS  
WILL SUCCEED.**

**—Proverbs 16:3**

**LOOK LIKE A COWBOY!**

**...Wear your Best Bib and Tucker!**

*"Don't squat with your spurs on." –Will Rogers*



Part of the fun of TUMBLEWEED TOWN is bringing the western theme to life with props and costumes. This need not be difficult or expensive. Teachers and helpers dress as cowboys and cowgirls. Let your "inner cowboy" imagination run wild.

*No Native American costumes.  
This theme focuses only on the cowboy.*

## STUDENTS

Provide each child with a cowboy hat and colorful bandana. Check the hats and bandanas at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) for the right sizes and always at a good price.

## COWBOY

Jeans or denim skirt, denim or plaid shirt, fringed or plain short vest, bandana, bolo tie or narrow ribbon tie, cowboy hat and boots.

## TENDERFOOT

Dress as a city dude dressed in suit with string tie and bowler hat. This is a great photographer outfit.

## PIONEER

Long prairie dress, apron and bonnet with ties. High top shoes or boots worn under the dress. Men wear denim overalls with plain shirt, cowboy hat or straw farmer's hat and bandana.

## GOLD MINER

Wear jeans, boots, blue denim work shirt, cowboy hat.

In good old times cowboys were in charge of the horses and cattle. In addition to ranch work, cowboys work in and participate in rodeos. Cowboy style is mainly influenced by Mexican vaqueros.

*Many styles that are connected with cowboys have been featured in movies and stories. They are pretty impressive but today's cowboys care about function and comfort, not much about style and designs. Here is what you*



*can wear and do to look like a real cowboy:*

**GET A HAT!** It is very important to wear a hat that doesn't look too new. Most cowboy hats are worn so much that they do not resemble the shape first seen when new. Look for Stetson or Baily hats. Choose a beaver fur felt had for cold weather, a straw hat for warmer weather.

**MEN! GROW A MUSTACHE OR BEARD!** Cowboys are like other groups; some do and some don't. Working cowboys often are on the job and cannot shave so they are not the most well groomed profession.

**LONG, LEATHER JACKET!** Usually they have big buttons. Always used in cold weather and for traveling. Is it warm? Wear a leather vest.

**JEANS!** Straight legs or boot cuts are preferred..no designer labels. They must be tough and comfortable.

**LEATHER BELTS/LARGE METAL BUCKLES!** Silver or brass with western themes.

**CHAPS!** Chaps are used for extra protection during rodeos and while working on horseback. The same goes for spurs. They are not worn in public.

**WESTERN STYLE SHIRTS!** Some wear T-shirts but the look should be rugged.

**COWBOY BOOTS!** Boots are for function not dress up. They look great but find boot that are comfortable.

**GET A TAN!** Cowboys work outdoors, not in corporate offices!

**NO FANCY FINGERNAILS!** These are hard working people and their hands look strong and calloused.

**DEVELOP YOUR OWN STYLE!** Watch a few western movies, search your closet, buy inexpensive items online or at the Good Will store, borrow from friends, check out costume shops. Have fun!





## TALK LIKE A COWBOY!

*"Talk low, talk slow and don't say too much."*  
-John Wayne, movie cowboy

There's nothing like the life of a cowboy. They are the larger than life legends of the Old West. The term 'cowboy' began during the Revolutionary War to describe Tories (Americans loyal to England) who used cowbells to imitate lost cattle. This lured unsuspecting patriots into ambushes.

*Over time the cowboy became the symbol of the great American West. Today, real cowboys are almost gone but the terms they used live on in our language. So, "should ya feel the hankering to talk like a real cowboy, sit back, throw another log on the fire, and enjoy chewin' the fat!"*

Bronco-A wild horse

Chuck-food cowboys ate on the trail.

Chuck Wagon-wagon that carried food and supplies on the trail.

Cookie-ranch cook who drove the wagon and prepared food.

Cutting out-separating young calves to be branded.

Dogie-"get along little dogie". Calf without a mother.

Hackamore-bitless bridle.

Lariat-a rope

Lasso-to rope

Maverick-unbranded cow whose owner is unknown.

Muley-cow without horns

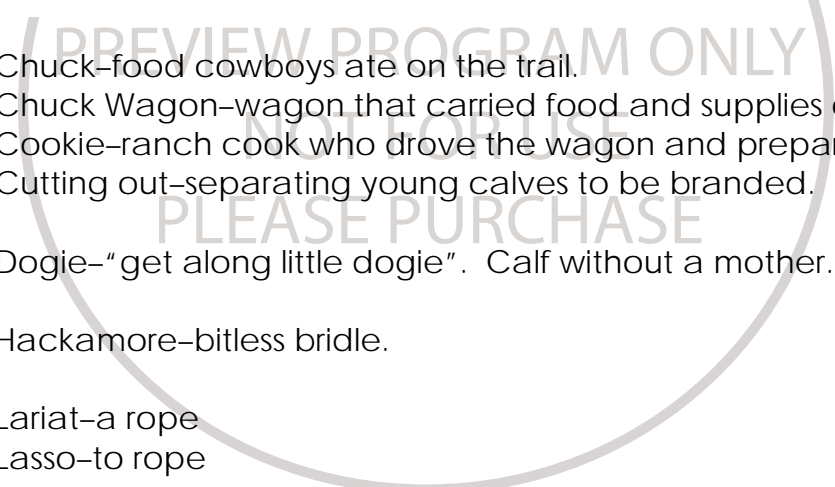
Mustang-wild horse

Necktie Social-hanging someone

On the Dodge-hiding out from the law

Outlaw-any extremely wild animal, including people

Paint-horse covered in patches of white



Quirt-whip used by cowboys

Riding fence-checking ranch fences for repair

Road Agent-a robber

Rodeo-celebration at the end of a successful cattle drive

Round Up-Gathering all cattle on the ranch for a head count

Rustler-cattle stealer

Shindig-a dance

Sell Your Saddle-to be humiliated

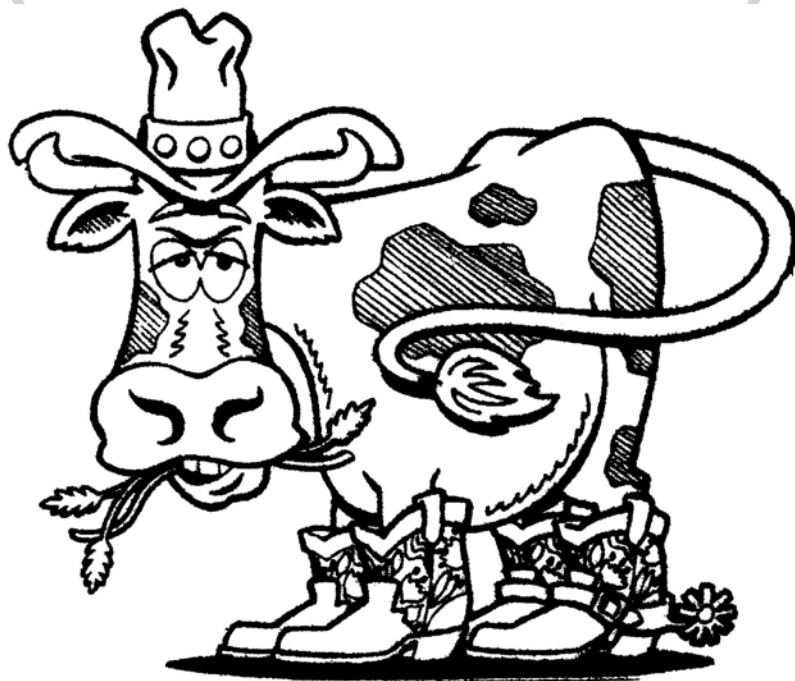
Tenderfoot-newbie in the cattle business

Waddy-temporary worker hired as extra help

*"Well pardner, I'm gonna git on Ol' Paint and ride the finces lookin' for stray dogies. If'n I find some rustlers, we'll have ourselves a lil necktie party. Saddle up, Hoss, we're burnin' daylight!"*

With these cowboy terms, you are on your way to talking like a cowboy. All you need is a sunset, a horse, a guitar, a ten gallon hat, a bandana, a saddle...well, at least you have a good start.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY  
NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE



MEANWHILE...BACK AT THE RANCH

# DECORATE WITH FLAIR!

*"The best things you can give children  
next to good habits are good memories."*

-Sydney J. Harris



PLEASE PURCHASE

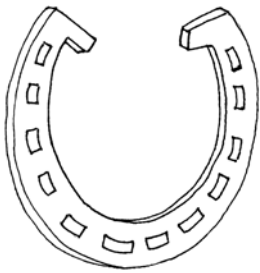
Keep decor simple yet exciting. When students arrive at TUMBLEWEED TOWN, they shout "Yippee-O-Ki-Ya" before the day begins.

Focus general decorations in the Opening area. Activity leaders decorate their rooms. Discuss plans and follow directions in the curriculum. Don't be afraid to create your own western flavor.

Use items available in catalogs, party stores and attics. Use cactus, wagon wheels, cardboard animals, desert scenes, wagon trains, horse tack, pioneer gear and wood items.

**SIGNS:** Place signs outside each area. Include memory verses. Stain plywood strips and print messages.





Add dusty road markers throughout the building:

GOD'S WAY —>  
<-EVERY OTHER WAY

BOOT HILL—STAY OUT  
IF'N YER SMART!

SWEET WATER  
TAKE A DRINK—COULD BE YER LAST!

THUNDER RIVER  
NO WADING!

CALIFORNY-->  
FERGIT IT...GOLD'S ALL GONE!

DON'T STEP ON RATTLES  
(scatter baby rattles on floor)

COW PIES FOR SALE—CHEAP!

TIE YER HORSE TO HITCHIN' POST!

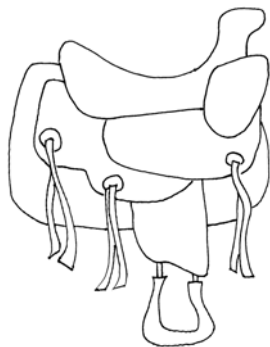
KEEP AWAY FROM BLACK BART!  
HE AIN'T SLEPT IN THREE DAYS.

**CACTUS:** Make life sized reproductions of desert cactus using cardboard and green spray paint. Some may be flat and attached to walls. Make a few cacti that stand alone. (See pattern)

**CARDBOARD ANIMALS:** Make life sized cows and horses. (See pattern)

**ATTIC FINDS:** Ask church friends and family to search their attics, garages and basements for old items that fit the western theme.





**ACCESSORIES:** Wood benches, barrels, baskets, checkered tablecloths, old quilts, cowboy boots, hats, saddles, blankets, pottery, metal coffee pots, Old West paintings or posters, live plants, logs, old fencing, large rocks, wood wagons, wood tables and chairs, taxidermy animals.

**LIVE ANIMALS:** If a gentle horse is available, ask the owner to dress in western garb and greet students. Horseback rides are possible if owners remain and oversee the event. Cows and calves may be corralled for viewing. Place sheep, goats and chickens in a pen.

*Live animals are NOT necessary for a successful program. If available, they add excitement to the day.*

**TENTS:** Some events may be held in tents or under canopies. If the tent is small, arrange a campfire circle outside and let groups sit around it.

**PICNIC TABLES:** Borrow picnic tables for snacks. Cover with red and white checkered tablecloths and add wildflower centerpieces.

**ROCKS:** Add large rocks in strategic locations. Paint some rocks gold.

**LIGHTS:** Be creative with lighting. Place spot lights on the floor shining upward. Use electric candles instead of real candles.

**PICTURES:** Use coloring books pictures as patterns for wall decor. Enlarge the graphics found within TUMBLEWEED TOWN curriculum.

#### A GENTLE REMINDER

Avoid setting up a saloon.

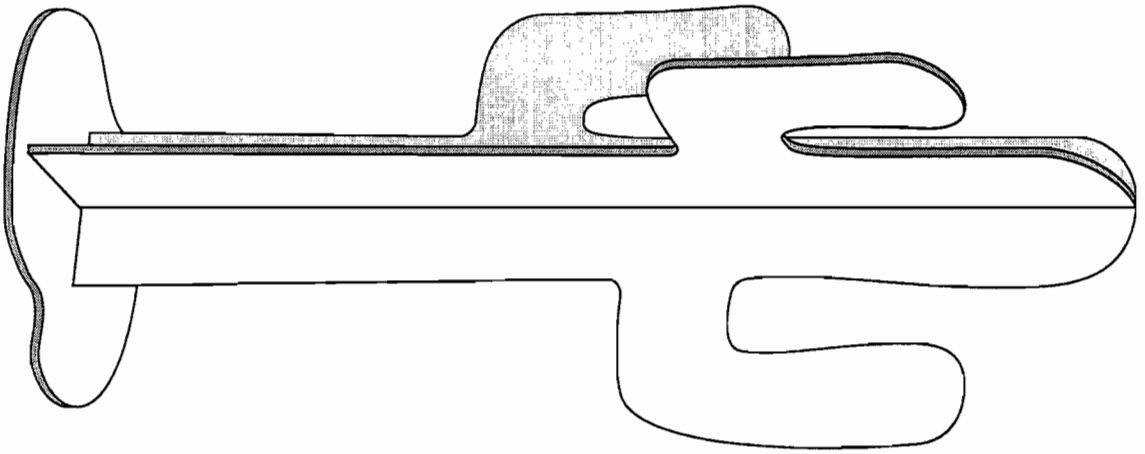
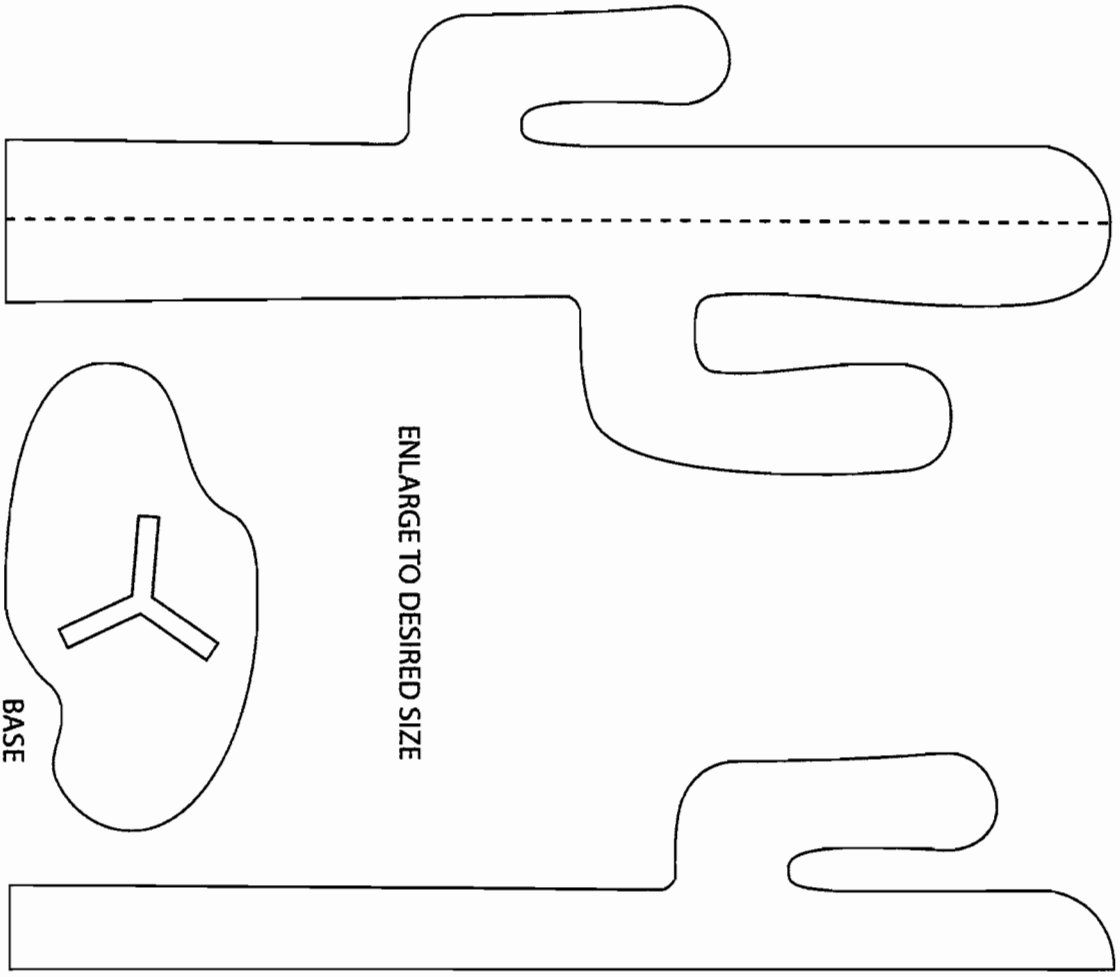
Leave six guns, holsters and rifles at home.

Do not mix cowboys and Indians.

NO live snakes—no matter how gentle.

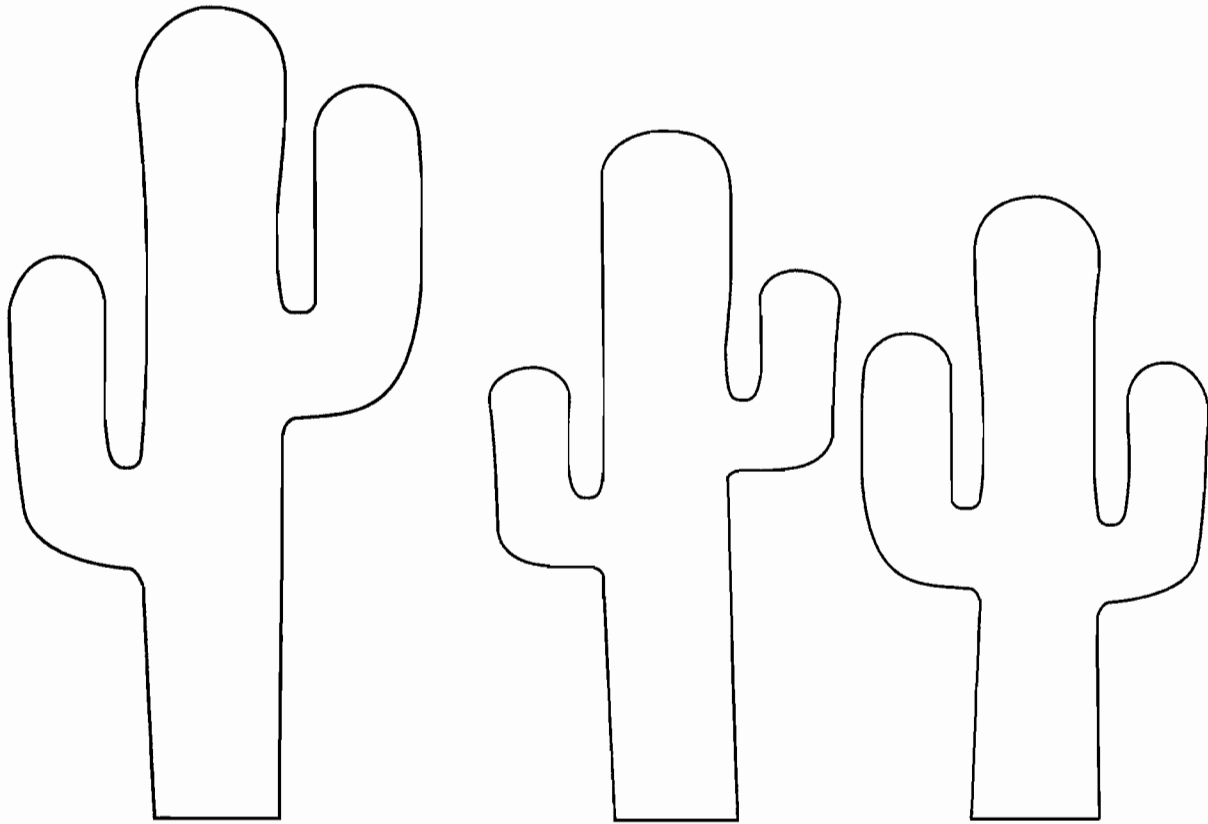
(They really scare some people.)





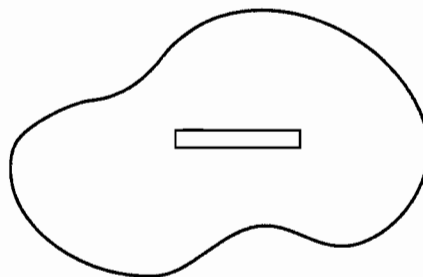
LARGE CACTUS

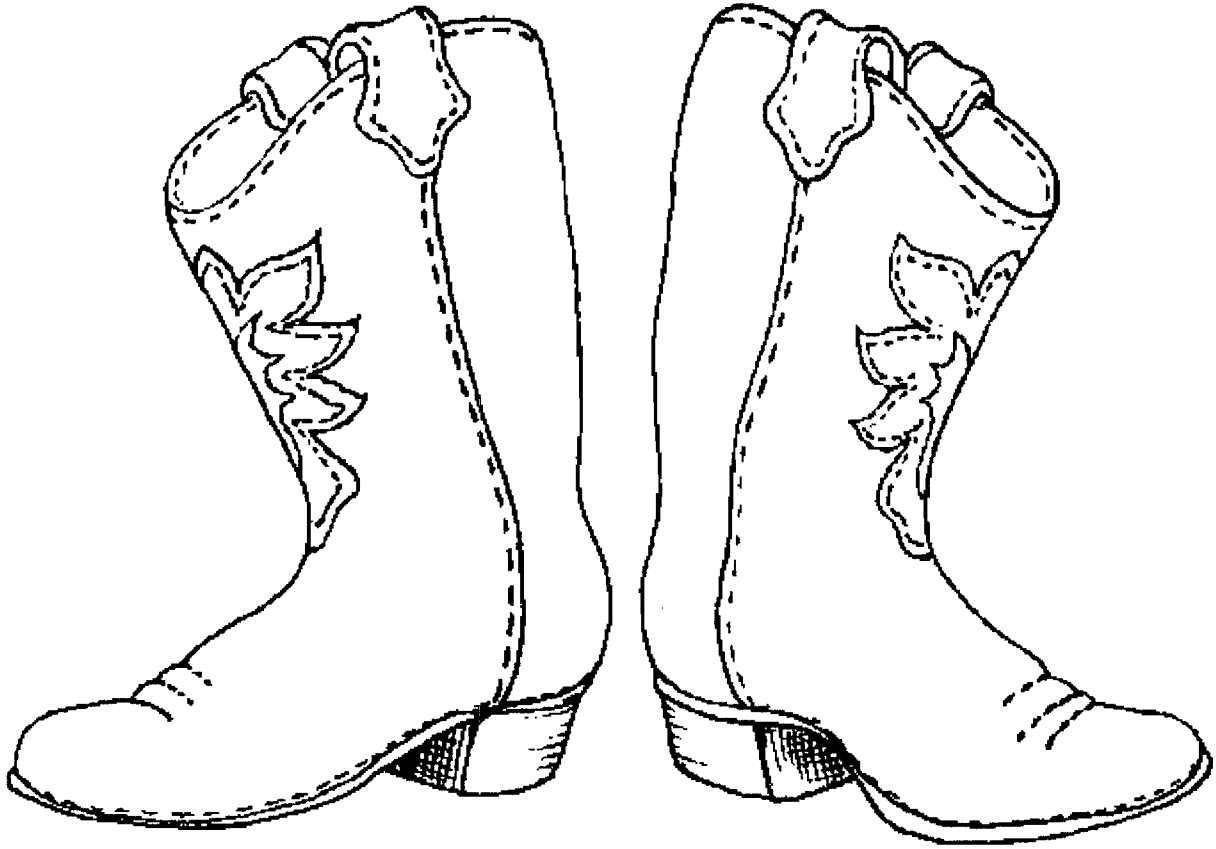
**SMALL CACTI**



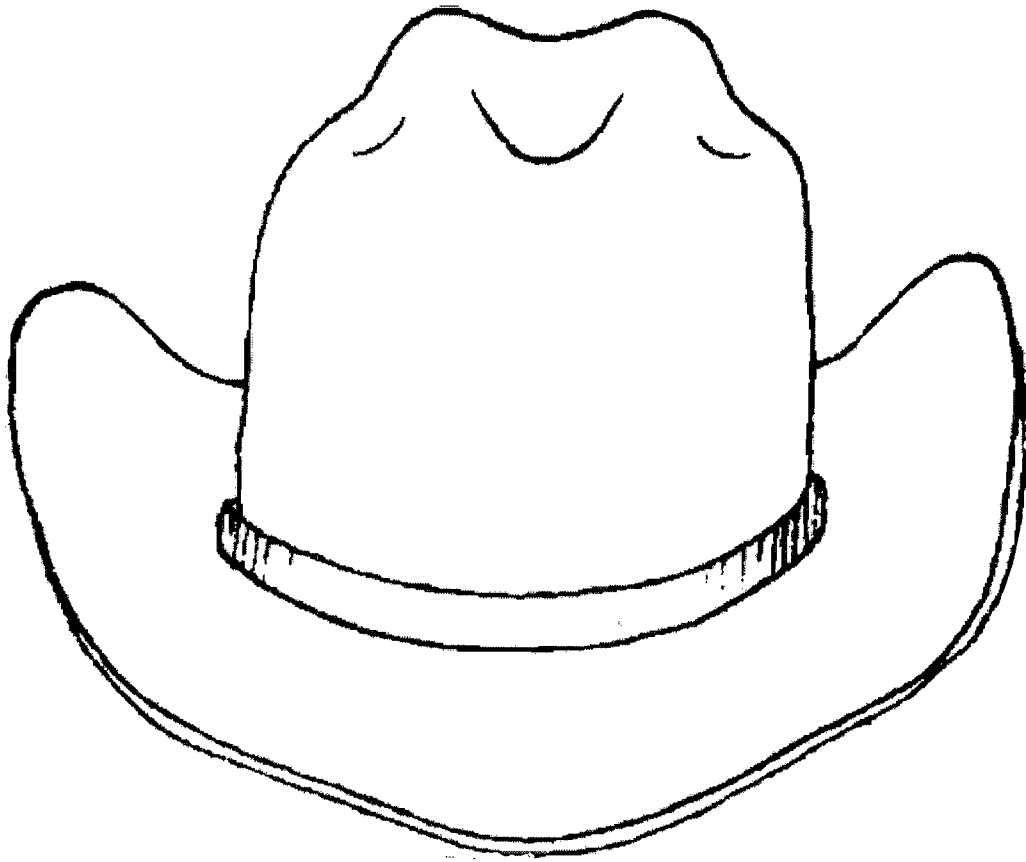
**ENLARGE TO DESIRED SIZE**

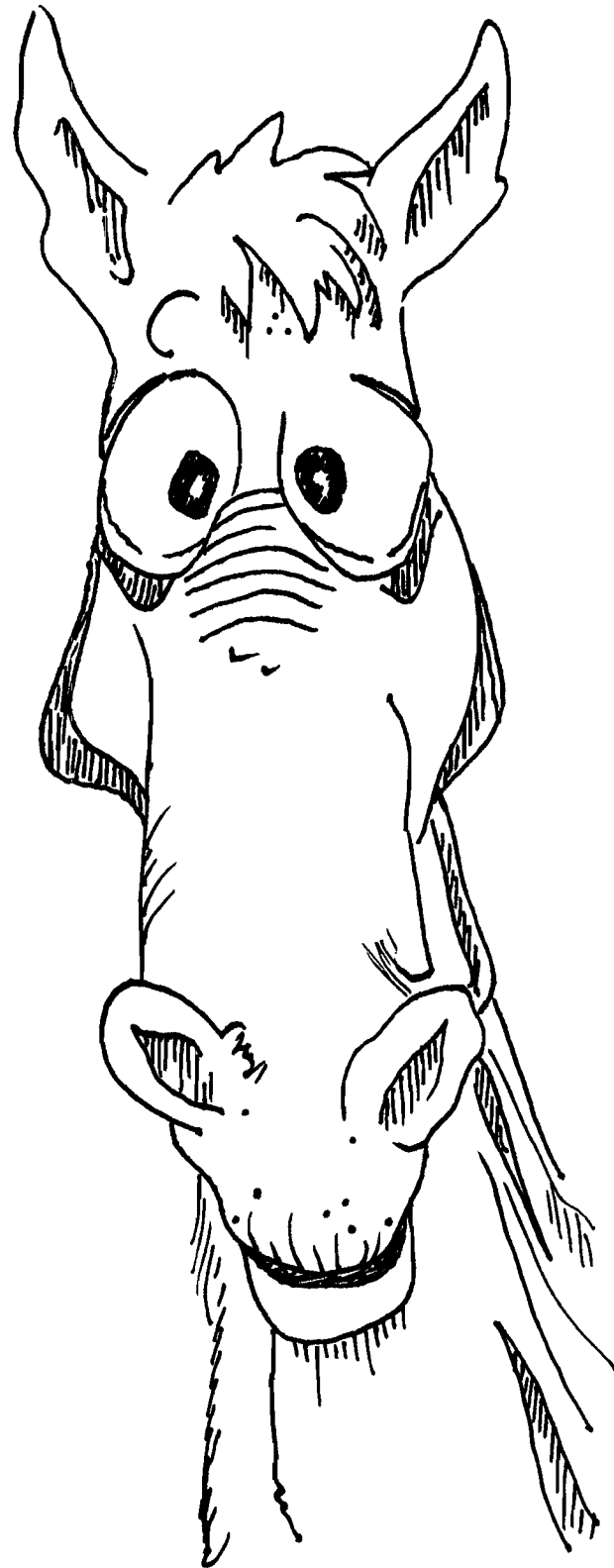
**BASE**



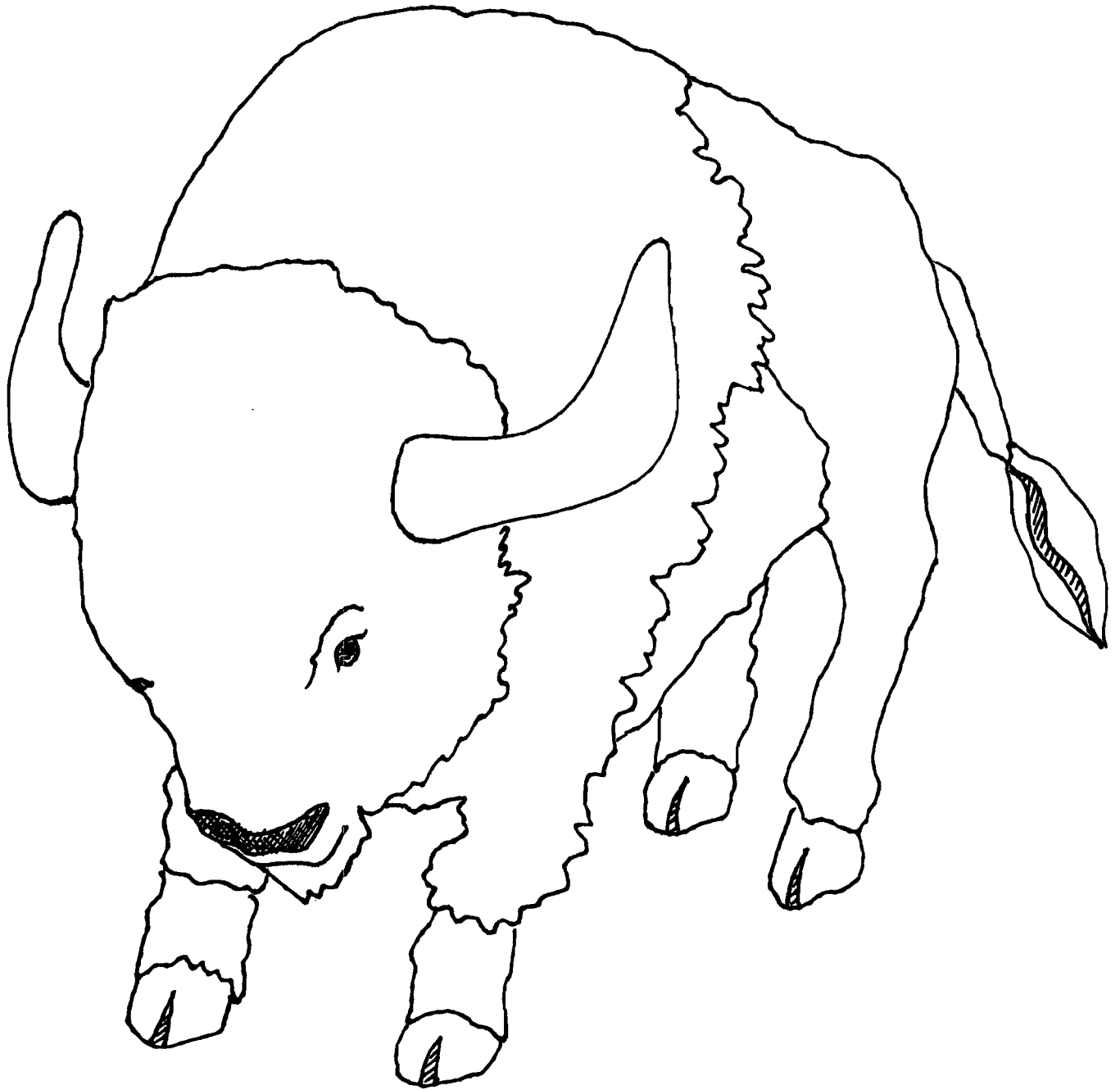














Check out many fun decorating items  
in catalogs and web sites  
to add to your Wild West look.

**ShinDigZ...Where the World Comes to Party**  
Catalog and web site available

[www.ShindigZ.com](http://www.ShindigZ.com)

800-314-8736

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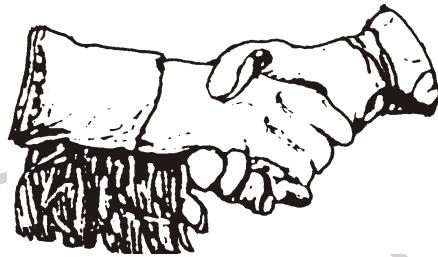
**Oriental Trading Company, Inc.**  
Catalog and web site available

[www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)

800-228-2269



# TUMBLEWEED TOWN STAFF



*Staff choice will make or break TUMBLEWEED TOWN.  
Do NOT be satisfied with any warm body.  
Aim for the best people to fill each teaching spot.*

## PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY RECRUIT

Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully. No sugar coating allowed!

## PLEASE PURCHASE ADVERTISE

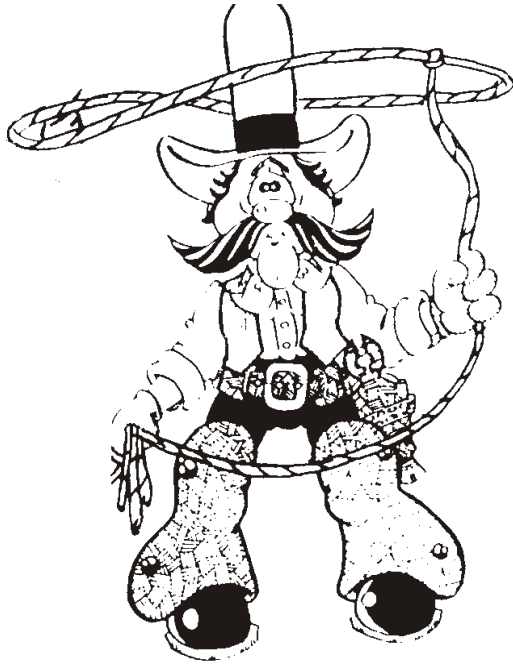
Place a staff recruitment insert in the Sunday morning bulletin for two or three Sundays. Give people with specific requests their spot immediately. Explain the insert during announcement time dressed in full cowboy regalia. Give this introductory effort the personal touch.

## PICK AND CHOOSE

For vacant positions, ask people who will do a good job. The Lord honors your attempts to have the best possible staff. Pray about staff choices and if someone says no, assume another person is waiting to fill that place. Ask young teens, older teens, men, women and senior citizens to become part of the team.



# **TUMBLEWEED TOWN STAFF MEETING**



## **PLAN ONE MEETING TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT IS EXPECTED.**

Stress 100% attendance  
so no other meeting will be necessary.

## **SEAT STAFF ACCORDING TO WORK AREAS.**

Distribute lesson plans to each small team.  
Build in "chatter" time to create excitement.  
Encourage specific planning.

## **PREVIEW THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.**

The staff needs an overview of the total program  
to understand their place in the event.

## **BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, ASSIGN CLASSROOMS, GIVE INSPIRATION.**

Be the person in charge-The WRANGLER!

## **AFTER THE MEETING, THE WRANGLER'S ATTENTION TURNS TO OTHER AREAS.**

Trust the staff to carry out their responsibilities.

## **THE TELEPHONE IS THE STAFF LIFELINE.**

Call individual leaders to verify progress.  
Ask questions and check on how things are going.





**TUMBLEWEED TOWN ...The West Of The Way!**

**\*\*\*One Day Vacation Bible School\*\*\***

**WANTED! POSSE LEADERS  
REWARD! MORE THAN \$ CAN BUY**

**TUMBLEWEED ASSIGNMENTS**

...REGISTRATION	Greeters/Name Tags	LEAD/HELP
...PHOTOGRAPHER		VIDEO/DIGITAL
...ART CREW	Make and Set Up Decorations	LEAD/HELP
...COWBOY SERENADE	Music	LEAD/HELP
...WATERING HOLE	Chuck Wagon Meals	LEAD/HELP
...GIDDY UP RODEO	Fun n' Games	LEAD/HELP
...WINDY'S WESTERN TALE	Good Book Bible Theater	LEAD/HELP
...QUICK DRAW CORNER	Crafts	LEAD/HELP

**TUMBLEWEED TOWN TOTS**

...TYKE'S PEAK	Staff Nursery (Birth-Age 3)	LEAD/HELP
...SADDLE PALS	Preschool Team	LEAD/HELP

**TUMBLEWEED TOWN BIBLE STATIONS**

...BIBLE STATION #1:	THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE	LEAD/HELP
...BIBLE STATION #2:	HOME ON THE RANGE	LEAD/HELP
...BIBLE STATION #3:	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	LEAD/HELP

**TUMBLEWEED TOWN PARDNERS**

...I HAVE WESTERN PROPS	I will lend them!
...I WILL DONATE SNACKS	Tell me what you need!
...I WILL GIVE MONEY	It's worth it!
...I WILL PRAY FOR THE TEAM	It's the most I can do!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

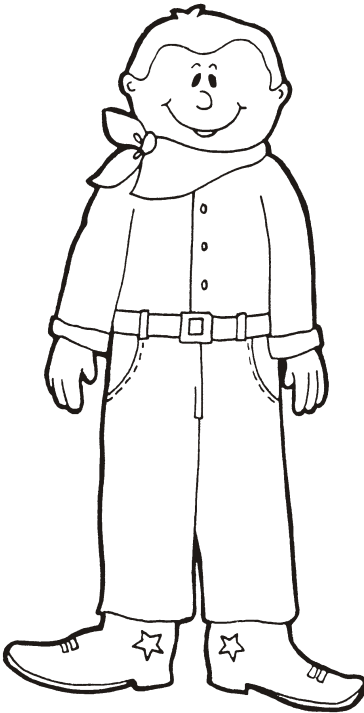
**"If yer hankerin' fer a cowboy adventure,  
this here's the one!"  
Need more details? Ask our very own Wrangler!**





## GROUPING THE POSSE

TUMBLEWEED TOWN is broadly graded for students Age 4-Grade 6. Provide five student groups of equal size.



### **TYKE'S PEAK NURSERY**

Babysitting service for staff children ages birth-3. These children are not included in the group activities.

#### **SADDLE PALS: White**

Preschool-ages 4-5

#### **TRAIL BLAZERS: Yellow**

Kindergarten

#### **PONY EXPRESS KIDS: Green**

Grades 1-2

#### **SOD BUSTERS: Orange**

Grades 3-4

#### **WILD BUNCH: Red**

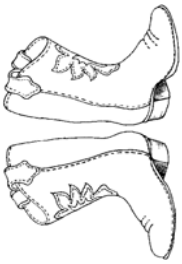
Grades 5-6

Color code each group for easy visual identification. Overlap ages in any group. If twenty students are in one group and five students in another, switch some students regardless of grade. Keep neighborhood friends together for comfort. Visiting cousins appreciate joining their family members in an otherwise unfamiliar situation.

**SMALL CHURCHES:** With twenty students or less and a few faithful teachers, consider keeping everyone together and adjust the curriculum material and schedule to fit the needs of a smaller group and smaller building.



**ONE DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
TUMBLEWEED TOWN SCHEDULE**



GROUPS	9:30 TO 9:45	10:15 TO 10:45	10:45 TO 11:15	11:15 TO 11:45	11:45 TO 12:15	12:15 TO 12:45	12:45 TO 1:15	1:15 TO 1:45	1:45 TO 2:00
	<b>R E G I S T R A T I O N &amp; O P E N I N G</b>								
<b>PRE SCHOOL SADDLE PALS</b>	HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS	BIBLE STATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE	GIDDY UP GAMES ----- REST	11:15 TO 11:45 <b>C O W B O Y S E R E N A D E M U S I C</b>	11:45 TO 12:15 <b>T H E W A T E R I N G H O L E L U N C H</b>	WINDY'S WESTERN TALES THEATER	BIBLE STATION: HOME ON THE RANGE ----- REST	BIBLE STATION: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE	1:45 TO 2:00 <b>T U M B L E W E E D T O W N C L O S I N G</b>
<b>KINDER-GARTEN TRAIL BLAZERS</b>	BIBLE STATION: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE	BIBLE STATION: HOME ON THE RANGE	WINDY'S WESTERN TALES THEATER			GIDDY UP GAMES	BIBLE STATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE	HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS	
<b>GRADES 1 &amp; 2 PONY EXPRESS KIDS</b>	BIBLE STATION: HOME ON THE RANGE	HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS	BIBLE STATION: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE			BIBLE STATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE	GIDDY UP GAMES	WINDY'S WESTERN TALES THEATER	
<b>GRADES 3&amp;4 SOD BUSTERS</b>	GIDDY UP GAMES	BIBLE STATION: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE	BIBLE STATION: HOME ON THE RANGE			HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS	WINDY'S WESTERN TALES THEATER	BIBLE STATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE	
<b>GRADES 5&amp;6 WILD BUNCH</b>	WINDY'S WESTERN TALES THEATER	GIDDY UP GAMES	BIBLE STATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE			BIBLE STATION: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE	HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS	BIBLE STATION: HOME ON THE RANGE	



## REGISTRATION SCRIBBLERS

This team makes name tags and runs the registration area. The job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, students can be delayed as much as 30 minutes.

Mark tables with colors, group names and grades. Students line up at the appropriate table to receive a name tag and cowboy hat.

**PRE REGISTRATION.** A registration card simplifies the first day by having name tags prepared for pre-registered students. Register through the newsletter, bulletin, web site. Call and visit neighborhood families.

Consider how much information is needed. Ask for name, grade or age, emergency contact. If the information is the basis for church growth, include address, parents and specific information for local church follow up. Add diet restrictions and environmental allergies.

**NAME TAGS.** Give each group a name and color. Make tags in group colors. To preserve name tags, cover with clear plastic sleeves.

**COWBOY HATS/BANDANAS.** Purchase a hat and bandana for each student. Name tags can be attached to hat brim. Order hats from Oriental Trading Company, Inc. [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)

The benefit of using a hat is immediate name recognition. The hats make great student gifts at the end of the day.



TUMBLEWEED TOWN ...The West Of The Way!  
POSSE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE/GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES (Food/Environment) \_\_\_\_\_



PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

TUMBLEWEED TOWN ...The West Of The Way!  
POSSE REGISTRATION FORM

NOT FOR REUSE  
PLEASE PURCHASE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE/GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES (Food/Environment) \_\_\_\_\_



## PUBLICITY

### ...Gettin' Out The Word!

Promotion is vital to ONE DAY Vacation Bible School. People must know WHAT is going on and WHEN it will be occurring.

**CHURCH BULLETIN:** Include recruitment inserts in Sunday morning bulletins. Print general announcements until TUMBLEWEED TOWN begins. Include registration forms.

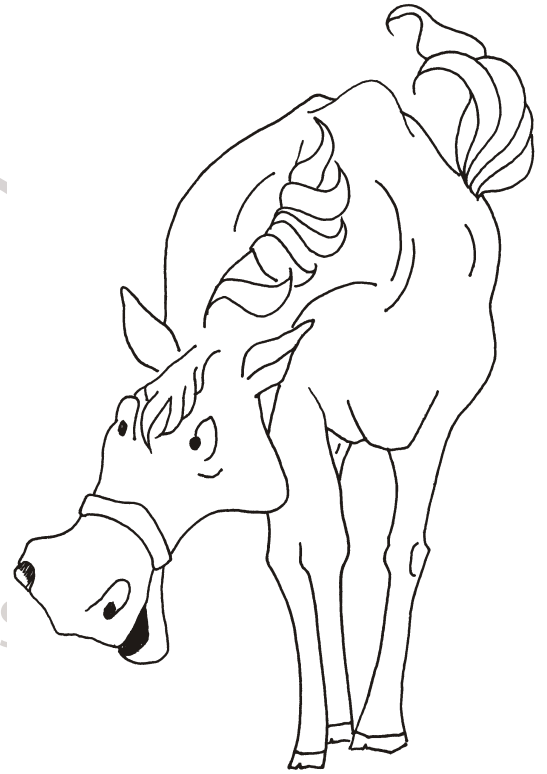
**CHURCH NEWSLETTER.** Print short, catchy announcements aimed at parents and kids with specific information for your specific event. Include registration forms.

**WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS.** Dress as a cowboy. Distribute Registration forms before worship services. This is a great reminder that ONE DAY VBS is coming.

**LOCAL NEWSPAPER.** Take photographs of costumed leaders and children. Send a news release several weeks before the event to insure publication. Invite a reporter and photographer to visit TUMBLEWEED TOWN while in progress for an up-to-date feature.

**COLORING CONTEST.** Sponsor a Sunday School contest. Choose the winning pictures. Award prizes and create excitement for the event.

**VISIT THE PULPIT.** Visit the pastor as a cowboy during announcement time. Announce date, time and ages of students.



**LOCAL TELEVISION.** Ask a local television station to film a feature. This is great publicity and encouragement. Do not assume a crew will not come. Call and ask!

**DENOMINATION PUBLICATIONS.** Does your church denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

**SIGNS AND POSTERS.** Although considered the least effective publicity, place signs and posters in public places. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

**CHURCH SIGN.** Place a large sign at the church announcing date and time. Design the sign in the shape of a huge cowboy boot or cowboy hat!



TUMBLEWEED TOWN

...The West Of The Way

ONE DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

DATE:

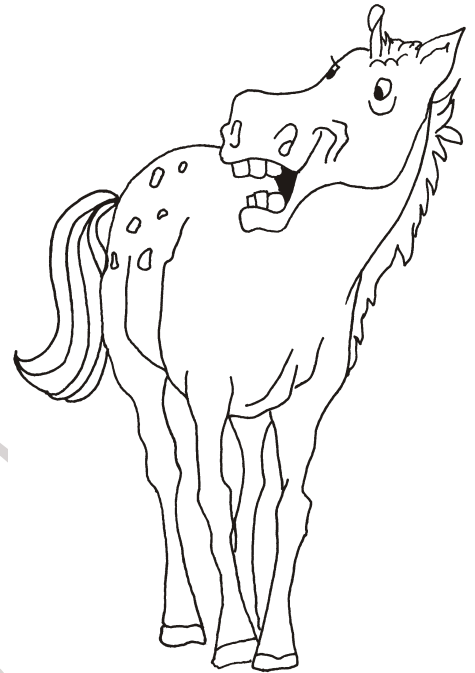
TIME:

Y'ALL COME!



# PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and rewards of a visual ONE DAY VBS program. Ask the photographer to wear a western outfit.



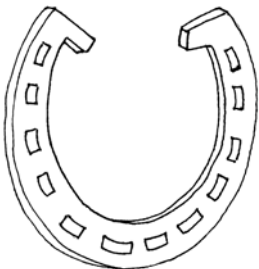
Think about using photography as a connection for people who would not ordinarily be involved and think about the memory making possibilities.

**ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS.** Amateur photographers usually stand at one side and should not disrupt events. This is a good way to involve parents and church members who visit each area.

**PHOTOGRAPHY CREW.** Ask specific people to take pictures. The advent of digital photography makes this fun and easy!

**VIDEO.** Videotape all events. Some vignettes can be staged for filming but it is fun to record as events are actually happening.

**SELLING PICTURES.** Be prepared to quote prices. Do you want to cover the cost of the photos/video or help defray ONE DAY VBS costs? Prepare a sign up sheet including the cost. Keep copies of all pictures in the church library!



# THE OPENING

## ...Tumbleweed Town

*TUMBLEWEED TOWN is a daily 30 minute opening to introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. The skit establishes two wild west characters. Add a short Christian music video or group game as desired.*

As students register and are assigned a group, seat them and incorporate them into the ongoing activities as quickly as possible.

If there are "early bird" students—and there always are—begin with a fun Christian video. Consider Veggie Tales DVD "The Ballad of Little Joe". Widely available, check online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) to purchase your own copy.

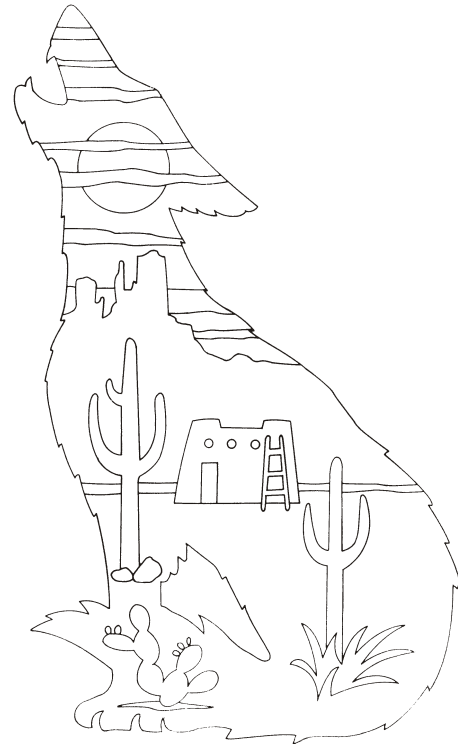
Play crazy group games like "The Wrangler Says" and start a huge beach ball toss accompanied by cowboy music.

If an early morning breakfast is served, gather the group quickly to begin the main events.

**BACKGROUND MUSIC.** Check out the local music store and the internet to find great cowboy CD's. Many are available.

**OFFERING.** Collect the offering in a tin bucket. Decide beforehand how the money will be used. Announce it as offering is taken.

**CHAIRS.** Mark specific seating areas with group colors. Students may sit on the floor in their small groups or use existing seating.





**SYNCHRONIZE YOUR WATCHES.** Begin on time even if students and staff are gathering. Welcome the group, sing songs, make announcements, perform the skit and dismiss. End promptly to guarantee groups move to their first activity on time. Direct latecomers to their first activities as they arrive.

## **THE WRANGLER**

Become the all wise Wrangler who knows the *West of The Way*. Lead the events at the opening and maintain a cheerful cowboy attitude throughout the day.

## **DECORATE**

Concentrate decorating efforts in the opening area. Keep it simple but make it colorful. Use the following suggestions as a “jumping off” point for your own creative ideas.

**CACTUS:** Place three tall cacti on stage. Make from cardboard and stand with a base or lean against the back wall. Spray paint green.

**ANIMALS:** Use patterns and graphics within the curriculum to design large cows and horses to place in the opening area. Use heavy cardboard and acrylic paint.

**FENCING:** Lean strips of wood on one side of the stage to resemble a broken down fence. Or, create a corral fence cut from cardboard.

**RANCH:** Borrow items from folks who may have great things stored in out of the way places. Saddle, harness, horse blanket, lariat, milk cans, garden tools. Old trunk, wooden crates, barrels, burlap feed sacks, hay bales. Scatter the items in small groups on stage.

**MILE MARKERS:** Print signs on cardboard or brown paper in the shape of simple arrows.

**GOD'S COUNTRY—YER HERE!  
UTAH—SOMEWHERE OUT WEST  
ARIZONA—CLOSE TO UTAH  
POWDER KEG CANYON—OVER YONDER  
(Watch Yer Step)**



## TUMBLEWEED TOWN SKIT ...THE WEST OF THE WAY!



This script is divided into two sections. The first section is presented during the Opening and the second section concludes the Closing.

Dress as cowboys. Do not memorize (*unless you have a hankerin' to learn it*). Use microphones and speak clearly.

### PART ONE: LOST ON THE PRAIRIE

Props: Wrinkled map, Old Bible

WRANGLER: (*Enter from back...shouting!*) Yippee! Hey there Saddle Pals. Welcome to God's Country. There ain't nothin' here you ain't seen before but it's all bigger 'n better out here than anywhere else on earth! Take a deep breath! Aahh, don't that feel good? That there is God's Country Fresh Air. None better!

COWPOKE: (*Enter from side...with a wrinkled map and a puzzled look*) Howdy Wrangler. I been lookin' fer ya. I'm lost. I mean the cows are lost. I mean, well, I hate to tell ya I lost the herd but...have you heard...I lost the herd?

WRANGLER: (*Angry*) You lost the herd? I never heard you lost the herd. How could lose the herd. Haven't you ever heard of the herd finder?

COWPOKE: A herd finder? I never heard of a herd finder. What's a herd finder?

WRANGLER: You got it in yer hand, cowboy! It's a herd map. I X'd that map myself. (*Whispers*) The herd is in the hidden pasture at the X.

COWPOKE: Oh, I hadn't heard. Thanks! I bet I can find 'em now!



WRANGLER: The Wild West will make a man or a mouse out of ya. Stay strong and play smart, cowpoke. You do know the West of the Way, don't you?

COWPOKE: I can probably figure it out. I've got the map and the X.

WRANGLER: You ain't got the map.

COWPOKE: Yes I do. Looky here--in my hand. I got the map!

WRANGLER: Not that map. Who trains these cowpokes anyway. You need the 'West of the Way' map.

COWPOKE: Alrighty then, I ain't got that one. Does that mean I'm still lost on the prairie?

WRANGLER: You'd be lost in the city, cowpoke. What do you know about Jesus?

COWPOKE: Not much. He's that dude that walked around preaching.

WRANGLER: No wonder you spend most of your time driving those dogies in circles. The Good Book says our lead steer is Jesus. God sent His only Son, Jesus, by name, to save our sorry hides.

COWPOKE: *(Sadly)* I never heard that. Been carryin' the wrong map.

WRANGLER: My copy of the Good Book is a bit dirty and tattered from the trail but it still reads real good. Here take it and read it a bit. You can read, can't ya?

COWPOKE: Well, now yer jest hurtin' my feelin's. I can read real good. It's losin' stuff I have a problem with. But...I'll take real careful care of yer Good Book! I'll see ya at the end of the trail. Have ya heard I gotta find the herd?

WRANGLER: Git yerself a smile on that puny face. We don't call this here round up "Happy Trails" fer nothin!. Now, git goin' and don't come back til ya find the West of the Way!



## PART TWO: FOUND ON THE PRAIRIE



WRANGLER: Where did that cowpoke lose himself? While we're waiting for that lazy sod buster to mosey on in here, I got a tale to tell.

*When cows were wild and men were wilder, there was a cowboy called Sam Maverick. He owned 400 prime head of cattle back in the day. He didn't watch over them and pretty soon those cows were having babies as wild as antelopes.*

*There were so many unbranded cows running around that ranchers said, "That's a Maverick. That's a Maverick." Now, we call all the unbranded range cows "mavericks".*

*Do you know God wants to put His brand on you? Not the tattoo brand cows wear. God wants to brand your heart with Jesus.*

COWPOKE: *(Enter from back)* Here I am! Here I am! Found at last. Yep, you found me. I'm found. I'm a grateful cowpoke. I found 'The West of the Way'. You can stop looking now. Here I come.

WRANGLER: What are you yappin' about back there. Get over here, you broken down, saddle bitten, excuse for a cowboy. You interrupted my fine maverick tale. What do you have to say fer yourself?

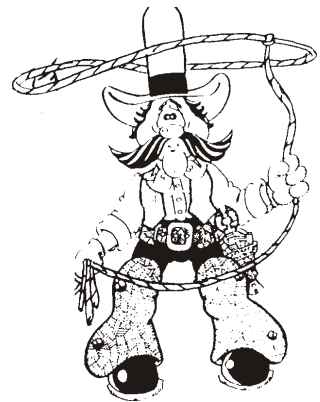
COWPOKE: *(Slowly)* Listen carefully. I thought I was lost. I spent the whole day on the trail looking for the herd. I had this here map *(show wrinkled map)* and I had this here map *(show old Bible)*. I didn't want to disappoint you so I followed both these here maps.

WRANGLER: Did you find the herd?

COWPOKE: Nope.

WRANGLER: Did you read the maps?

COWPOKE: Yep.



WRANGLER: ....And?

COWPOKE: ...And I got found! I got found! That's what I'm tryin' to tell ya. The Good Book says the 'West of the Way' to God is to ask Jesus to be my Savior. Listen to this (*reading from Bible*) "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

That's it. No hocus-pocus or hard work. I asked Jesus to ride the trail with me all my life. I stake my claim on Jesus.

WRANGLER: I'm doggone happy! You asked Jesus to be your Trail Boss forever. Couldn't be a better decision. Now, where's my cows?

COWPOKE: Cows? Haven't you heard?

WRANGLER: Heard what? Where's the herd?

COWPOKE: I was sure you heard the herd headed south. They got tired of waitin' for me and took off, all on their own! Ain't that nice of 'em? Just took off and walked *themselves* into TUMBLEWEED TOWN.

WRANGLER: Let me get this straight. You let MY herd of cows walk all the way to TUMBLEWEED TOWN... ALONE?

COWPOKE: There ya go! I was sure you heard that. Glad to help. Anytime. I'm one great cowpoke and now I'm a Christian cowpoke. By the way, you should probably get into town. I heard the herd is tearin' up the place.

WRANGLER: Just give me my Good Book and get out of here.

COWPOKE: Here ya go! God bless ya! See ya out on the trail!





# COWBOY SERENADE

## ...With The Yodelin' Kid

COWBOY SERENADE is a 30 minute music session held before lunch. Students and staff gather to sing. Choose upbeat, easy to sing songs from your music library and consider the CD music, *Heavenly Hoedown*. Plan more songs than you can teach in the time limit in case the songs are learned quickly.

### HEAVENLY HOEDOWN

We found a great collection of toe-tapping tunes with a country flavor at the "Let Us Teach Kids" web site. You can use several as sing-along songs with kids; others make great performance or puppet specials. Sound track included. **Check web site for current prices.**

Purchase the CD at [www.letusteachkids.com](http://www.letusteachkids.com)  
904-287-2869

1. Do the Right Thing
2. Jesus, Take Me Away
3. Do What God Wants You To
4. Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful
5. The Dog Song
6. I'll Be Riding With My Partner
7. Big Ol' God
8. I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
9. Born In A Barn
10. God is Good All the Time

"Let Us Teach Kids" also offers a great "Cowboys For Jesus" CD that works as background music. Authentic cowboy music from the original Christian Cowboys. You're gonna love it! Yippi-yi-kai-ya!



*Here is an opportunity to mix a bit of traditional western music fun with the message of Christ. Sing these old favorites a capella and add the Christian lyrics we have provided.*

### HAPPY TRAILS

by Dale Evans Rogers

Happy trails to you, until we meet again.  
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.  
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?  
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.  
Happy trails to you, 'til we meet again.

**CHRISTIAN LYRICS:** Happy trails to you, it's great to say "hello".  
And to share with you the trail we've come to know.  
It started on the day that we met Jesus,  
He came into our hearts and then He freed us.  
For a life that's true, Happy trails to you!

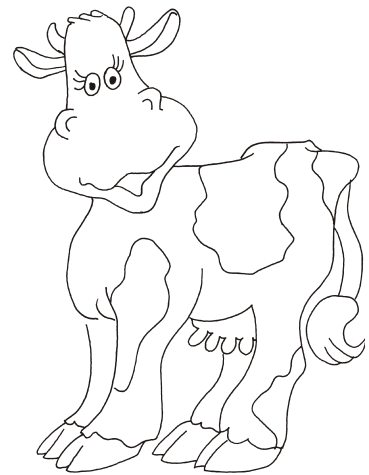
### HOME ON THE RANGE

Oh give me a home, where the buffalo roam  
And the deer and the antelope play.  
Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word  
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

**CHORUS:** Home, home on the range,  
Where the deer and the antelope play.  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

How often at night, when the heavens are bright  
With the light of the glimmering stars  
I have stood there amazed and asked as I gazed  
If God's glory has made them all ours. CHORUS

**CHRISTIAN LYRICS:** When God sent His Son, His beloved Son  
To the earth, to save my poor soul,  
He did it with love, coming down from above  
So that I would make Jesus my goal. CHORUS



**RED RIVER VALLEY**

From this valley they say you are going,  
I shall miss your sweet face and bright smile.  
For they say you are taking the sunshine  
that has brightened my pathway awhile. CHORUS

**CHORUS:** Then come sit by my side if you love me  
Do not hasten to bid me adieu,  
And remember the Red River Valley  
And the Cowboy who loves you so true.

**CHRISTIAN LYRICS:** Do not leave without Jesus your Savior.  
Do not hasten to leave all alone.  
Just remember those Tumbleweed lessons  
And the folks that have loved you so long. CHORUS

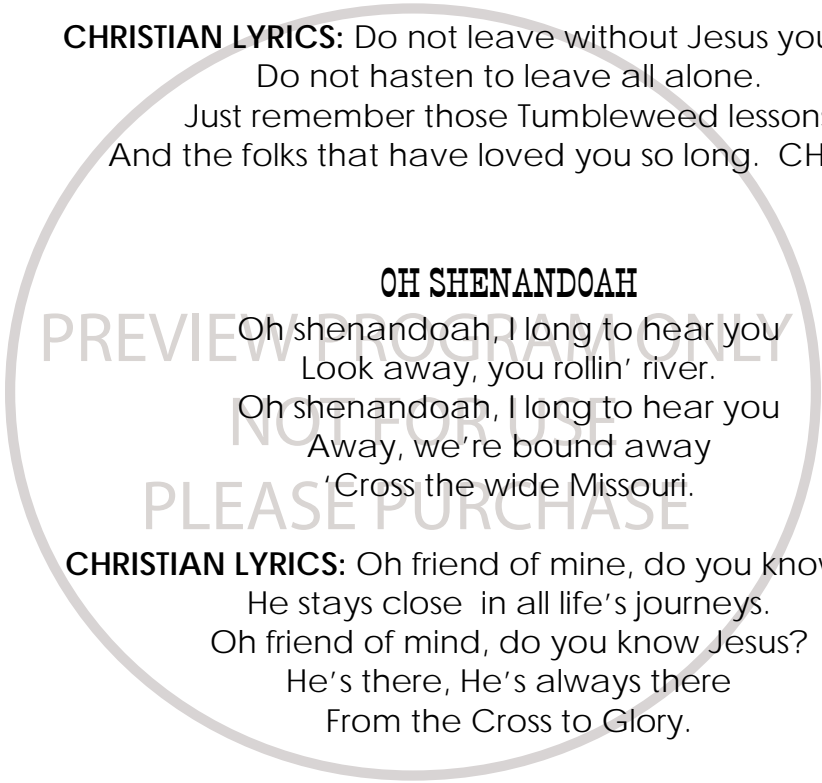
**OH SHENANDOAH**

Oh shenandoah, I long to hear you  
Look away, you rollin' river.  
Oh shenandoah, I long to hear you  
Away, we're bound away  
'Cross the wide Missouri.

**CHRISTIAN LYRICS:** Oh friend of mine, do you know Jesus?  
He stays close in all life's journeys.  
Oh friend of mind, do you know Jesus?  
He's there, He's always there  
From the Cross to Glory.

**STAY ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE**

Stay on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,  
Stay on the sunny side of life.  
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way,  
If we'll stay on the sunny side of life.







**I'M AN OLD COWHAND**

I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande  
But my legs ain't bowed and my cheeks ain't tan  
I'm a cowboy who never saw a cow  
Never roped a steer cause I don't know how  
Sure ain't fixin' to start in now  
Yippie yi yo kay-ah.

I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grande  
And I learned to ride, 'fore I learned to stand  
I'm a riding fool who is up to date  
I know every inch of the Lone Star State  
Cause I ride the range in a Ford V-8  
Yippie yi yo kay-ah.

We are old cowhands from the Rio Grande  
And we come to town just to hear the band  
We know all the songs that the cowboys know  
'Bout the big corral where the doggies go  
We learned them all on the radio  
Yippie yi yo kay-ah.

**CHRISTIAN LYRICS:** I'm an old cowhand, one of God's great band  
Headin' home to Heav'n, cause it's my home land.  
I'm a cowboy who loves the Lord so dear  
Wanna be the best, keep Him very near  
Sure ain't fixin' to leave in fear  
Yippie yi yo kay-ah.



# GIDDY UP GAMES

## ....The Round Up Rodeo!

GIDDY UP GAMES is a 30 minute small group recreation time. Decide which games your team will enjoy playing. Include lively, fast paced activities that encourage running, jumping, laughing and comradeship.



### DECORATION

Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for the activities. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Fence off the area using brightly colored strings of pennants (Available at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)) for extra safety.

### COSTUME

Dress comfortably in a western outfit. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes for walking and running.

### EQUIPMENT

Organize individual game supplies during the preparation stage.

### GIDDY UP GAMES

**BARREL ROLL:** Cowboys pair into teams. One cowboy is the barrel and the other is the roller. "Barrel" curls into a ball and "Roller" rolls him/her to the finish line. Trade places and go again.

**Supplies:** Starter whistle, markers for start and finish on course

**THREE LEGGED RACE:** Cowboys team up and tie legs together. The team must race to the finish line.

**Supplies:** Fabric strips to tie legs, starter whistle, markers for course



**SACK RACE:** Cowboys put legs inside a burlap sack and jump to the finish line.

**Supplies:** burlap sacks, starter whistle, markers for course

**BUCKET RELAY:** Two teams. Each team must fill a bucket with water. Place a tub of water at the end of the course. Cowboys race to the water, fill cup, race to an empty bucket, dump water, give cup to next person, etc. Winner is the team with the most water in their bucket.

**Supplies:** 2 buckets, one large tub of water, cups, starter whistle, course markers.

**Option:** *Teams must race with styro foam cups that have holes punched around the bottom. Water will squirt as they run!*

**SHOOTING GALLERY:** Cowboys knock cans over which are standing at a distance using small balls.

**Supplies:** Small balls, cans or plastic bottles (may be filled with water)

**ROPING:** Loop one end of a rope so cowboys can toss and loop a post.

**Supplies:** one long rope, post

**LOOP THE LONGHORN:** Make large cardboard (or plywood) head of a steer with horns. Cowboys loop the long horns with plastic hoops.

**Supplies:** Steer, plastic hula hoops

**CUTTING CALVES:** Two teams. Some students become "calves". Teams hold hands, forming a circle. Calves run from teams while the teams try to trap a calf inside their circle. *Many teams of 2 and many calves may run at the same time to create confusion and diversion.*

**BOOT TOSS:** Students toss bean bags into big boots.

**Supplies:** bean bags, boots

**ROUND UP THE HERD:** Set up an obstacle course using boxes, chairs, bushes, etc. Divide into two teams and line up at starting line. Give the first person in each line a broom and 3 balloons. (Team color balloons) They must herd their wild ponies (balloons) through the course. The first team to finish the course, wins! If a balloon pops during a player's turn, take a new balloon to the starting line and begin again.

**Supplies:** 2 brooms, lots of balloons, obstacles for the course.



**HOGTIED:** 2 teams. Attach a large spoon to the end of a very long ball of twine or yarn. Teams line up and must pass the spoon in and out of their shirt and on to the next person who repeats with their shirt. When the whole team is "hogtied", they must pass the spoon back through the team to untie themselves. First team finished is the winner.

**Supplies:** 2 large spoons, lots of strong string or twine.

**PENNY IN A HAYSTACK:** Hide pennies, small toy horses or other cowboy items in a large pile of hay. The kids pile in and find them.

**Supplies:** Lots of loose hay on a tarp, small prizes and pennies. If desired, hide one really GOOD prize deep in the stack. (Large candy bar, bag of bubble gum, coupon to McDonald's, etc.)

**GOLD RUSH:** Hide chocolate money around the area and send the kids on a gold rush to see who can find the most coins.

**Supplies:** Gold coin money ([www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com))

**RATTLESNAKE RUMPUS:** Make a rattlesnake out of a long sock stuffed with a container with rattling beans inside at the end and then padded with newspaper. Seat cowboys in a circle, add music. Pass the rattlesnake. When the music stops, the player holding it has been "bitten" and sits in the middle of the circle.

**Supplies:** Rattlesnake, music

**PANNING FOR GOLD NUGGETS:** Spray paint tiny pieces of gravel in gold. Bury lots of these tiny nuggets in sand and water in a small wading pool. Give each player a pie tin filled with holes. Let them sieve the sand and water and see who can find the gold nuggets. The nuggets can be exchanged for candy or prizes although most kids want to keep their "gold"...and that is their choice!

**Supplies:** aluminum pie pans, gold nuggets, plastic bags for nuggets, small prizes

**PINATA:** There are lots of great cowboy pinatas available in stores and on the internet. Find a few and have a great time!

**Supplies:** pinata, stick, small bags for prizes

**COW TURD TOSSING:** Throw bean bags into a bucket.

**HORSESHOES:** There are great child friendly horseshoe sets available.

**SQUARE DANCING:** Teach a simple square dance with music.



**THERE'S A SNAKE IN MY BOOT:** Cowboys toss rubber snakes into old cowboy boot. (Check out good will stores for a cheap boot.)

**PIN THE BADGE ON SHERIFF JONES:** Enlarge and laminate a picture of the pastor in cowboy gear. Make sheriff badges for cowboys to tape onto picture.

## PRIZE IDEAS

Find a variety of prizes online and in local stores. Choose safe prizes and try to make them age appropriate.

Bandanas  
Sheriff Badges  
Water pistols  
Mini horse animals  
Lone Ranger masks  
Plastic or rubber snakes  
Stuffed cows/plastic cows

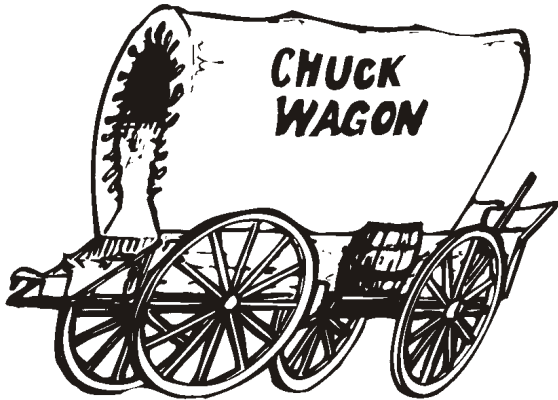
**NOTES:**

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NOT FOR USE  
PLEASE PURCHASE



# THE WATERING HOLE

## ...With Cookie the Cook!

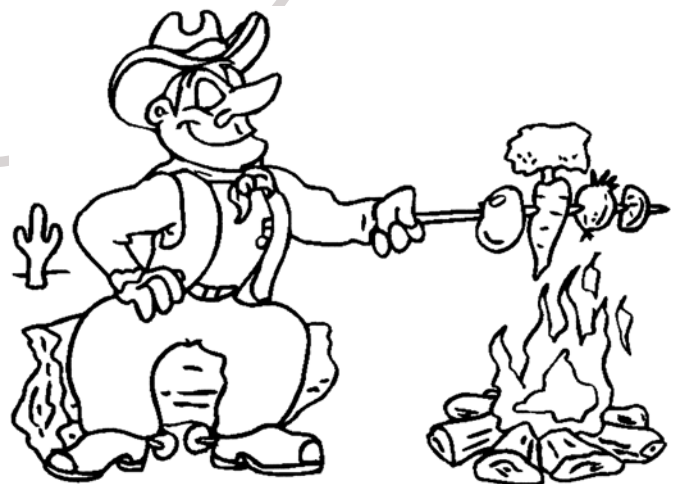


Enjoy a day of fun and food at An indoor or outdoor picnic area. It may resemble the famous chuck wagon that cowboys loved or the area can be set up with wooden picnic tables and wild flowers. Choose from these meal options for your full ONE DAY situation:

- 1. Breakfast and Lunch.** Start the day with a quick breakfast and serve lunch.
- 2. Lunch.** Serve a delicious chuck wagon lunch as the only meal of the day.
- 3. Lunch and Supper.** Serve an evening family picnic covered dish dinner. Add families and congregation for a celebration barbeque at the conclusion of the day's activities.
- 4. Ice Cream Social.** Gather the families/congregation in the evening for ice cream and a singspiration program.

### COOKIE THE COOK

COOKIE THE COOK hosts a wonderful day of cowboy food. Become the fun loving, experienced trail cook. Make foods fun by naming them appropriately for the western theme. Serve local fare that are proven kid favorites.



## COSTUMES

Each WATERING HOLE staff person wears a cowboy outfit and big white apron. Be comfortable and cool for cooking duties!

## DECORATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Serve foods outdoors in front of a large wagon (if available). Seat students at picnic tables covered with red and white checked tablecloths in a shady area. Top the tables with wicker picnic baskets, containers of leaves and wild flowers and cowboy hats.

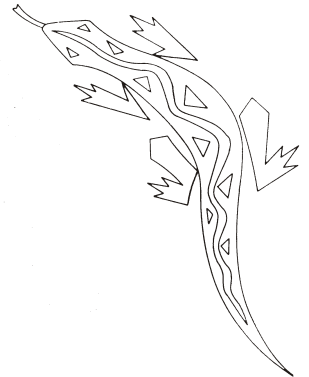
Play cowboy music in the background. There are many great cowboy CD's. Consider asking real musicians to sit around in rocking chairs playing guitars, harmonicas, fiddles and tambourines.

## A GENTLE SUGGESTION TO COOKIE

*Do not provide alternative "safe" snacks for students who refuse to try unique menu items. Most students are willing to try a no thank you helping. Refill when cowboys want more.*

*Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes. If students refuse to eat what is served, they can eat when they get home. No big deal. Complainers often become enthusiastic, proud that they tried something new if you hold the line cheerfully yet firmly.*

*The only exception is for students with health concerns. These concerns will be listed on their registration forms or verbally communicated by a parent at the beginning of the day.*



## BUNKHOUSE BREAKFAST MENU

Serving breakfast before events begin gets the day off to a great start. Serve simple breakfast foods.

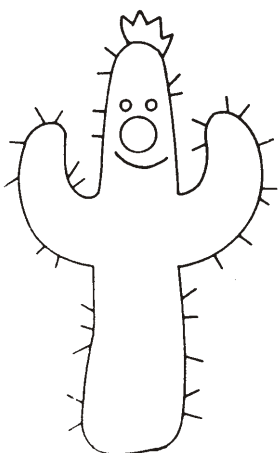
**FLAP JACK BREAKFAST:** Serve pancakes with plenty of butter and syrup. Add sausage links, bacon and scrambled eggs. Adjust portions according to size of cowboy! Serve milk and orange or apple juice.



**COWBOY SANDWICH:** Toast English muffins. Add one fried egg, Canadian bacon and cheese. Serve milk, orange/apple juice.  
Add fruit to any choice as desired.

## HAPPY TRAILS LUNCH MENU

The simplest way to serve lots of cowboy foods is to set up a buffet where cowboys walk the line and make personal choices. Help younger students. If desired, choose one simple menu and place food on individual plates.



**DIAMOND BACK RATTLE SNAKE CHUNKS:** Chicken nuggets or strips of chicken served hot.

**PRAIRIE OYSTERS:** French fries or tater tots

**GREEN PLANKS:** Deep friend fresh zucchini topped with Parmesan cheese, served with salsa.

**BUFFALO BILL CHILI:** Make your favorite chili recipe. Top with grated cheese or dollop of sour cream. Serve with generous slices of buttered Texas toast.

**CATTLEMAN'S FILET:** Tiny hamburgers placed on dinner rolls. Serve with pickle chips, mustard, ketchup.

**SON OF A GUN STEW:** Beef stew made with beef, potatoes, vegetables. Serve with generous slices of buttered Texas toast.

**DESERT MAC N' CHEESE:** Make your favorite macaroni and cheese.

**PIONEER PLATTER:** Platter filled with fresh fruit cut in bite sized portions.

**CAMPFIRE CATCH:** Hot dog bites. Each hot dog is placed on a bun and cut into three sections for appetizer sized portions. Serve with mustard and ketchup. If preferred, purchase ready made "pigs in the blanket" and heat.

**BUCKBOARD BEAN SOUP:** Serve your favorite bean soup recipe. Top with shredded cheddar cheese.





CITY SLICKER CHEESECAKE: Purchase boxes of instant cheesecake. Top cheese cakes with cherries, blueberries or strawberries.

PRAIRIE PIE: Apple Pie and Ice Cream

STAGECOACH CAKE: Bake a variety your favorite cakes. Frost and serve with ice cold milk.

COW PIES: Vanilla ice cream sandwiches between soft, homemade cookies.

SOUTHWEST BANANA SPLIT: Ice cream covered with bananas, cinnamon, chocolate sauce, whipped cream and a cherry.

SHERIFF BADGE COOKIES: Make large star shaped cookies frosted in yellow. Add a few silver sugar balls around the edges.

CORNBREAD, BISCUITS, DUMP CAKE. Use your favorite recipes.

TACO CHIPS AND MILD SALSA

CALF SLOBBERS: Make meringues and serve in small cup.

CHOKER HOLES: Doughnuts

## BEVERAGES

ROOT BEER: Ice cold, in bottles.

SARSAPARILLA: Cold drink served in canning jars.

BUG JUICE: Any cold drink with ginger ale for a bit of spice! Serve cold and fresh in large quantities.

MOO JUICE: Chocolate or White Milk.

GOD'S FAVE: Iced water served in canning jars with straws.

COWBOY COFFEE: Lots of rich, dark, hot coffee served fresh from a metal coffee pot. Add cream and sugar as desired. Leaders only!



## TABLEWARE

Serve foods in disposable aluminum pie pans.

All drinks are served in canning jars.

Offer red and white checkered napkins.

## CHUCK WAGON RECIPES

### Baked Bean Bread

This works well in Campbell soup cans. After you finish baking the bread in them it looks nice to tie a bandana around the center of the can. Kids really like this even though you might think they won't!

2 C flour                      2 C sugar                      1 C oil  
3 Eggs                          1 t. vanilla                      1 t. cinnamon  
1 can pork and beans (16 oz. Drained)  
½ t. baking powder              ½ t. soda                      1 C. Raisins (optional)  
Mix sugar, oil, beans.

Mix flour, dry ingredients, put together with vanilla.

Fill 5 greased (sprayed with Pam) 16 oz cans 2/3 full with batter.

Bake 45-50 minutes at 325 degrees.

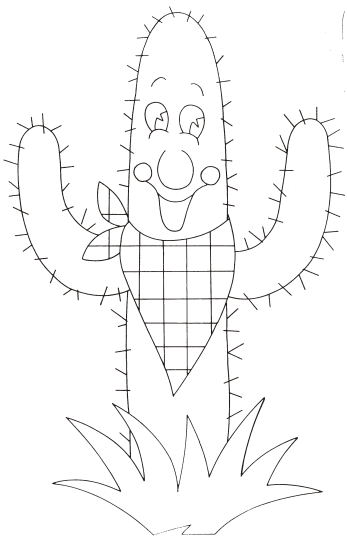
### COW PIE COOKIES

#### Makes 4 Dozen

2 C. Sugar                      5 T. Unsweetened cocoa                      ½ C. Milk  
½ C. Butter (1 stick)                      ½ C. Chunky peanut butter                      1 t. vanilla  
3 C quick-cooking oats

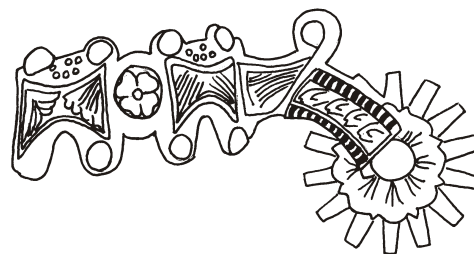
Cover baking sheet with was paper and set aside. Combine sugar and cocoa in a large sauce pan. Stir in milk, butter and peanut butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter melts and mixture is combined (5-10 minutes). Turn off heat. Stir in vanilla and oats. Mix thoroughly. Spoon onto waxed paper. Refrigerate until cool and set.

*Caution To Cookie: Be sure to remove the mixture of milk, butter and peanut butter from heat before adding oats. This prevents the mixture from burning and to start cooling before spooning it out.*



### TRAIL MIX

Trail mix is an ideal snack food on the trail. It is lightweight and easy to store. It is energy rich from the carbohydrates. Also called GORP meaning "to eat greedily" or better yet, "Gobs Of Raw Protein".



Make trail mix and serve in small brown bags. There are many wonderful ingredients to place in the mix. Choose from our ingredient suggestions or make your favorite mix.

- Mini pretzels   Raisins   M&M's   Cheerios   Chex cereal
- little toasted breads   Mini Marshmallows   Sunflower seeds
- Dried fruit (apricots, cranberries, cherries, bananas)
- Peanut, Cashews (watch out for peanut allergies!)

### COWBOY SUPPER

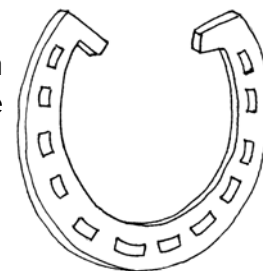
Publicize an evening meal to follow the day's activities. Invite students families and the church congregation. After the wonderful Wild West day, this is a perfect way to end the celebration.

**MENU:** Plan a big, old fashioned outdoor picnic. Ask folks to bring dishes to pass and their own picnic baskets. Seat everyone outdoors.

- |                     |             |              |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Hot Dogs/Hamburgers | Corn On Cob | Potato Salad |
| Jello Salads        | Cantaloupe  | Baked Beans  |
| Relish Tray         | Desserts    | Beverages    |

### OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Instead of a full meal, consider an evening Ice Cream Social. Offer homemade or store ice cream with all the toppings. Add a variety of homemade cakes and pies.



# HOOT 'N HOLLER CRAFTS



Give your cowboys the opportunity to make one great project that will become a keepsake of their TUMBLEWEED TOWN experience. The project must be completed in 30 minutes.

*Simpler projects may be needed for the preschool group. Find a craft they can complete successfully with the help of a few faithful leaders.*

## S&S Arts and Crafts

Craft kits are suggested from S&S arts and crafts catalog. **Prices may change.** Order online: [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) or call toll free 1-800-288-9941.

**LASER CUT CROSSES.** Laser cut craft wood crosses feature 2 designs and 2 inspirational sayings (REJOICE IN THE LORD/JESUS IS LORD). Includes super strong magnets for displaying on the fridge! 3" x 2 1/2".  
CHJ-WD7445 \$14.99 PER PACK OF 24. 63 cents each.

**SUPER FOAM MEMORY BOOK.** Assemble and decorate these great notebooks with a large star on the front. No gluing or painting. 6" x 6".  
BTD-GP1300 \$26.99 per pack of 24. 99 cents each

## ORIENTAL TRADING

These craft ideas are from Oriental Trading Catalog. Prices may change. Order online: [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) or call toll free 1-800-228-2269.

**UNFINISHED WOOD SNAKES.** Hold them by the tail and make them slither. 12". Paint sold separately. AX-48/3395 \$9.95per dozen.

**FOAM SHERIFF BADGE CRAFT KIT.** 4 1/4" Large yellow badge with accessories. AX-48/4990 \$4.49 per unit (makes 12).



**FOAM WESTERN PHOTO FRAME MAGNET CRAFT KIT.** 7" Holds a 3 3/4" x 2 1/4" picture. Includes frame, lacing, cactus, cowboy hats, flowers, stars to make a perfect memory. AX-48/3563 \$6.95 per unit (makes 12)

## **HOMEMADE CRAFTS**

### **BEADED BANDANA**

Supplies: Western bandanas, crow beads  
Cut a full bandana in half. Cut short strips evenly into the fabric from the triangle edge. String three crow beads on each strip. Hot glue bottom bead. Tie in back and wear home!

### **PAPER BAG COWBOY VEST**

Cut a slit down the middle of a brown paper shopping bag and halfway into the bottom of the bag. Fold back at the neck and fringe my making cuts of equal length. Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag large enough for the child's head. Cut armholes in sides of the bag.

Cowboys can now decorate the vest with paint or markers. You can even use a sponge cut in the shape of a horseshoe to sponge paint on a decoration. kids paint a gold sheriff's badge with their name on it.

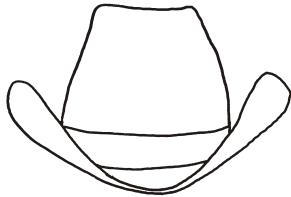
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## WINDY'S WESTERN TALES

### ...Bible Theater With A Cowboy Flair!

*"Everybody has a little cowboy in 'em.  
You just have to let it loose." -Anonymous*



WINDY'S WESTERN TALES is a 30 minute drama session, repeated to each small group. A dedicated acting team is needed. No memorization required!

Present two short vignettes in a separate area with a few props and lighting. It can be done in a room where seats/benches/hay bales are arranged on one side and a fake stage on the other side. Or, if a staging area is available set up seating in front of it. The goal is casual and funny with a great lesson at the end of each section.

Include cowboy music played on a CD. Seat cowboys quickly so the skits can be completed within the time limit.

**DECORATE!** Place a few fun cardboard props on the stage. Large cactus, cardboard horse, hay bale, wooden bench or rocking chair and other western styled props will look great in the background.

**LIGHT!** Shine lights up the walls from the floor to enhance the western, desert appearance. Use spot lights, small lamps placed behind props. Turn off all other lights in the area. Make it look like a theater.

**ACT!** Choose a small team of enthusiastic teens and adults. Do not memorize parts. Act "over the top" vaudeville style with facial expressions and gestures. Have fun. Be funny!

*Mark individual parts with high lighters for easy viewing. Actors may be male or female and may play the parts in both skits.*

Windy is the central cowboy character and must hold the activity together with great humor. Be ready for any glitches and enjoy the groups. Make friends and be the friendly cowboy everyone loves.



If mistakes are made, so what? Be casual and yet aware of the spiritual message communicated. Told in a western style, the students will understand the message.

**EAT!** Fill paper cups with popcorn. Serve a cold drink too. Be generous. Refill when requested. This is done at INTERMISSION. Give the group a chance to relax. It's a long day and this is an opportunity for a quick snack and a bathroom break. Provide a waste bin to throw empty cups away and prepare the area for the next group.

### INTRODUCTION: HOWDY!

WINDY: Howdy, y'all! Come on in and set yerself down for an exciting adventure at WINDY'S WESTERN TALES. Now, I'm Windy, the world famous cowboy and, lucky for you, Narrator of this here story time.

It's the Narrator's job to keep these wise guys movin' along. No gettin' off the trail. These are BIBLE stories we're tellin'. So, yours truly, that's me, will not lead you astray.

There's somethin' called THE CODE OF THE WEST. We experienced cowboys follow the Code. If'n you're going to be a top notch cowpoke, you need to learn the Code Of The West.

Let's see, there's rules like:

1. Don't wave at a man on a horse. It might spook the horse and the man will think you're an idiot. A nod is the proper greeting.  
(Practice nodding with the group.)

2. Cowboys are humble. A bragger who is all gurgle and no guts is not tolerated.

3. A cowboy doesn't talk much; he saves his breath for breathing.

4. No cussing! Not even around other cowboys, horses and cows...and especially no cussin' around women!

There's more to the CODE OF THE WEST. Listen and look.



**CODE OF THE WEST #1:  
NEVER PASS ANYONE ON THE TRAIL  
WITHOUT SAYIN' "HOWDY"**

Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

Actors: Windy, Good Sam, Traveler

Costumes: All actors dress as cowboys

Props: Large head bandage, Canteen (container of water),  
Jingling money in a small bag



TRAVELER: (*Stagger on stage, jean pockets turned inside out and fall-pass out!*) I been hit! That rascally thief got me good. He stole my money and my horse and he shot me! Ouch!

WINDY: (*Stand over Traveler*) Well, this ain't a good start. Who shot this poor cowboy traveler? (*Point to audience members*) Were it you? Maybe you? Oh, you got the evil eye. I bet it were you.

Reminds me of a story from the Good Book. Seems there was this traveler who was walkin' the rocky road to Jericho...

TRAVELER: (*Sit up to speak*) Yep, that were me. Jericho, Texas. It's where my Mama lives. (*Fall down again.*)

WINDY: Like I said, This here guy is trying to get himself to town when some bad guys jump him and beat him up.

TRAVELER: (*Sit up*) Yeah, they beat me up. (*Fall*)

WINDY: And they stole his money from the big Round Up.

TRAVELER: (*Sit up*) Yeah, they robbed me of my fun money. And my promise money for my poor, old Mama. (*Fall*)

WINDY: If that ain't bad enough they stole his horse and rode away.





TRAVELER: (Sit up) Yeah, they high tailed it outta here real fast. Beat me up, stole my fun money and horse thieved my favorite horse. That horse is like a son to me. (Fall)

WINDY: Well, it's lucky they left his clothes...

TRAVELER: (Sit up) Well, technically, in the Good Book, the durn thieves took my clothes too, but I'm jest tellin' the story. I'm keepin' my clothes on. (Fall)

WINDY: That's a good idea. Well, a preacher comes waltzin' by and sees Traveler layin' on the road. Does he help him?

TRAVELER: (Sit up) Does he help me? Nope, he doesn't lift one finger to help me. And he calls hisself a preacher! And I'm hurtin' bad. Ouch! (Fall)

(Sit up again) And the worst of it is, another guy, a religious guy, waltzes by on t'other side of the road, sees me layin' here groanin' and moanin' and he gives me a dirty look and keeps moving. Never even offers to tell somebody I'm out here in the badlands.

GOOD SAM: (Enter with a flourish....singing....) Here I am to save the day! That means that your Good Sam is on the way!

WINDY: (To audience) Take a look at Good Sam. Looks like a nice enough cowboy but nobody 'round here likes him. He comes from that dusty little town way down the road. We don't cotton to those folks. Too weird. They wear their cowboy hats way back on their heads. He's a Sam-air-ee-Ton. Take off, Sam. We don't need your likes around here.

TRAVELER: Don't be so hasty, Windy. If Good Sam wants to help me. I might jest let him. I'm not exactly in a position to be fussy.

GOOD SAM: I heard your story. I have bandages and I have money. (Wrap bandage around Traveler's head and plop hat back in place.)



TRAVELER: Well, thanks a heap, Good Sam. I might wanna mention I got shot in the...in the...in the derriere.

GOOD SAM: Ain't that yer head? I only bandage heads.

WINDY: Let's just leave it at that. Good Sam puts Traveler on his own horse, and it's a beauty, and carts him off to a little hotel. He stays with him as long as he can.

GOOD SAM: Hey Traveler, I gotta go. Here's a bag of money, Windy. You take good care of him. When I get back, I'll pay the rest. We'll get this cowpoke back on his feet mighty quick.

(Tips hat) Well, I gotta run! (Leaves quickly)

WINDY: A fiery horse with a speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty "Hi Yo, Silver!" Our Good Sam rides into the sunset. Will he be back?

TRAVELER: He'll be back. He left his saddle in the back room. And he left a silver bullet over there on the floor.

WINDY: The Code Of The West says, "Never pass anyone on the trail without saying 'Howdy'." A cowboy always helps someone in need, even a stranger or an enemy.

That's what Jesus was saying. Who was Traveler's good neighbor? Was it the preacher who passed him by? Was it the religious guy who went on the other side of the trail? It was Good Sam! The one cowboy nobody liked. Good Sam cared about this stranger. He took his time, his bandages and his money to help. He had mercy on this poor traveler.

When Jesus told this story, He said, "Go and do likewise."

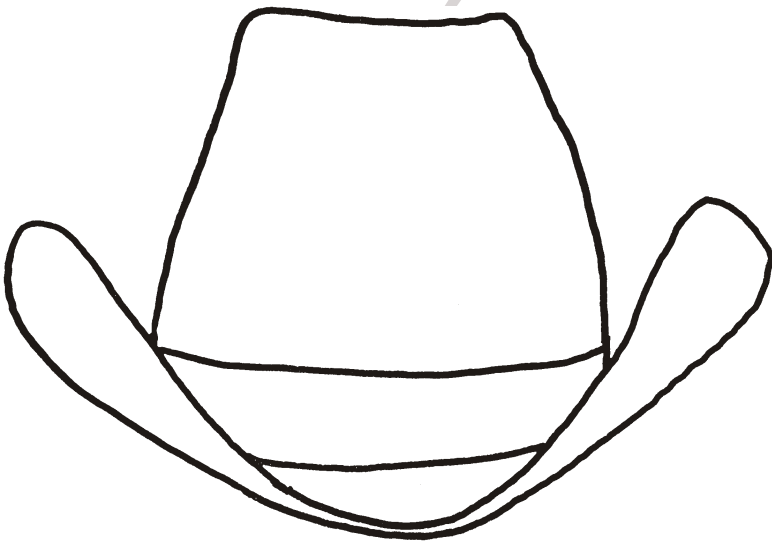
TRAVELER: The End!



## INTERMISSION

WINDY: It's time to take a break for Intermission. Get some delicious popcorn and a tall, cold, refreshing drink. If'n ya gotta visit the outhouse, go fer it! Chat with yer Saddle Pals and we'll be back soon to regale ya with another Bible Story for Code Of the West.

ENJOY A FEW MINUTES OF INTERMISSION  
WITH EACH GROUP.



OR USE  
PURCHASE

SERVE GENEROUS CUPS  
OF POPCORN.

SERVE ICE COLD BUG JUICE.  
(Cold drink with ginger ale  
added.)

When it is time to start  
the second skit,  
call the group to order  
with a large bell.

Watch the time!  
Skits and Intermission must fill 30 minutes.





**CODE OF THE WEST #2:  
COWARDS AIN'T TOLERATED  
IN ANY OUTFIT WORTH IT'S SALT!**

Parable of The Talents: Matthew

25:14-30

Actors: Windy, Faithful Cowboy, Scared Cowboy

Costumes: Dress like cowboys

Props: Bags of money (Stuff brown bags with newspaper, tie the top with twine, draw a huge dollar sign on each bag.)

WINDY: This next Code Of The West is a good one. Raise yer hand if yer brave! Raise yer hand if yer REAL brave. Raise yer hand if yer the BRAVEST cowboy in the place.

FAITHFUL COWBOY: (Enter singing...) "I'm an old cowhand, from the Rio Grande..." Howdy! I hear tell this ranch is lookin' for brave cowboys. That's me. I'm the bravest cowpoke you'll ever meet...and I ken prove it.

WINDY: I call you on it and raise ya a nickel. Prove it. If you got a tale to tell, tell it, cowboy.

FAITHFUL COWBOY: (*Carry money bags*) Well now, I been working on the Double Talent Ranch over yonder. The Trail Boss rides up to me one day and he says, "I gotta take a trip. Take this bag of money. It's got \$5000 in it. You go and do what you think is right with it. Make money for me. I'll be riding back in a few months. Be here." Well, he rides away and leaves me with big bags of money.

What could I do? I took that there bag of money to town and found some big time wheeler-dealers. They helped me invest it and ding dong if I didn't make another \$5000.

Trail Boss rides back to the ranch and I gave him his \$5000 plus the other \$5000 I earned. I was proud as punch. He gave me a big grin.



He says, "Well done, cowpoke. You've been a good wrangler. I'm gonna give you a big promotion and you even get to live in your own bunkhouse and, while yer at it, pick a brand new horse and saddle."

WINDY: Hot dog! That's some tale. You must be a happy guy.

FAITHFUL COWBOY: I sure am and that's not all. There was another cowpoke who got the same deal. He got \$2000 from the Trail Boss and went out and I heard tell he made another \$2000 on that bag of money. The Trail Boss was grinnin' on him too. Oh-oh. Don't look now. We got company.

WINDY: Company? Oh, you mean this here cowpoke? Howdy! What ken I do for ya?

SCARED COWBOY: (*Nervous, scared*) Who me? You talkin' to me?

WINDY: Yeah, you! WHAT-DO-YOU-WANT? I ain't got all day.

SCARED COWBOY: I n-need a job. I need it real bad. You got a job for a pretty fair to middlin' cowpuncher on this here ranch?

FAITHFUL COWBOY: Watch him, Windy. He's got 'Coward' in his eyes.

WINDY: Coward! We don't cotton to cowards 'round here. It's against the Code of the West. You a coward?

SCARED COWBOY: M-me? Not me! I'm courageous as a mountain lion. See? I got a paper somewhere that says so.

WINDY: I don't believe no paperwork. I only hire brave cowboys. Cowboys who ride the trail late at night when there's coyotes on the hill. Cowboys who sit their saddle even in the fiercest lightning storm. That kind of brave....courage! Courage!

FAITHFUL COWBOY: I happen to know that cowboy was given a bag with \$1000 in it from the Trail Boss over at Double Talent Ranch. Ask him what he did with it. Go ahead, ask him!

WINDY: Well, cowboy, what did you do with the \$1000 bag?

SCARED COWBOY: I-I-I did the only smart thing. I took that there bag with all that green money in it and I buried it.



WINDY: (*Shocked*) You buried it?

SCARED COWBOY: Yep! I buried it deep. Nobody would find that bag of money. I wasn't gonna lose that money for the Trail Boss. He's a hard man. Safe and sound...that's how I kept his money.

WINDY: And you gave the Trail Boss his money when he returned?

SCARED COWBOY: I gave him every penny of that \$1000. I kept it safe and sound. It's not my fault he was mad as a bucking bronco when he got back.

WINDY: Why am I not surprised?

SCARED COWBOY: I don't know why he was mad. He got every penny. I was scared to lose all that coin. I was afraid somebody would rob me. I was afraid...I told the Trail Boss I knew he was a hard man. 'So I went away and hid your money in the ground. And here it is...every penny!'

FAITHFUL COWBOY: I could hear that Trail Boss yellin' all the way over on the other side of the trail. He was not a happy cowboy.

SCARED COWBOY: He says to me, real furious, "That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cowardly like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do nothing. The least you could have done would be to put the money in the bank and got me some interest."

He made me give the bag of money to this here cowboy yer talkin' to. He says, "Give the money to the cowboy who risked the most. And get out of here." He made me leave the Double Talent Ranch and it was dark out. I had to get on my horse and ride out into the darkness. I was scared. And that's why I'm lookin' for a job. You need a pretty good cowpuncher on this here ranch? I can work the day shift.

WINDY: You are the scared-i-est cowboy I ever did meet. Ride on, cowpoke. Ride on. We live by the Code of the West on this ranch: COWARDS AIN'T TOLERATED IN ANY OUTFIT WORTH IT'S SALT.

(*To audience*) This here tale was told by Jesus. He told it so folks would know God expects great things from His workers. Get out there and be brave. Do big things for God! No Cowards allowed!

FAITHFUL AND SCARED COWBOYS: The End!



# TUMBLEWEED TOWN

## BIBLE STATION TIPS

*"Well, whatcha waitin' fer?"*

Three TUMBLEWEED TOWN Bible Stations take your cowboys on Wild West adventures where leaders guide them **The West Of The Way!** Cowboys enjoy western activities, memorize scripture verses and hear Bible stories about how Jesus affected people as they followed Him the 'West Of the Way'.



Individual student groups visit these 30 minute Bible Stations that are scheduled through the day. Leaders repeat their station to each group. Ease the teaching load with two or more team members participating in a segment of each session.

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### The West Of The Way!

#### BIBLE STATION #1: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE

MEMORY VERSE: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."  
Matthew 7:12 (The Golden Rule)

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Raises Friend Lazarus John 11:1-54

#### BIBLE STATION #2: HOME ON THE RANGE

MEMORY VERSE "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."  
Romans 10:9

BIBLE STORY: Riding The Range With Philip Acts 8:26-40

#### BIBLE STATION #3: SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEMORY VERSE: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved".  
Acts 16:31

BIBLE STORY: Jailer Believes! Acts 16:22-34



**DECORATE:** Follow individual lesson plan suggestions to create your Bible Station using available materials. Borrow items from church members, friends, family and schools. Add props using posterboard and cardboard. Use lighting to make your area intriguing or mysterious.

**COSTUME AND CHARACTER:** Become an enthusiastic Christian Cowboy. Borrow western clothing or dig into your closet to dress appropriately. See curriculum suggestions.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Teach the scripture verse in a fun, upbeat way using games. Shorten the vers as needed to match the age group.

**BIBLE STORY:** Tell the Bible Story seriously. Students must be seated and quiet. Ask questions to encourage involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Ask older student to read scripture and participate in discussion.

**TIME MANAGEMENT:** Students complete all activities in one session. If suggested activities cannot be completed within the 30 minute time period or if the program has been adapted to shorter time slots, choose the most important activities and eliminate the rest.

**ENJOY YOURSELF!** If you are having fun, your students will catch the spirit and have fun too!

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BIBLE STATION #1:

# THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE

**WEST OF THE WAY THEME:**

Jesus Raises Friend Lazarus

THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE is a "working" gold mine where students learn that Jesus gave great advice and truly helped his friends.



## DECORATION

Cover the walls of an empty room with black plastic. Add sparkle to the mine walls by adding gold glitter spray. Fill each corner with large rocks spray painted with gold glitter. Paint small rocks gold. Make enough small gold rocks so each student can choose a rock to take with them at the end of the lesson.

Place shovels, hammers, barrels, burlap bags, tin plates, rope and an old wagon. Enlarge Clementine, the mine's mule, paint and add a large bow. Place her against one wall.

Paint an old piece of wood: THUNDER GAP GOLD MINE, EST. 1865.

Print and spray glitter individual rocks or posterboard 'rocks': THE GOLDEN RULE ~ "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You." Matthew 7:12. Scatter around the mine.

Light the room with lanterns, small lights hidden in the rocks and small flashlights. It should be as dark as possible so the spray glitter walls sparkle.

## CHARACTER AND COSTUME

Become a western miner who has staked a claim for Thunder Gap Gold Mine. Wear jeans, long sleeved shirt, vest, suspenders, bandana, cowboy hat and boots. If available, wear a headlight.

## WELCOME

Are you one of those squirrely bunch of claim jumpers? Turn your tails and 'git! I'm not giving up this gold claim for anyone. The promise of a Mother Lode is written on these old mine walls and it's mine all mine! When I get rich, I'm going to high tail it out of here for the big city. I'm



gonna buy the best cowboy outfit I can find and my partner is going to buy a new hat. And we're each gonna get a BATH!

Well, as long as you went to the trouble of climbing into this old hole, settle back and relax. I ain't got much but I'll share what I got. You won't be staying for long anyhow. Mining is hard and the air is bad in here—real bad. *(Cough)* Watch out for every miner's enemy, Fool's Gold. It's sparkling rock that looks like the real stuff but ain't worth a plug nickel.

### MEMORY VERSE: The Golden Rule

Do unto others  
As you would have them  
Do unto you.  
Matthew 7:12

*Print individual words on small, gold rock shapes made of posterboard. Before class, attach the rock words all over the walls. Students search for the words with flash lights and put the verse together to say aloud. Or, use real rocks painted gold and printed.*

The words of the GOLDEN RULE come out of the Good Book. My copy is torn and tattered but the GOLDEN RULE is just as true now as ever. The man who spoke it was real special and He was real smart about giving good advice. His name is Jesus. Have you heard about Him?

### GOOD BOOK TALE: Jesus Raises Friend Lazarus

*SERVE A SMALL SNACK WHILE TELLING THE STORY.  
CHOOSE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE PLACED IN A LARGE METAL BOWL.  
(Pretzels, chips, grapes, etc.)*

Let me tell you a Jesus tale to guide us the WEST OF THE WAY in our lives. Jesus was always going about doing good for people. Why, He healed sick folks, fed hungry people and even raised up dead ones. Speaking of raising up dead people, that 'truer than true' tale is a humdinger!

**John 11:1-54:** Jesus loved three people from a small town called



Bethany. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were sisters and brother. Whenever Jesus was in shouting distance, He'd stop in for a bite to eat and a good talk. He loved these folks like they were His very own family. They believed Jesus was the Christ and loved Him.

Jesus was out of town and a messenger tracked Him down, "Jesus! Your dear friend is feeling poorly! His sisters need you in Bethany as quick as a jackrabbit to make him feel better!" Strange thing is, Jesus didn't go. He said "Lazarus' is sick for the glory of God."

Lazarus got sicker and weaker. Mary and Martha got more scared...and then...Lazarus died! The sisters cried, "Why didn't Jesus come?" A day passed..no Jesus.

Finally the neighbors came and wrapped up the poor, old guy and got him ready to be buried in a cave. A huge rock was rolled in front of the cave so no one would get inside. *(I guess that's why I like this story. It's got a cave and rock in it!)* People were sad and many cried. Still Jesus didn't show up.

Two full days later Jesus says, "Let's go back to Bethany in Judea". Like it was all His idea. The disciples weren't so happy about it because the last time they were in Judea the people tried to stone him. *(There you go with the rocks again!)* Why Jesus would want to go back was more than they could understand. They were kind of scared.

Jesus told them Lazarus was sleeping. When they got back, Lazarus had been dead four days. Too late. The sisters were more than disappointed in their friend. He said He loved them but when they needed him most, He had flown the coop.

## THE WEST OF THE WAY

The WEST OF THE WAY is amazing! Martha ran to meet Jesus. I bet she was mad and sad all at the same time. She said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!"

To make her feel better, Jesus told her Lazarus would rise again. "Yes, I know", she cried, "He'll rise on the final day when all God's people meet Him in the sky." She didn't get it at all. Jesus was getting ready to make a miracle!



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. And those who live and believe in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus asked her to call Mary. Mary ran to meet her friend. She was crying really hard. When the neighbors saw her crying, they all started crying. Jesus asked where Lazarus was buried.

By now, Jesus was crying too. He asked someone to move the rock and while the people watched, Jesus lifted his eyes to heaven and said, "Father I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you always hear me. I say this so the people who are here may believe you have sent me." Then He called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

And can you believe it, Lazarus popped his wrapped head out of the cave! Wow, everyone was amazed. They unwrapped him and Lazarus went home with his sisters!

### CONCLUSION: TREASURE NUGGETS

I want you to remember Thunder Gap Gold Mine. Look around the floor of the mine and find a gold nugget to take with you. It is yours to remember how Jesus talked about doing good to others.

#### OPTIONS: TAKE HOME GIFTS

**Oriental Trading Company:**  
www.orientaltrading.com

GOLD NUGGET BUBBLE GUM in a small canvas bags  
IN-/K168 \$14.99/Dozen Price may change

"Jesus Is The Light" Mini Flashlight Key Chains.  
IN-36/60 \$4.99/Dozen Price may change

**Smilemakers:** [www.SmileMakers.com](http://www.SmileMakers.com)

Golden Rule Rulers #REL 180  
1 ½: x 12" 124 rulers for \$9.99 Price may change

Cross Worry Stones #REL 562  
2 1/4" x 3" 12 for \$14.99 Price may change

God Rocks Necklaces #REL496 12/\$14.99 Price may change

### CLOSE IN PRAYER



## GOOD BOOK TALE: Riding The Range With Philip



The Good Book reminds me of where I live. For example, look at us out here ridin' the range. Now, what Good Book story can possibly remind me of this place?

**Acts 8:26-40:** Let's see if you know this Good Book Tale. It's truer than true. There was this cowpoke named Philip. He was an all around great guy who loved Jesus and preached about Him. He was one of seven Christian men chosen to care for poor folks in Jerusalem. He did a good job too.

Now, this was when being a Christian was mighty dangerous. It was so scary that most believers moved to faraway places to be safe. Everywhere these Christians traveled, they talked about Jesus. Good news traveled fast and spread far and wide.

Even Philip took to the road and was ridin' the range for Jesus. One day (*and I know this is hard to believe*) an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go...." Philip headed out to the range and came across a traveler.

Out here on my range I see gophers and herds of cows. I never met a royal chariot with the Ethiopian Queen's treasurer (*Ethiopia is a country in Africa*) riding along...but Philip did! The man had been to Jerusalem to worship God. He was riding along in his fancy chariot, reading a Good Book scroll....that's how they had 'em back then...scrolls, not books.

The Ethiopian longed to know God and the scroll was his precious possession. He read and read but he could not understand the words. Philip saw the frown on his face as he caught up to the chariot.

"Hey! What're doin up there?!", shouts Philip. The Ethiopian calls back, "I'm reading the Good Book!"



CLEMENTINE



BIBLE STATION #2:

# HOME ON THE RANGE



**HOME ON THE RANGE THEME:** Riding The Range With Phillip  
When traveling THE WEST OF THE WAY, you never know who you will meet. Be prepared to talk about Jesus wherever you go to whomever you meet.

## DECORATION

**OUTDOORS:** Choose a grassy place with trees, tall grasses or a calm spot where prairie accessories can be placed.

*If safe, burn a small campfire. CAUTION: Anytime fire is present, use utmost caution. No one gets near the campfire and no one runs. Be sure buckets of water are available. Put out the fire at the end of the day.*

**INDOORS:** In a class room, place range/prairie accessories. Green plants, tall grasses, wild flowers, twigs, trees, stuffed/posterboard animals that look like gophers, snakes, cows, buffalo, skunk, butterflies, fox, grasshoppers, dragon flies, eagles, elk, owl, coyote, wolf. Choose outdoor items available and have fun creating a western prairie atmosphere.

Set up a campfire so the group can sit in a circle on the floor. Use wood, rocks in a circle. Place wood stumps, old blankets around the circle. Place a lightbulb in the wood to represent the fire.



## CHARACTER AND COSTUME

Become a cowboy riding the range on a cattle drive. This takes place at a campfire on the range. Wear traditional cowboy gear.

*OPTION: Consider having a real horse/pony, cow/calf nearby. Pony rides may be considered. Owner must be present with any animal at all times!*



## WELCOME

*SHARE A CAMPFIRE SNACK.*

*Consider Slim Jims, Jerky, Pepperoni slices, dinner rolls, water*

Howdy, cowpokes! How'd you beat me back to the campfire? I been ridin' the range all day, chasin' down ornery cows. I have to get to Tumbleweed Town in the next day or so to get these beasts to market. Anybody seen a cow hidin' in the brush?

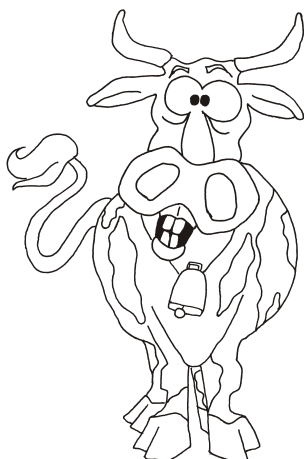
I'm hungry as a bear! What did you make me to eat? Nothing? What kind of cowpokes are you? I need my grub. Well, I have something in my bag for all of us to chew on.

## MEMORY VERSE: TELLING GOOD NEWS

If you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus  
And **believe** in your heart  
that God has raised Him from the dead,  
You will **be saved**.  
Romans 10:9

*Print the words on posterboard and talk about three important things to remember. How do we become Christians? What do we tell others about becoming a believer in Jesus?*

1. CONFESS (Tell) About Jesus.
2. BELIEVE in your heart that Jesus is Lord.
3. BE SAVED! If you confess and believe, you ARE saved!





Philip says, "Do you understand it?" The Ethiopian says, "How can I understand when I have no one to teach me?" He invited Philip to ride along and explain the meaning of the words.

They rode and talked and talked and rode. They got to talking about Jesus and Philip was able to tell him the easy steps to becoming a Jesus believer. Remember what our Good Book verse said?

CONFESS–BELIEVE–BE SAVED

The Ethiopian had not heard of Jesus. He listened. He believed. How thankful he was that Philip had come along! At last he was learning the very thing he had longed to understand. They passed a pool of water and the man asked if Philip could baptize him.

Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian said, "I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God". They got out of the chariot and went into the water where Philip baptized him.

## THE WEST OF THE WAY

What do you think happened to the very important Ethiopian man? (*Let students respond.*) Let's think about it:

1. He was VERY happy!
2. He returned to Ethiopia in Africa.
3. He told the Queen about Jesus.
4. He told everybody he knew about Jesus.
5. Good News about Jesus traveled all over Africa.
6. Africans are still telling each other about Jesus!

And that is because one man, Philip, was willing to walk the range telling everybody about Jesus! We can do that too!

Tell everybody you meet that they can be Christians: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9



## CONCLUSION: RIDE YOUR OWN RANGE

Before you can tell someone else how to be a Jesus believer, you must believe in your own heart that Jesus is Lord. If you have never asked Jesus to be your personal Savior, pray this simple prayer and become like Philip, the Ethiopian and all the believers since then...a Christian!

Dear Jesus,  
I never understood how to be a Christian until today. I am asking You to be my Savior. I confess my sins. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the grave. I know that beginning today, I am saved.

In Jesus' Name,  
Amen

### OPTIONS: TAKE HOME GIFTS

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CLOSE IN PRAYER



BIBLE STATION #3:

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE THEME:** Believe In Jesus!  
Traveling THE WEST OF THE WAY, consider the claims of Christ. Hard to be a Christian? No way! Just like the Old West Sheriff, we must be ever vigilant .

## DECORATION

Turn an empty class room into a wild west jail. Part of the area should be a cell with the other part becoming the sheriff's office.

**CELL:** Place a simple cot, pillow and blanket against one wall. Add sparse items like a rug, bucket, straight back chair, small table.

**BARS:** Twist black crepe paper streams and attach at ceiling and floor.

**OFFICE:** One old desk, hat rack, large keys, rug, waste basket, straight back chair, lamp on desk. Hang the keys on the wall.

**SIGNS:** Print SHERIFF'S OFFICE and JAIL on large signs to be hung within the room. Printed WANTED Posters with pictures of bad guys may be hung around the office space.

Just for fun, take a picture of the pastor and add this information:

WANTED-PREACHER JOHN, \$100 Reward, 6' 2" 180 lbs. Black hair, scar on left cheek, halo over head, big feet. Also known as AKA: The Soul Man, Preacher Creature, Honey Bunch and Dad. Crimes: Ate too much at last church dinner, parked buckboard too close to church, preacher too long, left Bible in church kitchen.



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## CHARACTER AND COSTUME

Wear traditional cowboy gear. Add a large SHERIFF star. This is a great opportunity to enlist the aid of a DEPUTY. Become the kindly law team helping each visitor learn how to Protect and Serve.

## WELCOME

*Serve a light jailhouse snack on trays.  
(Cheese and crackers, Hershey Kisses)*



You low down, horse thievin' varmints! Get in here and put yourselves behind those bars. We don't cotton to criminals in this town and I been sworn to uphold the law. There's no escape from my jail so settle in for a good, long stay. You're living in the dark and it remains to be seen if you will ever get back to living in the light.

While your in my jail, you might as well get a bit of chow. Not much, mind you, but enough to keep your sorry hides alive.

## MEMORY VERSE: Believe In Jesus!

It's time to turn over a new leaf. I'm going to help you take the first step to change your life. Listen up good:

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ  
And you will be saved.

Acts 16:31

## GOOD BOOK TALE: Jailer Believes!

**Acts 16:22-34:** There is an adventuresome truer than true Good Book Tale about a jailer (*like me*) who had some pretty famous prisoners. God's missionaries, Paul and Silas, were traveling around talking about Jesus and the good news of salvation.

Now you would think folks would be happy about that. No! People got mad and had the sheriff arrest them. The judges said they were disturbing the peace and breaking the law.



After beating them black and blue, they threw Paul and Silas in jail. The jail keeper was under strict orders not to let them escape. He threw them into the maximum security cell and clamped leg irons on them. (And you think I'm a mean sheriff?)

Along about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing a great song to God. The other prisoners couldn't believe their ears. Then, without warning, a huge earthquake hit! The jailhouse started to shake, every door flew open, all the prisoners were loose.

The jailer woke up and saw all the doors swinging loose on their hinges. Figuring all the prisoners escaped (*including the famous Paul and Silas*), he pulled out his sword and was about to do himself in, figuring he was as good as dead anyway. Paul stopped him: "Don't do that! We're all still here! Nobody ran away!"

The jailer got a torch and ran inside. He was so upset, he collapsed in front of Paul and Silas. He led them out of the jail and asked, "Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?"

They must have smiled because this is the very question they had the answer to: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, and everybody in your house too!"

Well, the jailer heard the whole Jesus story. They never did get to bed that night. His whole family got in on it. They dressed their wound and then—the jailer couldn't wait until morning—he and everyone in his family were baptized! They celebrated with a festive meal. It was a night to remember! The jailer's entire family put their trust in God; everyone in the house was in on the celebration!

### THE WEST OF THE WAY

Get out of my jail and travel THE WEST OF THE WAY if you can answer a few questions:



1. Name the two men who were put in jail. (Paul and Silas)
2. What did they do to get put in jail? (Talked about Jesus)
3. What were the men doing at midnight? (Praying and Singing)
4. What amazing thing happened? (Earthquake/Jail opened)
5. Who escaped from the jail? (Nobody)
6. What did the jailer want to do? (Kill himself)



- 7. What did Paul and Silas say to the jailer that changed his life?  
(Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.)
- 8. What did the jailer do?  
(Took them home, dressed wounds, fed them)
- 9. Who believed in Jesus that night? (Jailer and his whole family)

Yep, that's what happened and you just earned yourselves a 'get out of jail free' card. Come on out of there, you rascally varmints!

### CONCLUSION: Time To Believe

I hear tell folks say it's hard to be a Christian. Some think you have to be real *smart*. Some think you have to *do good deeds*. Folks even believe you can *never be good enough* to go to Heaven.



If I remember Paul's words, he said all you have to do is...what? Yes! BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Doesn't sound hard to me. After all, Jesus proved how much He loves us when He died on the Cross.

I'm a Jesus believer. Are you? It's time to change your life and get out of the sad life you're livin'. Easiest way to show God you're serious is to talk to Him and say you've got a new plan to turn your life from bad to good. Do it today. Don't end up back here in jail!

#### OPTIONS: TAKE HOME GIFTS

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#### CLOSE IN PRAYER



# TYKE'S PEAK NURSERY

## WHO SHOULD COME?

TUMBLEWEED TOWN is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers security. Invite youngsters, birth through age three, children of teachers and helpers. It is your decision to open the nursery to the public.



## HOW MANY HELPERS?

Provide one helper per baby in charge of all care from bottles to changing diapers. If that is not possible, ask one adult and a variety of assistants to watch the children.

## SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES?

Nursery is a babysitting service. Tell a few stories, sing songs, play CD's and Videos, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the children.

## SHOULD WE FEED CHILDREN?

Ask parents. They may want to provide snacks. Be sure the food is safe and healthful. **WARNING:** No popcorn, hot dogs, lollipops or hard candy which could get caught in a tiny throat.

## HOW SHOULD WE DRESS?

Wear washable clothing and shoes that are comfortable. The key to being happy is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

## WHAT SHOULD WE BRING?

Bring Christian CD's and Videos. Play music at a low, non threatening volume. Bring a small fan if days are humid. Place the fan away from children, preferably on a shelf or high table.

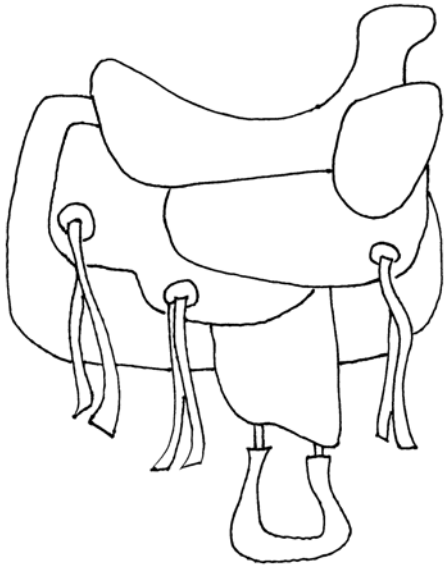


# SADDLE PALS

## ...Preschool

AGE FOUR THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN.

Include five year old pre-k students or to allow them to become part of the kindergarten group.



**OPTION:** *If your preschool students are fun loving, active and mature, include them as one of the major groups and eliminating the preschool grouping.*

*It has been a pleasure to discover preschool children adapt to normal activities with very little adjustment.*

*Essential modification involves simplifying Bible Stations. Adapt early in the planning phase. Save staffing for other areas while enjoying a fun day with the preschool gang.*

### THEME

SADDLE PALS study the same spiritual themes as older students. the curriculum is a guide. Provide rest time, play and simple crafting. At no time should you feel pressured to move the students to activities if they are crying or upset. Cancel or shorten your appearance in favor of free play time.

### TEACHERS

Staff one helper for every 2-3 students. Parental help is welcome. Wear comfortable clothing. Make the ONE DAY event fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter and sing without being reprimanded. However, run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.





## HOME BASE

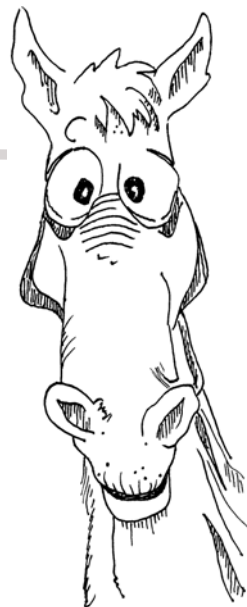
Prepare one room where optional preschool stories, crafts, play and rest take place. Offer this separate space for criers and other young students who need privacy during the day.

*Two separate ½ hour sessions (morning and afternoon) are reserved as an optional preschool Home Base time. These times may be reserved for watching Christian videos, resting with large pillows, taking a walk or completing a craft.*

## CRIERS

Preschool children are unpredictable. If a few children continually cry, keep them busy separately with play and coloring at HOME BASE. Movement around the building and grounds may be threatening for some younger students.

If one or two children never calm down, it may be necessary to ask a parent to stay with their child or to take them home and try again next year. While we want to accommodate as many young students as possible, crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.



## PLANNING A SADDLE PALS DAY

4 ½ hours is a long day for preschool. Plan the day around rest and free time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and outdoor toys. Purchase small story books from your local Christian bookstore. Use these stories as extra teaching times.

**NATURE WALK:** This may be the highlight of the day. It is not a scheduled activity so insert it when a planned activity is not appropriate for the SADDLE PALS.

*Walk with a nature bracelet. Put a band of duct tape (sticky side out) around each child's wrist. As children walk, let them pick up leaves, sticks and flowers and stick them to their bracelet. Upon return, discuss all the treasures they found. Talk about how our loving God made everything for our enjoyment and to meet our needs.*



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### TUMBLEWEED OPENING

SADDLE PALS participate in the Opening if they can sit still, sing and respond. This is an opportunity to organize name tags and motivate the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to Home Base to color. This avoids chaos and distraction for older students.

### COWBOY SERENADE

Take SADDLE PALS to music and stay with them. If the 30 minute session is too long, take them to Home Base for free play or coloring or video time.



## **WINDY'S WESTERN TALE BIBLE THEATER**

This area consists of a Narrator directing activities for two skits. It is a wonderful way for preschoolers to become involved in Bible stories told in a humorous way. Enjoy the experience.



### **BIBLE STATIONS**

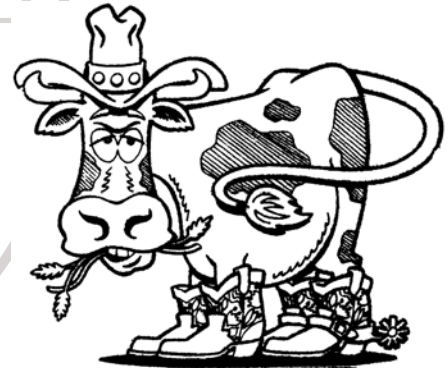
Take SADDLE PALS to each station. They may not understand every concept but they will enjoy the decorations and the stories.

### **WATERING HOLE**

This is the Chuck Wagon where delicious meals are served. There may be a breakfast, lunch and supper or any combination of these meals. Sit with SADDLE PALS. Take a bathroom and hand washing break. Everyone in the building eats at the same time. Decide if you want to join the large group or eat separately at Home Base.

### **REST TIME**

Reserve time for play and rest. Darken Home Base, play music or watch a video while encouraging quiet activity. Rest Time is optional in morning and afternoon sessions.



### **GIDDY UP GAMES**

Take SADDLE PALS to recreation. They are many games these young children will be able to play.

### **QUICK DRAW CORNER CRAFTS**

The perfect preschool craft can be completed with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity. Purchase one special craft project from [www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) (S&S arts and crafts) to feature as a keepsake. Or make a homemade project of your choice.



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