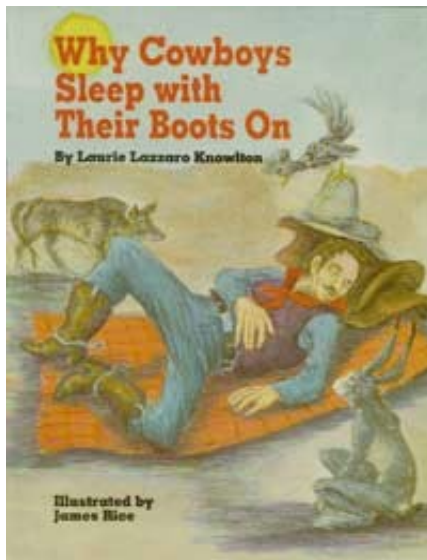


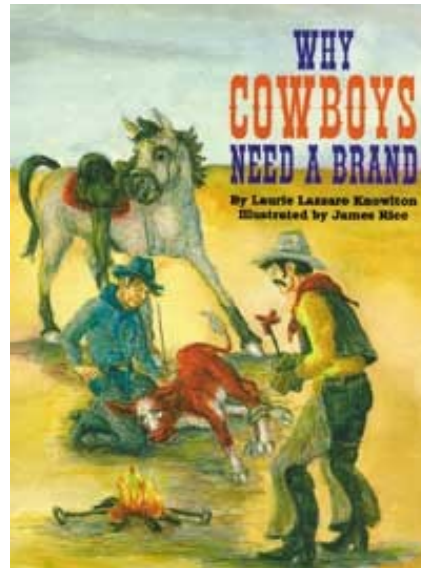
# PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

1000 BURMASTER ST., GRETNA, LA 70053 • 504-368-1175 FAX 504-368-1195  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: csmith@pelicanpub.com • <http://www.pelicanpub.com>

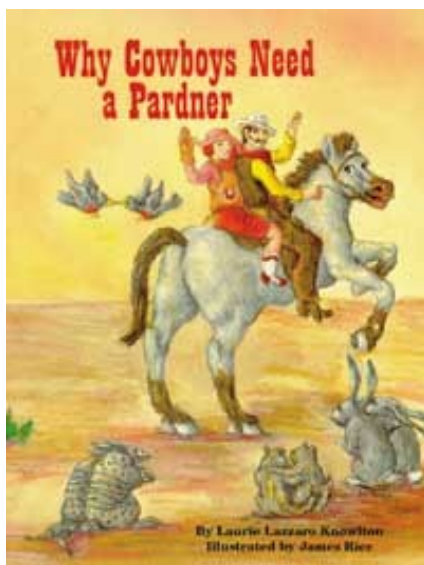
## Activity Guide For...



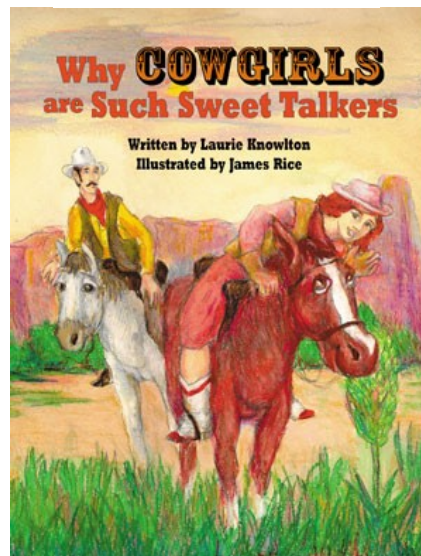
*Why Cowboys Sleep  
with Their Boots On*



*Why Cowboys Need  
a Brand*



*Why Cowboys Need  
a Pardner*



*Why Cowgirls Are Such  
Sweet Talkers*

## Reproducible Worksheets

Activity Guide created by  
Laurie L. Knowlton

# Arts and Crafts for the Classroom

By Laurie Knowlton

## Slime

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup cornstarch

$\frac{1}{3}$  cup water

5-7 drops food color

Place water in a small bowl (an old margarine tub works great).

Add food color. (Adjust it for color intensity)

Slowly add the cornstarch to the water mixture. Let stand for two to three minutes while the cornstarch absorbs the water.

Pick up a handful of slime and squeeze until it forms a ball. Now open your hand and watch the hard ball turn to slime and drip between your fingers.

HINT: This is great for a lesson on solids and liquids. **DO NOT POUR DOWN THE SINK!** It will clog. Dispose of in the garbage can.

## Glue Gunk

Ingredients:

1 cup water

1 cup white glue

Food coloring or Tempra paint

$1\frac{1}{3}$  cup warm water

4 tbs. Borax laundry booster

Mix 1 cup water and 1 cup white glue together in a medium bowl (whipped topping sized).

In a second bowl, completely mix the  $1\frac{1}{3}$  cup warm water and Borax.

Pour the glue solution into the borax solution. Roll solution; do not mix. When it forms a ball, knead for 2 to 3 minutes.

Store in an airtight baggie.

## Bread Dough

Ingredients:

Two slices of white bread

2 tbs. white glue

1 tsp. glycerine

Food coloring

Cut edges off of the bread. Let the bread dry out. (You can air dry or lightly toast it).

Crumble the bread (until it is a fine dust) into a bowl.

Add glue, one tablespoon at a time, until the mixture forms a ball.

Add glycerine for flexibility. Add food coloring.

HINT: The texture of the dough may vary according to the size of the bread and/or your climate. If dough is too slimy, add bread crumbs; if it is too thick, add glue.

**Pelican Publishing Company**

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

# PAPER BAG CRAFTS

## REALLY, IT WORKS!!

**You won't believe what you can do with simple brown grocery bags and lunch bags!**

### **Western Boot:**

Materials needed:

1 large brown paper bag  
Scissors  
Paint pens, markers  
Glue

1. Cut the bottom out of the bag.
2. Cut the bag down one side so that it lays flat in a rectangle.
3. Fold in half so the short sides of the rectangle touch.
4. Draw a boot shape with the back of the boot on the fold.
5. Decorate with paint pens or markers.
6. Run a line of glue along the front of the boot. Let dry.
7. The boot can now be slipped on a child's foot.

### **Cowboy Hat**

Materials needed:

1 large brown paper bag  
Scissors  
Paint pens  
Glue  
Rubber band (heavy)  
Stapler

1. Cut the bottom out of the bag.
2. Cut bag down the side so that it will lay flat in a big rectangle.
3. Fold in half so that the short sides are together.
4. Draw half of a hat on the bag.
5. Cut this shape out. Decorate with paint pens or markers. Let dry.
6. Cut a 4" by 14" strip of paper from the remainder of the bag.
7. Fold the strip in half lengthwise. It now measures 2" by 14."
8. Run a line of glue along the **bottom** of the strip.
9. Fold on end of the strip back, making a loop. Place the rubber band in the loop.
10. Staple the rubber band so that one side is in the paper loop and the other side is free.
11. Bring the free end of the paper strip around to the looped end. Place it through the rubber band and staple it, adjusting size as necessary.
12. Glue cowboy hat to the hat band. Let dry.

## Horse:

Materials needed:

Three lunch-sized brown bags

Glue

Scissors

Paint pens or markers

Newspaper

Wrapping-paper roll

Yarn



1. Cut three inches down each corner of one lunch bag.
2. Stuff the lunch sack up to the flaps with newspaper.
3. Spread glue on the four, cut flaps on the first lunch bag.
4. Glue the sack onto the second sack at an angle to form the head and neck of the horse.
5. Cut the bottom out of the third sack.
6. Cut the bag down one side so it will lay flat in a large rectangle.
7. Cut the rectangle into four equal strips.
8. Fold each strip in half and cut fringe. Glue three fringe strips to the neck for a mane.
9. Cut two diamond shapes from the bottom of the bag.
10. Fold the diamond in half, both side to side and top to bottom.
11. Cut a small slice from the bottom of the diamond to the center fold. Place half of the cut diamond over the other half and glue together. This will form the ear.
12. Glue the ears to the top of the horse's head. Glue the fringe between the ears.
13. Use paint pens for the eyes, nose, and mouth. Let dry.
14. Place the horse's neck on the paper roll. Stuff newspaper around the tube until the neck is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Spread glue around the tube, adhering the horse's neck to the tube. Wrap the base with twine.

# YIPPE-KI-YA – IT'S ROUNDUP DAY!

## A Short Presentation About the American Cowboy

Round up your students to take this “Wild West” show on the road. Begin with the roundup chant and then assign a part for each students to read or recite. Create props, including Western-wear costumes, and look for a guitar player to accompany your class in singing “Git Along, Little Dogies,” at the end of the presentation.

**Yippe-ki-ya – it's round up day!**  
**Time to round up the dogies.**  
**Brand a calf or two,**  
**Drive the cattle trail ,**  
**And sing a song for you.**  
**So gather up your lariat,**  
**And don't forget your hat.**  
**Get up on your horse**  
**And Shout, “Giddyap!”**  
**Yippe-ki-ya – it's roundup day!**



1. Spring roundup was an important time in the Old West.
2. The Old West was home for the American cowboy.
3. Cattle ranching was important. People needed meat to eat.
4. Cattle needed lots of land. It took sixteen acres to feed each cow. That's more that 12 football fields!
5. There wasn't enough land for big ranches in the east.
6. There was more land for raising cattle out West, but the people who needed the meat lived in the east.
7. Cowboys moved the big herds of cattle a long way on on “cattle drives” to railroads. They put the cows on trains going East.
8. It took many months for the cowboys and the trail Boss to drive the herd to a cow town. The cowboys took care of the cattle along the way.
9. It was a hard job and very lonely. They worked from sunup to sundown and slept outside under the stars.
10. Most cowboys were young men. Many were Mexican-American or African-American.
11. On the spring roundup, cowboys rounded up all the cattle that belonged to the ranch.
12. Some of the cattle were wild and mean Texas long-horns. Their horns measured five or six feet across.
13. Other cattle were called Herefords. A Hereford bull was 5½ feet tall and weighed 3,000 pounds. That's as much as a car weighs!
14. Sometimes the cattle got stuck in the mud. The cowboys rescued them and took care of injured or sick cattle, too.

15. Cowboys often got hurt. There were no doctors so they had to take care of themselves.
16. Cowboys called broncobusters tamed wild horses to help with the work. This was a dangerous job.
17. A cowboy used special tools. A rope, called a lariat, hung from his saddle. It was used to rope cattle.
18. A branding iron marked new calves in the herd. The brands helped cowboys see which cattle belonged to the ranch.
19. The cowboy's most useful tool was his horse. He needed horse to do his job. They worked together..sometimes fifteen hours a day!
20. Cowboys had special clothes. A hat protected his head from the sun or rain or snow. It could hold water for a horse, fan a campfire, or be used as a pillow.
21. A cowboy's vest was called a waistcoat. It kept him warm and was usually made out of leather.
22. A bandanna covered the cowboy's neck in the hot sun. It covered his nose and mouth in a dust storm or a stampede.
23. Cowboys wore leather gloves and cuffs when they roped calves. They protected their hands and arms from rope burns.
24. Leather chaps covered a cowboy's legs when he rode through thorny bushes. They protected his legs from cattle horns and horse bites, too.
25. Cowboy boots were specially made and very expensive. The pointed toes slipped into stirrups and the heels kept feet from slipping.
26. After a long day, cowboys looked forward to a campfire and food called “chuck.” It was carried in a covered wagon called a chuck wagon.
27. Dinner was made by a former cowboy, called “cookie.” Cowboys ate bacon, beans, fried batter bread, and stew.
28. After dinner, cowboys enjoyed each other's company. They told stories, sang songs, and played musical instruments. Cowboys even sang to the cattle, which they called “dogies.” This is one of their favorite songs. (Everybody sing “Git Along, Little Dogies.”)

Reprinted with permission: Copycat Magazine  
PO Box 081546, Racine, WI 53048-1546



# EXTENDING YOUR LESSON!

## Language

1. Make a vocabulary list from the books.  
Example: britches, lassoed, branded, bedroll, bellowed, chaps, long johns...
2. On the way to the ranch I saw. . (let the children add an item.)  
Example: On the way to the ranch I saw one cowboy, two armadillos, three snakes, four horses, etc.  
OR this can be done alphabetically.
3. Listen to square-dance songs. These are great for following directions!  
Have students come up with square dance directions:  
Example: Whoop it up and stomp your feet! Turn around on your seat!



## Math

1. Cooking is a great way to learn measurement. The chuck wagon cook often had to double and triple recipes. Have the children follow directions on a biscuit box. Have them double and triple the recipe.
2. Have the children bring plastic horses. (Make sure they mark their name on them.)  
They can sort the horses by color, size, and marking. Then they can graph them.  
They can use the horses for addition and subtraction.  
Example: 4 grey horses + 6 white horses = 10 horses
3. Horses are measured in hands (approximately 4"). Have the class measure items in the classroom according to hands. Compare the results. Discuss the reason for the discrepancies.

## History

1. Look up the history of  
the maps of the trail drives.  
how long the pony express ran.  
who were the good guys and who were the outlaws?

## Science

1. Identify critters unique to the west.
2. What was the terrain like that the cowboys worked on?
3. What was the year-round climate?

# TEACHING PARTS OF A STORY WITH THE WHY COWBOYS SERIES



The basic parts of a story are **CHARACTER, SETTING, PROBLEM, AND SOLUTION.**

**Character:** Who is the main character?  
What do we know about this main character?

**Setting:** Where does the story take place?  
What do we know about the setting?

**Problem or question:** What is the problem or the question that needs to be solved by the end of of the story?

**Solution:** Identify ways the main character goes about solving the problem or question.

**Example:** *Why Cowboys Sleep with Their Boots On*

**Main Character:** Slim Jim Watkins  
We know he is a hard-working cowboy. He just finished roping and branding more than a thousand cattle. We know that he is tired.

**Setting:** The story takes place in the west. The picture helps to show us the story takes place out on the range.

**Problem:** Slim Jim Watkins keeps losing his clothes while he is sleeping, making his job harder to do each day.

**Solution:** Slim Jim Watkins tries looking for his lost items. He tries buying items. He tries trading for new items. He sleeps with all of his items on.

## Writing Well

1. Include the 4 parts of a story:  
character, setting, problem, solution.
2. Use your five senses to write descriptive sentences:  
smells, tastes, sounds, looks like (colors, size, shape), feels (hot, cold, rough).
3. Use proper punctuation:  
capitals, commas, quotation marks, periods, exclamation and question marks)
4. Check your spelling.
5. Allow your character three tries to solve the problem.  
The main character must solve their problem by themselves with the capabilities they have. Each try gets them closer to the solution.
6. Read your story out loud to listen for a smooth sequential story.

## *Why Cowgirls Are Such Sweet Talkers*

### **Respect:**

How does Gabby show respect to others?

Gabby treats others the way she would like to be treated.

How does Slim Jim Watkins learn what Gabby is saying to the others to get them to accomplish the task at hand?

Slim Jim Watkins learns by watching Gabby.

### **Caring:**

Gabby notices what unkind behavior in *Why Cowgirls Are Such Sweet Talkers*?

Gabby notices a cowboy screaming threats at his mule.

She sees a cowboy trying to get his horse to settle down while poking at him with spurs.

She comes up on a group of cowboys making fun of a new cowboy.

How does Gabby help the mule, the horse, and the cowboy?

Gabby treats them with kindness and encouragement.

### THE NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

How do you show others that you care for them?

What can you do to stop unkind behavior in yourself?

Can you stop unkind behavior in others?

## COWBOY CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Never go back on your word.
2. Always tell the truth.
3. Respect women, parents and the law.
4. Be a hard worker
5. Don't smoke or drink.
6. Do not take advantage of others.
7. Do not be intolerant of racial or religious differences.
8. Help people in distress.
9. Never talk ugly.
10. Never take anything belonging to someone else.





## ***Why Cowboys Need a Brand***

### **Perseverance**

Slim Jim Watkin's attitude is positive almost all the way through the story. What is it that Slim Jim Watkins gets hung up on?

Slim Jim Watkins can break a heard of horses, he can save the cattle from the weather, and he can catch up with a runaway chuck wagon. What he can't do is come up with a brand.

How do the other cowhands feel when Slim Jim Watkins says "can't?"

The other cowhands are surprised to hear Slim Jim Watkins say "can't."

Explain why the other cowhands may have admired Slim Jim Watkins.

They may have admired him for his positive attitude.

They may have admired him for doing things they were hesitant to try.

They may have admired him for the rewards he received for doing a good job.

### THE NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

How does your attitude affect the outcome of a challenging situation?

## ***Why Cowboys Need a Pardner***

### **Friendship:**

Why is Slim Jim Watkins searching for a wrangler?

Slim Jim Watkins is lonely.

How do we know Slim Jim Watkins is lonely?

Slim Jim Watkins talked to his horse.

Is Gabby the kind of friend Slim Jim Watkins started out looking for?

Slim Him was looking for a friend with the same interests – riding the range, roping, taking care of the cattle. By watching Gabby, Slim Jim Watkins realizes Gabby enjoyed the same interests he had.

### THE NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

What do you think makes a good friend?

How do you go about making friends?

### **Perseverance:**

How does Slim Jim Watkins teach us a lesson in perseverance?

Slim Jim Watkins never gave up until he found a friend.



## ***Why Cowboys Sleep With Their Boots On***

### **Responsibility:**

How is Slim Jim Watkins responsible to his job?

Slim Jim loses a part of his clothing every night when he goes to sleep but that doesn't stop him from doing his job.

How is Slim Jim Watkins responsible for his things?

Slim Jim Watkins puts his things beside him at night. But when the critters run off with part of his clothing, Slim replaces the items by buying or trading work for them.

THE NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

What responsibilities do you have?

How do you show that you are responsible?

### **Perseverance:**

How does Slim Jim Watkins teach us a lesson in perseverance?

Slim Jim Watkins never gave up until he solved his problem.

THE NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

Have you ever been faced with a challenge that was difficult?

How did you solve the problem?

## ***Why Cowboys Need a Brand***

### **Responsibility:**

How is Slim Jim Watkins responsible to his job?

When all the other cowhands say, "Nope not me," Slim Jim Watkins says, "Shoot I can do that."

NEXT LEVEL FOR THE STUDENT

How does a challenge make taking on a responsibility more interesting?