

My Journey Home Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys*, an informational selection that tells about the history and traditions of the first cowboys of Spanish Mexico.

DAY
1

Vocabulary on the Go Take a walk or drive around the area where you live. Discuss its history or the history of the nearest town. Who first lived there? How did the people who lived there survive? Try to use some of these words in your conversation.

extending residents flourished acquainted sprawling

DAY
2

Holiday Special In Mexico, *El día del charro* celebrates the history and culture of rodeos and riders with parades, religious services, exhibitions, and music. Discuss holidays in the United States with your child. What are some details that make each holiday special?

CHALLENGE

Help your child use reference books or the Internet to research another Mexican holiday. Work together to make a poster that tells about its history and how the holiday is celebrated.

DAY
3

Working with Animals The vaqueros rode horses and cared for cattle and steer. What are other professions that deal with animals? Play a game in which you and your child each make a list of three or four of these occupations. Then take turns describing or acting out an occupation for each other to guess.

Spanish to English Together, answer the clues with one of these words: *avocado, bronco, burrito, hammock, lasso, machete, poncho, tuna*. (These Spanish words are now common in English.)

CLUE 1: You can wear this cape-like covering to keep you warm in the cold or dry in the rain. What is it?

CLUE 2: Rodeo riders challenge themselves to ride this kind of bucking horses. What is it?

CLUE 3: You might find rice, meat, cheese, and vegetables inside one of these. What is it?

CLUE 4: This is a swinging couch or bed that is usually made out of rope. What is it?

CLUE 5: This is a huge cutting tool that explorers often use to cut a path through thick jungle trees. What is it?

CLUE 6: This rope with a loop in the end is used on ranches to catch runaway animals. What is it?

CLUE 7: This large ocean fish is a popular food. Lots of kids eat sandwiches filled with its meat. What is it?

CLUE 8: Many people think this fruit is a vegetable. It looks like a dark pear but has a rich, buttery meat inside. What is it?



Look It Up Many English words have Spanish origins. Together, use a dictionary to find the Spanish origins of these common English words: *alligator, cafeteria, cargo, hurricane, patio, savvy, stampede, tornado*.



Book Links

- *The Journal of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy*, by Walter Dean Myers
- *Who Was First?* by Russell Freedman **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge Together, search the Internet for information about explorers mentioned in the selection, such as Columbus, Hernán Cortés, or Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, as well as others.

Home Letter

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys

Home Letter

Dear Family,

This week students will explore the question “What kinds of lessons were learned by people who lived in the Old West?” In our main selection, the informational text **Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys**, author George Ancona captures the history and traditions of the original cowboys of Spanish Mexico. Later, our class will read **Rhyme on the Range**, poetry written by cowboys.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: extending, dominated, residents, flourished, acquainted, prospered, hostile, acknowledged, sprawling, decline

Vocabulary Strategy: Adages and proverbs

Comprehension Skill: Text and graphic features—examine how words and pictures help us understand ideas

Comprehension Strategy: Summarize—briefly tell the important parts of the text in your own words

Writing Focus: Opinion writing—persuasive argument

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Use this week's **Target Vocabulary** to make up sentences about the Old West with your child. For example, “Cowboys **acknowledged** folks by tipping their hats.” You might do some online research together to get information for your sentences.

Get on Your Horse and Ride

Talk with your child about some tools of cowboy culture: leather boots, cowboy hat, western saddle, lasso, chaps. Discuss the function each has for a cowboy.

What Made It Happen?

Have your child find out more about one of the cowboy tools you discussed. Have your child jot down notes for a research report about it, describing what prompted its invention or development.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. entry | 22. refuge |
| 2. limit | 23. distribute |
| 3. talent | 24. industry |
| 4. disturb | 25. somber |
| 5. entire | |
| 6. wisdom | |
| 7. dozen | |
| 8. impress | |
| 9. respond | |
| 10. fortress | |
| 11. neglect | |
| 12. patrol | |
| 13. kitchen | |
| 14. forbid | |
| 15. pirate | |
| 16. spinach | |
| 17. adopt | |
| 18. frighten | |
| 19. surround | |
| 20. challenge | |
| 21. adapt | |

Name _____ Date _____

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**

Vocabulary Word Cards

extending

prospered

dominated

hostile

residents

acknowledged

flourished

sprawling

acquainted

decline

**In the Days of the
Missions and Ranchos**
Target Vocabulary

Target Vocabulary

Fill in one more example and non-example for *extending* on the Four-Square Map below. Then create your own Four-Square Maps for four of the remaining Target Vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

extending	dominated	residents
flourished	acquainted	prospered
hostile	acknowledged	sprawling
decline		

Definition stretching from one point to another	Example reaching down your hand to help a person who has fallen _____ _____ _____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; transform: rotate(45deg); position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%;"></div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%;"></div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; left: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%;"></div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; right: 0; width: 50%; height: 50%;"></div> </div>	
Sentence The teams were extending their hands to shake after the game.	Non-example folding your arms across your chest _____ _____

Name _____

Date _____

Adages and Proverbs

Vaqueros:
America's First Cowboys
Vocabulary Strategies:
Adages and Proverbs

Read each sentence. Then underline the adage or proverb in each sentence.

1. I decided to forgive my friend and let bygones be bygones.
2. She knows that the sky is the limit, so she worked really hard to achieve as much as she could.
3. We all helped set up for the party knowing that many hands make light work.
4. Soon, everyone knew that I had to quit the soccer team because bad news travels fast.
5. He slowed down because he knew that haste makes waste.

**Vaqueros:
America's First Cowboys**
Vocabulary Strategies:
Adages and Proverbs

Read the paragraph. On the lines below, write down the three adages and proverbs that appear in the paragraph. Then write a sentence or two explaining what each adage or proverb means.

I was really mad at my friend. But I knew that it takes two to quarrel and that the fight wasn't just her fault. So I decided to let bygones be bygones. She was very happy that we were friends again. I wish we had made up sooner, but better late than never.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Name _____

Date _____

Adages and Proverbs

Vaqueros:
America's First Cowboys
Vocabulary Strategies:
Adages and Proverbs

Read the adages and proverbs. Then read the meanings. Draw a line connecting the correct meaning to each adage or proverb. You may use the Internet to find the meaning of adages and proverbs that you do not understand.

1. let bygones be bygones

You can do whatever you want.

2. haste makes waste

Don't stay mad about something.

3. the sky is the limit

People share bad news right away.

4. bad news travels fast

Don't rush or you will make a mistake.