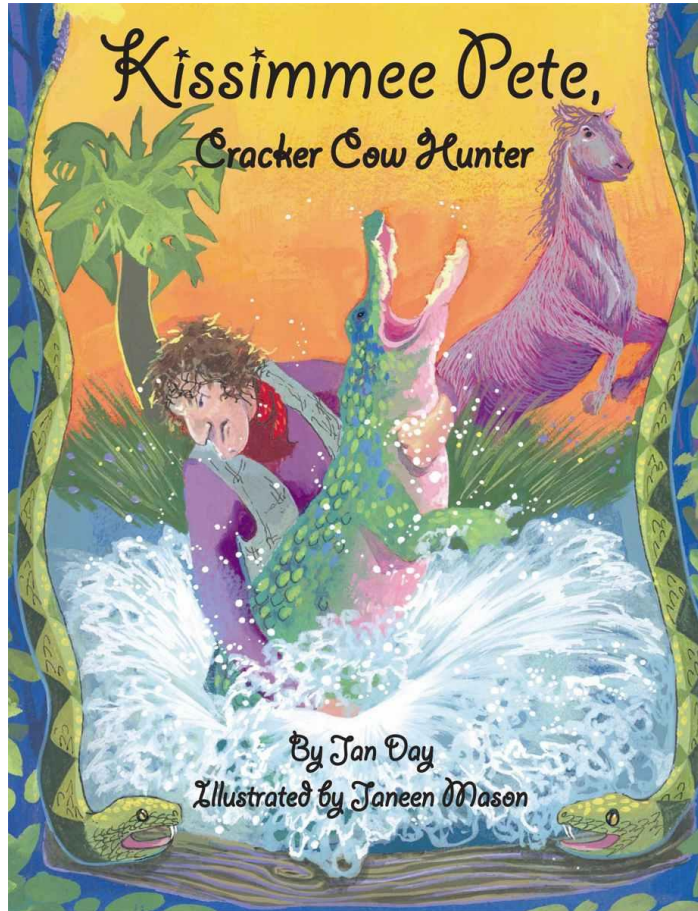


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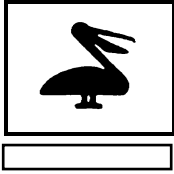
## Activity Guide for



Guide includes activities for  
Writing  
Math  
Art  
Music  
Reading Comprehension

For use in the  
classroom!

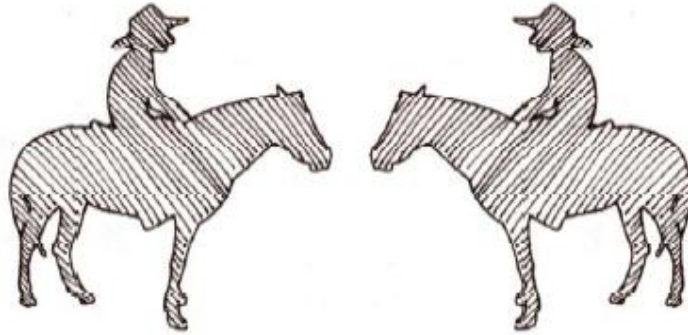
Guide Created by  
Jan Day and Janeen Mason



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## ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR KISSIMMEE PETE: CRACKER COW HUNTER



*Activities are included for a variety of ages that can be done alone or with the help of an adult.*

### 1. WRITE A TALL TALE

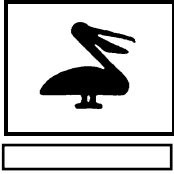
A. Read four tall tales. For example: KISSIMMEE PETE, CRACKER COW HUNTER, PECOS BILL, PAUL BUNYON, SWAMP ANGEL, MIKE FINK, DAVY CROCKET, SALLY THUNDER, JOHNNY APPLESEED or JOHN HENRY.

B. Find three historical facts about a logger, or a railroad builder, or a citrus farmer, or someone in Florida that you would like to model a tall tale character on.

C. Write a tall tale using your character, the setting around where your character lives, and include your three actual historical facts. It can be as short or long as you want it to be. Some tall tales were no more than a paragraph long.

### 2. FUN WITH ADJECTIVES

Find four adjectives used to describe Kissimmee Pete that would also describe your character. Draw your character and write the four adjectives that you found underneath. Then add four new ones of your own. Think about the kind of person your character is and how to make the adjectives describe him.



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### 3. MAKE UP A SONG

Make up a song about Pete, the Cracker Cowboy. Include some yodeling. Perform this for your Mom and Dad.

### 4. NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW

Using the information on the endpapers and in the book, write a make believe interview with Kissimmee Pete for the Cow Hunters' Gazette.

### 5. SWAT THAT MOSQUITO

How did the early cow hunters protect themselves from their dreaded enemy, the mosquito? Read the book and find out.



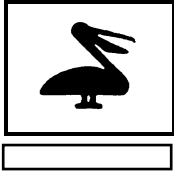
### 6. HOME ON THE RANGE

A. Create your own brand. Cow hunters often used their name or their initials in a design. A brand was a letter of the alphabet, or a number or a combination of letters. These were used for identifying cattle and were brought to Florida by the Spanish. Here are some examples of early Spanish brands:



Brands for Kissimmee Pete could look like this:





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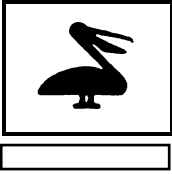
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B Find four cows in the scrub and draw your brand on them:



C. Name the ranch you'd like to own. Ranchers often use some aspect of the ranch, like the oak trees or hammock. For example, outside Okeechobee there is a ranch called Dark Hammock. What do you think Pete's ranch might have been called?



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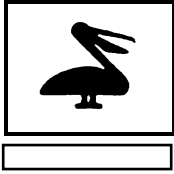
## 7. TRAIL DRIVE



A. Above is a map of a cattle trail across Florida. Put in landmarks and cows Pete might have found along the way. Then draw a herd of cows.

B. How long will it take to drive cattle from Okeechobee to the steamship in Punta Russa? The trail is 90 miles long and the speed of the cattle is 15 miles per day. How many days will it take?





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## 8. POSTCARD FROM THE KISSIMMEE RIVER

### Definitions:

Floodplain: flat or level land that can be submerged by floodwaters

Meandering- winding or curving.

The Kissimmee River, from which Pete got his name, was once a river that spread over the flood plain during rains or flooding. Man made it into a straight, deep canal to control the flooding until they realized that the plants, fish, and wildlife were dying. When the water is too deep, the plants can't get sunlight to grow. Without the plants, the fish have no food and die, and without fish, the birds, alligators and other animals find little food.

A. Now the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are making the river back into the original meandering river that existed in Pete's day. Animals are returning. What kind of animals did Pete meet in the story? Some other animals that lived near the Kissimmee River are deer, otter, frogs, turtles, alligators, wading birds like the heron and the limpkin.

B. Using an index card, make a postcard with your favorite animal on the front and write a message telling your best friend what it was like to see it. Draw the scene on the front of your card. Did the animal see you? What happened? Mail to your friend.

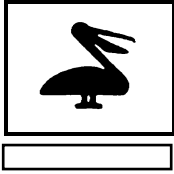
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## ***KISSIMMEE PETE, CRACKER COW HUNTER***

By Jan Day

Illustrated by Janeen Mason

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM SELECTION

“The clever text is full of humor and flows well, and is set off by eye-catching illustrations that give the pages energy and imagination—just right for a tall tale.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Children will love this array of creatures from the Florida ranch lands, plus cowpoke Pete and his dog.”

—*Palm Beach Post*

A tall tale based on the life of the frontier cowboy, or “cow hunter” as they are called in Florida, *Kissimmee Pete, Cracker Cow Hunter* is a fast-paced adventure that includes encounters with starvin’ mosquitoes, hairless bears, and gators the size of canoes!

Just like cowboys out west, “cracker cow hunters”—so called because they used the crack of their whips to scare cows out of the brush—rounded up their cattle and drove them to market, encountering unpredictable situations along the way. Here, the tender-hearted, courageous, clever cracker cow hunter Kissimmee Pete, his horse Blaze, his dog Mud, and his green cow String Bean, sing, swim, push, and wrestle their way across grasses, prairies, and swamps, finally arriving safely at port with their herd.

Filled with bright and bold illustrations, an amazing assortment of adjectives, and plenty of sassy word play, *Kissimmee Pete, Cracker Cow Hunter* makes for an excellent read-aloud experience.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jan Day lives in Okeechobee, Florida, surrounded by the ranches and prairies where she has set her third book, *Kissimmee Pete, Cracker Cow Hunter*. Ms. Day is the author of *The Pirate, Pink* (\$15.95) and *Pirate Pink and Treasures of the Reef* (\$15.95), published by Pelican. Also a writer of published poetry and short fiction, Day offers writing workshops for schoolchildren and participates in a variety of children’s publishing panels. Her first children’s book, *The Pirate, Pink*, was selected for the Children’s Book Council’s Children’s Choices 2002 program.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Janeen Mason, the brush-snappin’, paint-crackin’ illustrator, brings Kissimmee Pete to life in her third book with Jan Day. She illustrated *The Pirate, Pink* and *Pirate Pink and Treasures of the Reef*. An award-winning artist, Ms. Mason is a popular speaker at schools, libraries, and conferences, and she exhibits her art nationwide.

### KISSIMMEE PETE, CRACKER COW HUNTER

By Jan Day Illustrated by Janeen Mason

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