

Wild West Birthday Party

Age: 3-5 years old; 20 students

Goal: One Hour

Warm-ups:

West Wind Blows- 3 minutes

Wild West Hokey Pokey!-2 minutes

In country western style, teacher leads students through the hokey pokey, with everyone shouting yehaw! at the end of each verse.

Get ready, Giddyup!- 5 minutes

As a group, teacher leads kids through the process of becoming a cowboy or cowgirl. Prompts: You are transforming from yourself into a wild west character! Let's get ready! Put on your boots, put on your hat. What else does a cowgirl or cowboy wear? Put those items on as they are suggested. Walk around a bit like a cowboy or cowgirl would. When you see someone, greet them with a "Howdy partner!" Freeze! Now we are going to pick up our lasso. Everyone bend down, pick up your lasso, swing it around and try and rope your horse! One rule is that when you swing your lasso, you have to shout "Yeehaw!" When you get your horse, hold the reins, stand next to him, and get on your horse. Freeze! What's your horse's name? Share names. Then, everyone say "Ride 'em cowboy!" and gallup around the room (carefully!) with your horse.

Toy Story Pull String Story: 5 minutes

All kids strike a pose as a character from the Wild West; cowgirl, cowboy, horse, sheriff, anything you can think of! Freeze, and when I come around and pull the string on your bag (just like Woody from Toy Story!) you will say a sentence that your wild west toy would say.

Animals of the desert: 3 minutes

Before we start on our big adventure, can anyone think of some animals that a cowgirl or cowboy might see in the desert or in the mountains of the Wild West?

Bobcats, rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, coyotes, eagles, horses, cattle or cows. I think it would be really fun if we could walk around the room as these animals! Let's make sounds too!

Adventure!

We are going to go on a journey today! We are going to all be part of the story. I will be the narrator, and you are going to help me tell the story.

Once upon a time, there was a cowgirl named Jordan. She was the toughest, wildest cowgirl in the West. She had a horse named _____(Jordan fill in the blank) One day when she was at the watering hole with _____, he/she wandered off. When Jordan realized this, she said _____!

Where could her horse be? Worried, she went back to town to find the sheriff. Maybe he/she could help!

When Jordan found the sheriff, she said _____

The sheriff wanted to help. He told Jordan _____

The sheriff decided to get a posse together to go with Jordan to look for her horse.

Before they left, the posse of cowboys and cowgirls packed their things. They decided to take _____(ask kids for suggestions of what they need for their trip).

When they were ready, they set off into the dessert. SPACEWALK through the desert. Half the kids go through room at a time for space issues. What is the desert like? It's hot, dry, you can't walk fast, you'll get really thirsty, you have to wipe your brow with your handkerchief, squint your eyes, etc. AND there are rattlesnakes in the desert so we have to keep our eyes peeled! Alright let's go! Yeehaw! Insert remarks about getting thirsty, a dust storm, rattlesnakes, etc.

When they got to the other side of the desert, Jordan still did not see her horse. She began to get worried. She said _____.

It was beginning to get dark. The posse decided to camp out for the night. What are some things they need to camp out? (campfire, pots and pans, spoons, musical instruments, tents, etc.)

Kids take different jobs gathering materials to camp out with.

Alright, have a seat around the campfire! Let's eat some dinner! What is everyone eating for dinner? Share ideas around the campfire. Does anyone know what cowboys did sitting around the campfire? (Sang songs, told stories) One thing they did was sing! Everyone get out your guitars, the spoons, and let's sing "O Home on the Range!"

Sing-Along:

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,

Where the deer and the antelope play,

Where seldom is heard a discouraging word

And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Chorus

Home, home on the range,

Where the deer and the antelope play;

Where seldom is heard a discouraging word

And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Repeat chorus one more time!

Everyone was so tired, so they decided to go to sleep for the night.

When they woke up in the morning, the sun was shining bright. Jordan bravely led the posse onward. They walked. And walked. And walked. It was so hot! They were running out of water, and out of energy. Suddenly, they saw a train in the distance! When Jordan saw this, she had an idea, She said

The conductor of the train saw the tired posse and said _____

They decided to hitch a ride on the train to give themselves a break! Let's all get in two lines like we are on a train. What does a train look like? What does a train sound like? On the count of three, we are going to make our own train. One, two, three! Move around the room!

When they had ridden the train for awhile, they decided to get off and walk again.

The train conductor waved goodbye and said _____

The posse said _____

Suddenly, Jordan saw a horse in the distance. Could it be _____? She wanted everyone's help to catch the horse if it was hers. She shouted to the posse _____

Everyone pick up your lassos! Get ready! On the count of three, shout Yeehaw! And let's lasso that horse!

Let's reel him in! We got him! Everyone cheered! Jordan was so happy to see her horse. She said _____

What an adventure! It was just another day in the Wild West! The end!

Extra Time:

Simon Says, Wild West Style

Wild West Charades

Museum