

**PRE-K**

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**Week**

**25**

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**Smart Activities**



**SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®**

## Cowboy History for Kids

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/Jq1J8DHgrJo>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Watch the video with your child.
2. Ask him/her questions after the video, ex: "Where did the name 'Cowboy' originate from?" "When did driving and selling cattle start in America?" "Name some interesting facts about cowboys/cowgirls."



## The Cowboy Book

by Mel Crawford

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/wXgXWE9qezg>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions about the story, ex: "What does a brand mark on cattle represent?" "What does a cowboy's hat help with?" "Who is a cowboy's best friend?"



## My Wild West Diorama Day 1

**Materials:** shoebox, glue, scissors, paper (brown)

**Preparation:** This is a weeklong project. Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to make a diorama. It is a model showing realistic items created from a variety of materials. You will work on this for the week."
2. The first step is to cover the outside of the shoebox. Then have your child crumple up brown paper and straighten out several times to give it a leather finish look.
3. Next, have your child glue the paper on the outside of the box, trim any hanging paper, and let dry.



## Cowboy Dance

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/-pXg6F7GsMQ>

**Preparation:** Find an open area.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to exercise like a cowboy with Jack Hartmann."
2. Have your child follow along with the instructions and sing along.



## American History of the Wild West

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/btS1FZAFwY>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Watch the video with your child.
2. Ask your child questions after the video, "What were cowboys original name?" "What duties did they have to care for the cattle?" "Was it a hard life or easy life for cowboys?"



## Cowboys and Cowgirls

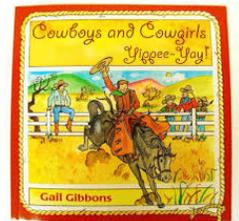
by Gail Gibbons

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
[https://youtu.be/8iiedOff\\_tg](https://youtu.be/8iiedOff_tg)

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud book with your child.
2. Ask questions about the story, ex: "What type of cattle were on the ranches?" "How was the clothing chosen and how long were they worn?" "How did the cowboys brand their cows?" "How did cowboys and cowgirls show off their skills?"



## My Wild West Diorama Day 2

**Materials:** diorama day 1, paint (orange, yellow, red), paintbrush

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are building our diorama and will work on the Western Sky." Discuss what a western sky looks like - sunset.
2. Have your child paint the sky using long horizontal strokes to create a sunset effect. Allow to dry.



## Lasso That Boot!

**Materials:** boots or shoes, hula hoop

**Preparation:** Find an open area. Set up boots several feet from the hula hoop.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to play 'Lasso that Boot!'"
2. Have your child pick up the hula hoop and try to hoop/lasso the boot. Decide on a point system for each boot/shoe.
3. Count points together.



## Rodeo Celebrates Black Cowboys and Cowgirls

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
[https://youtu.be/JJR\\_zfnsLtl](https://youtu.be/JJR_zfnsLtl)

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Watch the video with your child.
2. Ask your child questions after the video, ex: "How long has the Bill Picket Rodeo been going on?" "What were some of the roles of African Americans in the Wild Wild West?"



## Fearless Mary

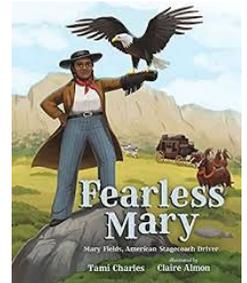
by Tami Charles

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/5Mfcz2QbILY>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions about the story, ex: "What type of job did Mary try out for?" "What did Mary prove to the manager?" "What animal protected Mary?" "Why did she become a hometown hero?"



## My Wild West Diorama Day 3

**Materials:** construction paper (black), crayon (white), glue, scissors

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to make a silhouette. It is an outline of an object. You are going to make shadows in your skyline."
2. Review the steps completed the past days by saying "first," "next," and "last."
3. Encourage your child to use a white crayon tracing the skyline on black paper and cut out.
4. Then have him/her glue it to the back inside wall of the diorama.



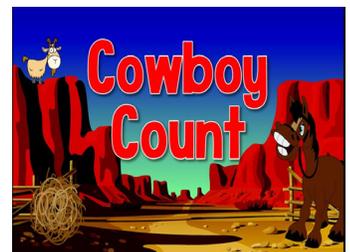
## Cowboy Count - Count to 100 and Exercise

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/3txltaYkTyE>

**Preparation:** Find an open area.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to exercise like cowboys and count to 100!"
2. Encourage your child to exercise and sing along counting.
3. After the video count again to 100 with him/her.



## Why Do Tumbleweeds Tumble?

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/why-do-tumbleweeds-tumble-6r210m/>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Encourage your child to join you.
2. Watch the video together. Ask questions, ex: "How does a tumble weed become a tumble weed?" "What does the skeleton of the tumble weed look like and how do they spread their seeds?" "Where could the tumbleweed possibly come to the United States?"



## Nobody Hugs A Cactus

by Carter Goodrich

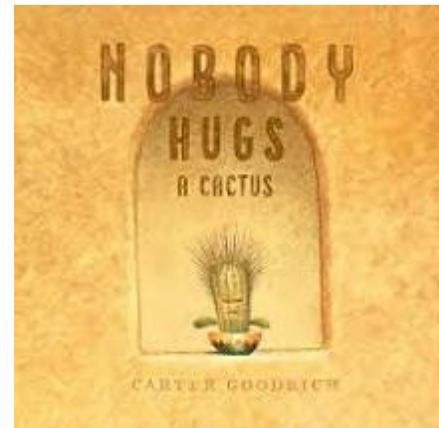
**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/49BeZxjFYCA>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud book with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What did Hank want to be?" "Who tried to say hello to Hank and what did he do to each of them?" "What happened to Hank with the cup?" "What was his plan to thank Rosie for her kindness and then what happened?"



### My Wild West Diorama Day 4

**Materials:** diorama, sandpaper, glue, clay (green), cactus (picture and/or real), spaghetti, magnifying glass, pipe cleaner (tan), Diorama Day 4 template

**Preparation:** Gather materials and print out or download template for viewing. Break spaghetti into small pieces.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to look at a cactus and talk about how they grow in a dry sandy desert along with tumbleweeds." Encourage your child to look at the cactus and describe what he/she sees and feels (touch carefully-demonstrate for him/her). Show your child various cactus. Discuss how there are tumbleweeds in the dry desert. Encourage your child to describe what he/she sees.
2. Next, talk about how the sandpaper will represent the sandy desert. Have your child glue the sandpaper to the floor of his/her diorama.
3. Then encourage him/her to mold the clay into a cactus shape and insert the broken spaghetti into the cactus to represent spikes.
4. Have your child carefully bend the pipe cleaner into a loose ball to resemble a tumble weed.
5. Now encourage him/her to carefully place both in the diorama.



### Bean Can Race

**Materials:** craft sticks, dried beans, glue, can/container, pool noodle, Horse Head template

**Preparation:** Glue beans to the craft sticks (vary the number of beans on each stick). Print template (2 times) and glue horse's head on the noodle. Then place sticks in can/container away from the noodle horse.

**Instructions:**

1. Ask your child if he/she remembers what cowboys usually ate on the long cattle drives. Talk about beans.
2. Then explain that he/she will pretend to be a cowgirl and ride a horse to the can of beans, choose a stick, and gallop back to you with the chosen bean stick. Have him/her count the beans and then gallop to get another bean stick. Continue until all bean sticks have been collected and counted.
3. Once all sticks are collected, have your child put them in number order and even encourage him/her to add the amount of beans by grouping the bean sticks.



## Introduction to Reading Skills: Order of Events

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/HwUpSsTVCfY>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Tell your child that he/she is going learn about the sequence of events using the words – “first,” “beginning,” “then,” “next,” “middle,” “finally,” and “end.”
2. Discuss how each of these words help you identify the order of events. Practice this with your child when giving him/her instructions and reading a book.



## Cowboy Camp

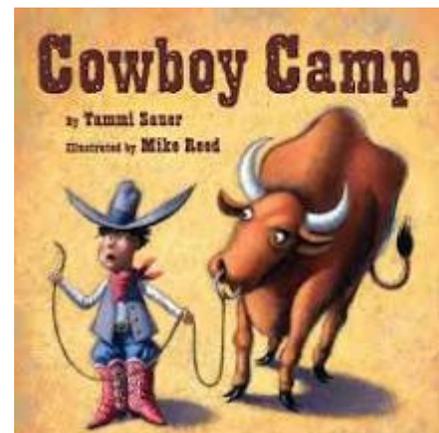
by Tami Sawyer

**Materials:** internet access, website:  
<https://youtu.be/d2WDZtAjJZ8>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Ask your child what he/she has learned about cowboys this week.
2. Discuss vocabulary words such as: tumbleweeds, cactus, and cattle. Discuss how cowboys came to the United States.
3. Now listen to the story together. Ask questions, ex: “What did Avery not like to eat?” “What happened at the camp when Black Bart showed up?” “How was Avery able to save Cowboy Camp?”



## My Wild West Diorama Day 5

**Materials:** diorama, construction paper (brown and grey), glue, tissue paper (red)

**Preparation:** Gather materials. Cut construction paper into 8 ½ x 5 ½ inch pieces. Cut the grey construction paper into 2-inch squares.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "We are going to finish up our Wild West Diorama today." Remind your child how, when cowboys are moving their cattle, they make campfires to stay warm, keep away wild animals, and to cook on.
2. Discuss each day that your child made the diorama. Ask him/her what was done first, then next, and what will be last. Make sure he/she understands each of these position words and have him/her give other examples using the words.
3. Next, have your child tear brown construction paper into strips and then roll the strips into small rolls and glue ends closed to resemble logs.
4. Then have your child take the grey construction paper and crumple and pinch the squares to resemble rocks.
5. He/she then can tear small pieces of red tissue paper to represent fire.
6. Lastly, have your child glue logs and tissue paper together to resemble the campfire. Glue the rocks in a circle and then glue the campfire in the middle.



## Campfire Race

**Materials:** limbs/sticks (make sure they are small with no sharp edges), tape, pebbles, horse (from Day 4)

**Preparation:** Gather materials. Set up materials in area away from your child. Make a circle using the tape to hold the sticks (campfire).

**Instructions:**

1. Encourage your child to join you. Talk about how to build a campfire. Discuss that you must gather sticks and rocks. Show him/her where you have placed the sticks and rocks.
2. Encourage your child to get on the horse and gallop to the sticks and rocks. Then have him/her pick up a stick and gallop back carefully to the circle. Then place the stick in the circle. Continue until all sticks and pebbles are collected.
3. Next, have your child arrange the rocks around the sticks and stack the sticks to look like a real campfire.
4. Talk about campfire safety and how we must make sure all fires are out before leaving.



**Diorama Day 4 Template**



**Diorama Day 4 Template**



**Diorama Day 4 Template**



**Diorama Day 4 Template**



**Horse Head Template**

