

Here are some program ideas to use with the IT's STORYTIME! kit **Cowboy Roundup**.

This collection of great read-alouds celebrates the cowboy and cowgirl (!) as well as the West -- contemporary and in the past -- real and imagined. You can mix and match the books, rhymes and crafts depending on the amount of time you have.

“Howdy pardners! Gather ‘round this campfire and set a spell - it’s time for a story!” (Wear your hat and use the horse puppet to gather your listeners. You can construct a pretend campfire with fake logs, construction paper and metallic tissue paper)

Begin with some fingerplays:

I'm a Little Cowboy *(To the tune of: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I'm a little cowboy.

Here is my hat.

(Point to self, then to hat)

Here are my spurs.

(Point to your heels)

And here are my chaps.

(Pat legs)

As soon as I get up,

(Stretch, pretend to wake up)

I work all day.

(Pretend to lasso a cow)

I get on my horse.

(Pretend to get on a horse)

And ride away.

(Pretend to gallop on a horse)

A Cowboy

A cowboy wears a western hat,
And rides a frisky horse,
He carries a rope called a lariat,
He's a real straight shooter, of course

A Roping Fool

Like every cowhand,

I'm a ropin' fool.

No cowhand's ever

Without this tool.

I swing it to the left

And swing it to the right.

My swinging rope is a

Whoop-de-doo sight!

I swing it up and swing it down.

I swing I around and around.

I swing it fast with a big hurrah.

Ride 'Em, Cowpokes

tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Ride, ride, ride the range,

Round up all the cows.

Yippee-ki-yi-yo, yippee-ki-yi-ya,

Let me show you how.

(pretend to ride horse)

Then shout a great big “Yee-ha!”

(fit actions to words)

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After reading one or two stories, play a song from **Saddle Pals**, performed by everybody's favorite cowboy band, Riders in the Sky. Here's a track listing: 1)Yippie-Yi-Yi and Away We Go 2)The Old Chisholm Trail 3)Get Along Little Dogies 4)Biscuit Blues 5)Sweet Betsy From Pike 6)There's a Great Big Candy Roundup 7)I'm Going to Leave Old Texas Now 8)The Cowboy ABC's 9)Clementine 10)“One Two Three” Said the Miner 11)Fiddle Medley 12)Down the Lullabye Trail.

And don't forget the classic “Home on the Range”.

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the sky is not cloudy or gray.

REFRAIN

Home, home on the range!
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the sky is not cloudy or gray.

Here's a selection of **crafts and activities** to choose from:

Happy Trails Bingo

Make Bingo cards from cardstock or paper using markers to divide an 8”square into 9 blocks. Using cut-out pictures, stamps or clip art, find pictures representing the following: Cowboy hat, chaps, boots, lariat, sheriff's badge, horse shoe, horse, cow/steer, campfire, different brands (Lazy M or Rocking A), cactus, spurs, chuck wagon, saddle, bandana, rattlesnake, guitar, and coyote. You'll need 18 pictures to mix up on the cards so that no two are alike. Give each child a card and 9 tokens, coins or buttons. As you hold up a larger version of the pictures and say the name, players will place a token over the picture on the card. The first child to cover all nine pictures wins.



Program Guide for COWBOY ROUNDUP

Paperbag Cowboy Puppet

To make this craft project you will need a paper bag (lunch size), scissors, glue, tape, colored construction paper, and crayons or markers. To begin, leave the bag flat, turn it upside down so you are looking at the flat bottom and back seam. You will create your Cowboy's face on the paper bag's bottom and his body on the backside of the paper bag. In order to create your Cool Cowboy Puppet, you will need to cut out several pieces from your colored construction paper. You can create your cowboy using your own imagination or you can use the templates provided. To begin select the colored papers you want to use to create your cowboy. Select as many colors as you want for his cowboy hat, pants, bandana, vest, and badge. First cut out the cowboy's hat and bandana from your colored paper. Next cut out two rectangles from the colored paper to make the vest and pants. Take your scissors and trim the rectangles into a vest and a pair of pants using the picture as a guide. Also cut out two small rectangle arms, simple hands, some simple boots, one large star, and two tiny stars (spurs). Now let's assemble your cowboy! Tape or glue the cowboy hat onto the top of the bottom of the bag. Now add a great cowboy face with crayons below on the bag's bottom. Next add the rest of the cowboy's clothing to the rest of the backside of the bag. Insert the arms and hands into the sides of the bag and glue or tape them in place. Decorate your cowboy further with crayons and other materials.

Horses and Corral

Using the template and different colored paper, make a herd of horses. Horses can be cream, brown or golden; Pinto or "painted" with splotches of color; Appaloosas are known for their spotted rumps. Add a mane, tail and bridle. Create a wall mural corral, and place the horses in the corral. Kids can name the horses if they want.

Cowboy puppet and Horse templates and directions are from www.thebestkidsbooksite.com.

☞ Fingerplays and rhymes are from the King County Library System (WA) program BOOKS TO GROW ON.

How about using inexpensive cowboy hats and bandanas for your cowboy and cowgirl listeners? These additional props are available on the It's Storytime! website.

It's Storytime! is a program of
Children's Library Services
www.ItsStorytime.com 800.860.8192