

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Nonfiction	• Cowboys • American Traditions • Past and Present	• Historical Photographs • Labels in Pictures • Definitions	• Multiple-Meaning Words

Scott Foresman Reading Street 2.6.4

What Does a Cowboy Do?



by Jesse Blackwell



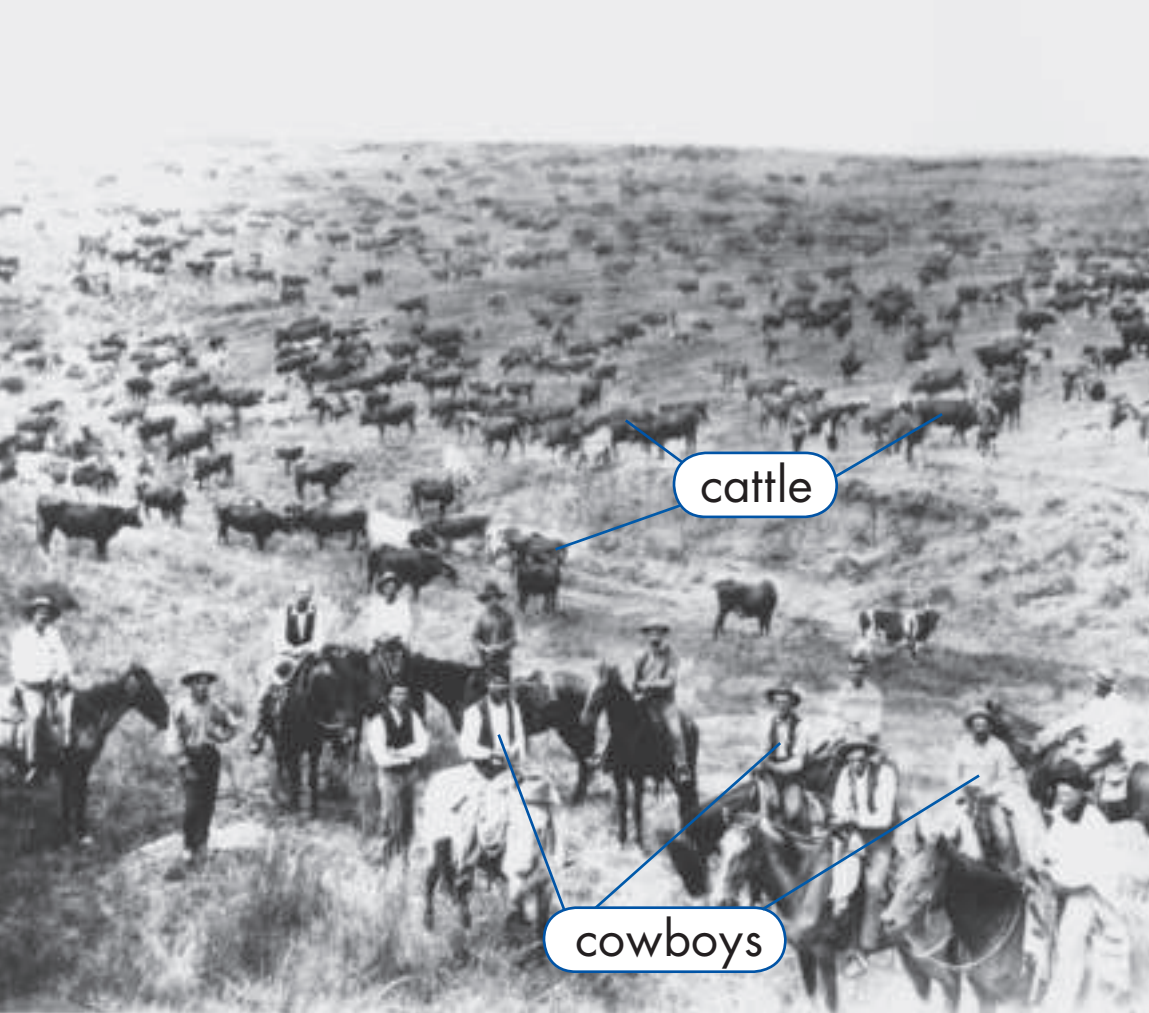
What Does a Cowboy Do?

by Jesse Blackwell



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Who Is a Cowboy?

A cowboy is a person who works with cattle. There were many cowboys long ago in the American West. Today, there are still some working cowboys.

There are women who work with cattle, too. They can be called cowgirls.



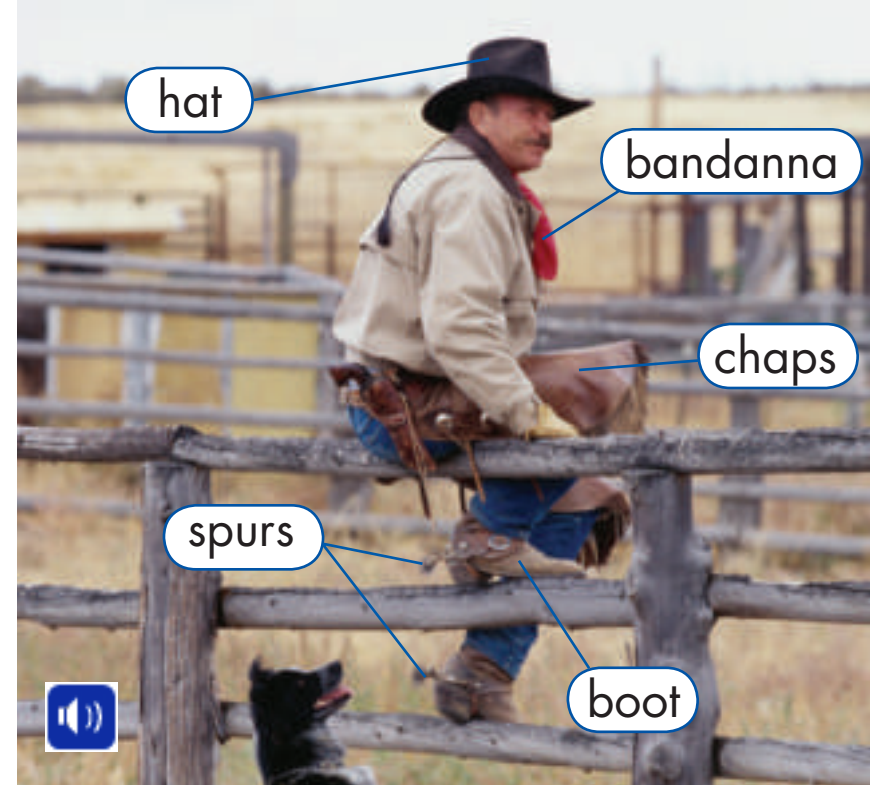
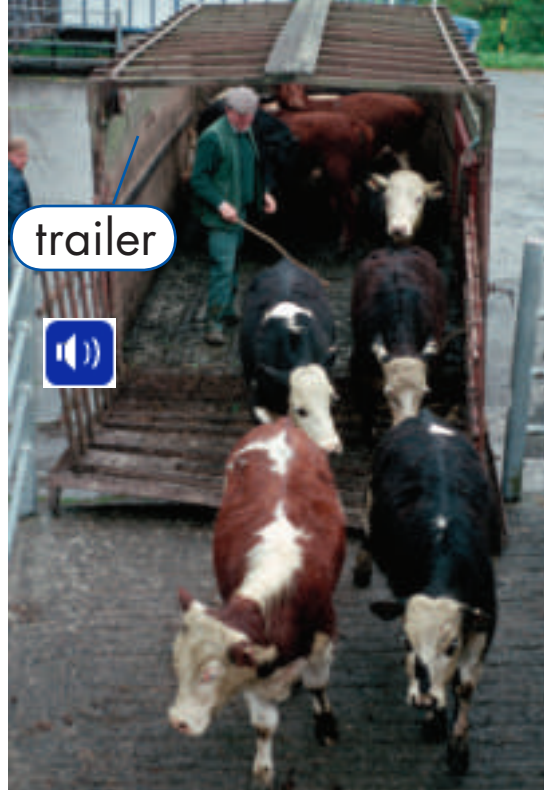
 Cowboys feed the cattle and take care of them.

What Does a Cowboy Do?

A cowboy or cowgirl does many kinds of work with cattle. They take care of the cattle. They ride horses to **round up the cattle**. Cowboys take cattle to market. At the market, the owner sells the cattle.

round up the cattle: to gather the cattle together and move them along





What Is a Cattle Drive?

Long ago, cowboys rode horses and herded cattle along trails. This is how ranchers got their cattle to market to sell them. Sometimes it was a long trip that lasted for weeks. It was called a cattle drive. Now cattle are taken to market in trailers pulled by trucks or in trains.

What Do Cowboys Wear?

A cowboy's clothes help protect him from the weather. Most cowboys wear blue jeans, shirts, boots, and hats. The boots may have metal parts called spurs. Some cowboys wear leather chaps to cover their pants. Many cowboys wear bandannas. Cowboys may also wear gloves to protect their hands as they handle the ropes.





rope



hat



police officer



What Tools Does a Cowboy Use?

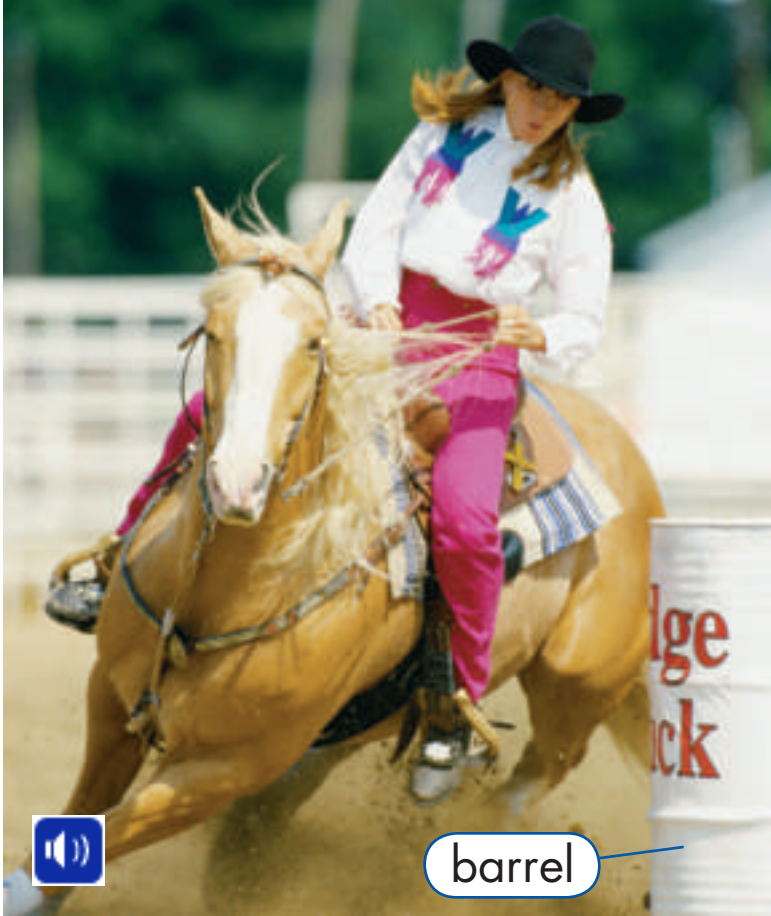
A cowboy needs a saddle to ride his horse. A saddle is a seat on a horse's back. A cowboy also needs a rope to catch cattle. Today, many cowboys drive trucks to carry food for the cattle.



Is Everyone Who Wears a Cowboy Hat a Cowboy or a Cowgirl?

Many kinds of people like to wear cowboy hats. Some singers wear them. People in movies wear them. Police sometimes wear cowboy hats. Boys and girls sometimes wear them. Would you ever like to wear a cowboy hat?





What Is a Rodeo?

A rodeo is a contest where cowboys and cowgirls show their skills. The events include horse riding, barrel racing, and more. A rodeo is one place to see cowboys and cowgirls in action. What would you like to see a cowboy or cowgirl do?



Talk About It

1. Tell why you think cowboys do hard work.
2. If you could meet a cowboy or a cowgirl, what question would you ask?

Write About It

3. Describe cowboys or cowgirls. On a separate paper, write about how they look, what they wear, or what they do.

Extend Language

Some words can tell about actions and can name things. The noun *herd* means "a group of the same kind of animals." The verb *herd* means "to move a group of animals together." Another word that can be used in two different ways is *ride*. A person can take a bus *ride* to school. Use the verb *ride* to tell what a cowboy can do.

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