



4th Grade Science & Activities

Competency Goal 1: 1.01 Observe and describe how all living and nonliving things affect the life of a particular animal including: Other animals. Plants. Weather. Climate. 1.04 Explain and discuss how humans and other animals can adapt their behavior to live in changing habitats.

Ghost Town Site: All areas of Ghost Town in the Sky

Activity (before visit): Put up a piece of chart paper that is labeled *The Old West*. Have the students brainstorm what they know about the Old West. Ask them to think about what kind of jobs people had at that time and then ask for examples (*if they do not mention "cowboy", lead them to this job*). Ask the students to infer why the workers got that name. (*Many believe it came directly from the Spanish vaquero for a person who herded cows from horseback and vaca - cow. The boy was from the youth of the original cowboys who could have started as early teenagers.*) Explain that the cowboys depended on their horses for their livelihood and for transportation. Have the students think about the environment in the Old West. What would it have been like for the horses? What kinds of food would have been available to them? Why would the cowboys have had to take very good care of their horses? In what ways did they do that? In what ways did the cowboys adapt their clothing because of their dependence on horses? How do the cowboys and their horses adapt to the extreme changes in temperature between winter and summer?

Explain that they will be seeing examples of the many ways that horses were so vital to the inhabitants of the Old West when they visit Ghost Town. Ask them to notice all the items in the town that had to do with horses. Ask them to examine the clothing of the cowboys and see if they can tell what was worn as a result of riding horses for so many hours. After the visit to Ghost Town, discuss the importance of horses in the Old West and how the environment affected the lives of the horses.

Competency Goal 4: 4.03 Discuss how foods provide both energy and nutrients for living organisms.

Activity: Have the students research the average meal of cowboys on the trail in the Old West. Have them determine whether this type of diet was healthy. Why might the cowboys have eaten these types of food on a cattle drive? (*Lead them to understand that convenience and the ability to keep for a long period was very important.*)