

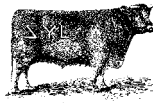
An 1840s Rodeo Lesson Plan

An 1840s Rodeo

It is spring 1845 and you are a vaquero (cowboy) or vaquera (cowgirl) working the rodeo (round-up) on William Workman's *Rancho La Puente*. For the past year, Mr. Workman's cows have wandered the hills and valleys, along with cattle that belong to neighboring ranchos. Raising cattle for their hide (skin) and tallow (fat) is a good business for Mr. Workman, who will trade these items with sailors from the United States and other countries to get the things he needs to live on his rancho, such as rice, macaroni, furniture, shoes, and even chocolate!

Your job as Mr. Workman's vaquero/vaquera, is to find his cows, separate them from the other ranchos cattle, and brand the calves that have been born. A brand is a unique symbol created by a rancho owner and burned into the hide of their cattle using a branding iron. Cattle are branded so you know to which rancho they belong. Although your work has just begun, you are already looking forward to the music, dancing, games, and food at the fiesta (party) planned at the end of the rodeo.

Next year you hope to start your own rancho. As a rancho owner, you need to design a brand of your own. It must be different from everyone else's and have a special meaning to you. Create your own brand using letters, numbers, or symbols. You can also position them in a way only used in brands, such as swinging (A), lazy (B), or crazy (C). For ideas, look at the brands on this page from the neighboring ranchos. Put your final design on the calf below.



William Workman
Rancho La Puente



John Rowland
Rancho La Puente



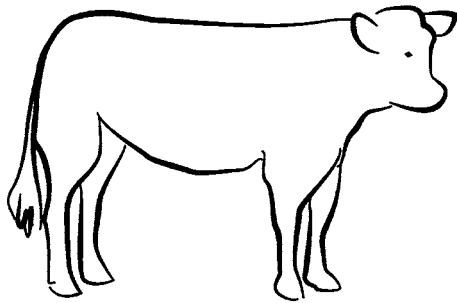
Pio Pico
Rancho Santa Margarita



Charlotte Rowland
Rancho La Puente



David Alexander
El Rincon de la Brea



Color the calf but don't cover up your brand!

Examples of special letter styles found only in brands:

Swinging: A B C D E F G

Lazy: B M J U C Y

Crazy: V B E C K I T

Additional activities:

1. **Display:** Have students color their calf and then carefully cut it out from the activity sheet. Arrange the calves on a bulletin board as a border around other "Journey" activities on display.

2. **Styrofoam brand stamps:** Have students create their own brand stamps by using styrofoam cups, string, and glue. Students can glue their design on with string to the bottom of a styrofoam cup and when completed stamp their design on paper using a stamp pad or paint.

3. **Other:** Have students use their brand symbol on all of their "A Journey Through Time" assignments.

Objectives:

1. To understand the type of work performed on ranchos in the 1840s
2. To identify and interpret symbols relating to the economy of the 1840s
3. To apply their knowledge of 1840s brands and create a symbol that represents the student's name

Time: 30-40 minutes

Materials:

1. "An 1840s Rodeo" story sheet
2. "An 1840s Rodeo" comprehension sheet
2. Pencils
3. Crayons or markers

Directions:

1. **Distribute** the "An 1840s Rodeo" story sheet and comprehension sheet.
2. **Review** the information regarding rodeos and branding, as well as the brands from the local ranchos.
3. Before giving students an opportunity to design their own brands, **demonstrate** how they might combine meaningful shapes or initials to form a personalized brand design. You may also wish to show the special styles of letters used only for brands (see examples to the left).
4. Now have your students **design** their own brands working on scrap paper. When a student is ready to execute his or her final design on the calf, suggest that he or she first draw the design lightly in pencil and then trace it in crayon or marker.

Links to standards

History/Social Studies: 4.2.5, 4.2.8

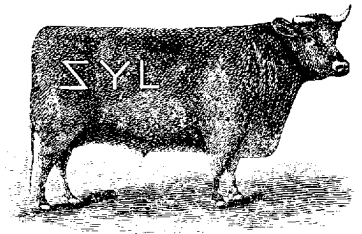
Language Arts: RI.4.1, RI.4.3, L.4.1f-h, L.4.2a-d,

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*William Workman
Rancho La Puente*



*John Rowland
Rancho La Puente*



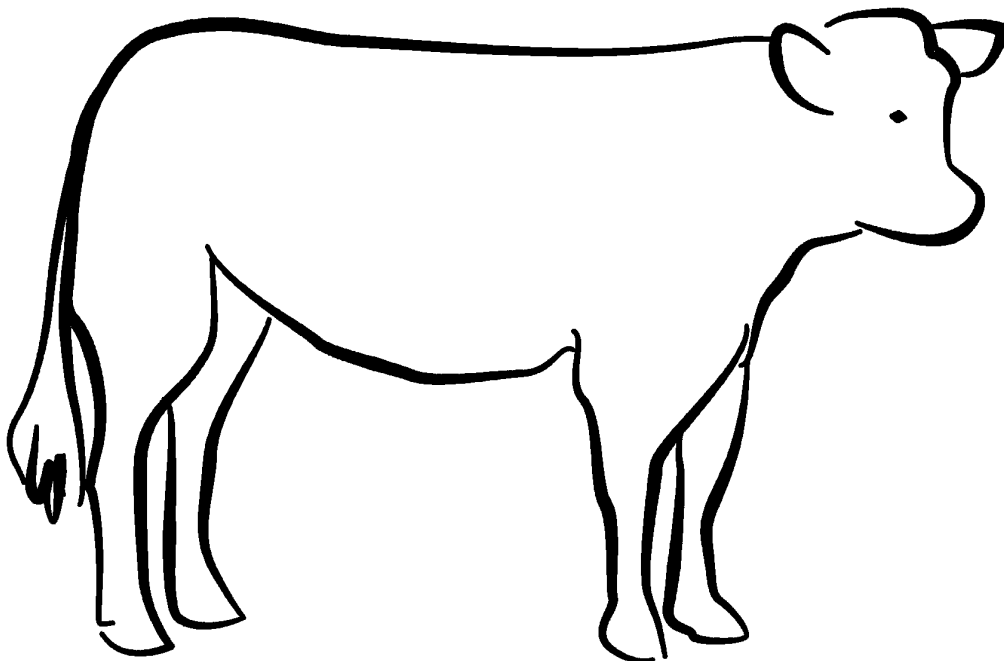
*Pio Pico
Rancho Santa Margarita*



*Charlotte Rowland
Rancho La Puente*



*David Alexander
El Rincon de la Brea*



Color the calf but don't cover up your brand!

Name _____

An 1840s Rodeo

Read the story about an 1840s rodeo and use the information to answer the following questions.

1. In what season is the rodeo taking place? _____

2. What does a vaquero/vaquera do during the rodeo? _____

3. What was the name of William Workman's rancho? _____

4. What kind of animal do the vaqueros/vaqueras round-up? _____

5. What parts of the animal are traded with sailors for items to live on the rancho?

6. What is a brand? _____

7. Why is the animal branded? _____

8. What is the name of the tool that brands the animal? _____

9. Circle the brand that belongs to William Workman.



10. How do vaqueros/vaqueras have fun after the rodeo? _____

1840s Cattle Brands

Read the story about 1840s cattle brands and use the information to answer the questions below.

1. In what season is the rodeo taking place? Spring
2. What does a vaquero/vaquera do during the rodeo? They find the rancho's cows, separate them from other ranchos cattle, and brand the calves that have been born.
3. What was the name of William Workman's rancho? Rancho La Puente
4. What kind of animal do the vaqueros/vaqueras round-up? Cows/Cattle
5. What parts of the animal are traded with sailors for items to live on the rancho? The hide (skin) and the tallow (fat).
6. What is a brand? A unique symbol created by a rancho owner and burned into the hide of their cattle.
7. Why is the animal branded? So you know to which rancho the cattle belongs.
8. What is the name of the tool that brands the animal? Branding iron

9. Circle the brand that belongs to William Workman.



10. How do vaqueros/vaqueras have fun after the rodeo? They go to a fiesta or party where there is music, dancing, games & food.