

CATTLE RAISERS MUSEUM

The Cattle Raisers Museum is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the vital history and science of the cattle industry. The experience tells the story of the cattle industry from its origins among the West's early Spanish settlers, through the heyday of the legendary drovers, all the way to today's modern range technology. The exhibits show the important role Texas and Southwestern cattle raisers play in protecting natural resources as frontline stewards of land, livestock and wildlife.

GOOD GRASS FOR CATTLE:

The Beginning of Texas Ranching, 1690-1890

Texas ranching traces its roots to 1690 when Spain introduced cattle to Texas. Cowboys soon developed tools and techniques that were adapted for working cattle. This gallery traces the development of the Texas cattle industry beginning with the "vaquero" ranchers, the first trail drives of the 1850s and the importance of cattle to Texas during and after the Civil War.

With the era of trail drives, beef was introduced to new markets across the country. As the cattle industry grew into a booming business, expansive ranches emerged and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association was formed to protect them.



RAILS, ROADS, RODEOS, AND RUSTLERS:

Ranchers Enter the Modern Age, 1890-1950

With the invention of barbed wire, rangelands were enclosed, the cattle drives ended and a new way of moving cattle to emerging markets was introduced. Railroads quickly transformed cities like Fort Worth into bustling cattle markets and meatpacking centers, helping to boost prices for Southwestern cattle. By the late 1890s, stock shows and rodeos were introduced to help promote sales and establish a venue for cattle raisers to better understand the value of breeding and exhibiting stock to potential buyers. Additionally, cattle theft became a greater issue, so branding was introduced as a way to identify cattle to a ranch, and brand inspectors looked out for rustlers. Finally, ranching modernized with the introduction of tools, trailers and large trucks to haul cattle to distant places.

THE VISION TRAIL:

Ranchers Embrace Technology, 1950-Present

Innovation and technology have defined the modern era of the beef industry. Technology helped cattle raisers fight diseases such as the screwworm and provided new tools to help ranchers be stewards of the land and improve the genetics of livestock. Today, cattle raisers take full advantage of digital communications to make quicker and more efficient decisions about their herds and rangelands. As the popularity of livestock shows has grown, so also have organizations including FFA and 4-H. Consumers can feel good about the nutritional value of lean beef produced by today's ranchers and benefit from the hundreds of edible, non-edible, and medicinal byproducts of cattle. Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association remains a strong advocate representing more than 18,000 ranching families and continues to work to stop cattle rustling through its law enforcement staff.

THE GATHERING PLACE

The central gallery is where visitors can see five majestic longhorns in a corral. You will learn more about ranching families in Texas and the Southwest, the importance of stewardship of land, livestock, water and wildlife, and about population as compared with land. The gallery features saddles dated from the 1850s to the 1920s from the magnificent Ken Spain Saddle collection. In this area, the Museum also displays a range of artwork highlighting the life, work and land of Texas and Southwestern cattle raisers.

HALL OF GREAT CATTLE

Sure to be one of the Museums most talked about and enjoyed experiences, the Hall of Great Cattle features “portraits” often breeds beautifully painted and displayed in baroque frames. Adding to the fun, each portrait is animated which gives the visitor a special surprise as they move and talk!

DON C. KING LEGACY HEADQUARTERS

The Don C. King Legacy Headquarters gallery pays tribute to great cattle raisers, both past and present. Artifacts of these individuals are housed in pull-out drawers in specially-designed cherry wood cabinets.



CATTLE RAISERS MUSEUM BRAND

The Cattle Raisers Museum Brand features a longhorn head formed by the facing numbers 7 and 7 resting on a bar signify the founding of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in 1877. The three parts of the continuous circle represent the independence, courage and commitment of generations of ranching families who built the industry. The horns extending outside the circle symbolize a vision with no boundaries or limitations.

TEKS:

K: 10A, 11B, 12A,B,C, 13B, 14A

1ST: 4B, 5A,B, 17A,

2ND: 2B, 4B, 5A,B,C, 6A, 7A,B,C,
13A,B, 15A, 16A,B,C,E

3RD: 1A, 2A,B, 3,B,C, 13A,B, 14A,C,
15B,C,D

4TH: 2A,C, 4C, 6A,B, 7A,B,
8A,B,C, 9B, 10C, 11A,B,CD, 18A,
19A,D

5TH: 1A, 4F, 6A,B, 7A,B,C, 8A,B,
9B, 11B, 12A,B,D, 20B, 22A,B,C,
23A,D,E

6TH: 1A, 3A,B,C, 4A, 5B,C, 6A,B,
8A, 13D, 15B, 16A,B,C, 18A,B,
19A,C,D

7TH: 1A, 6A,B,C,D, 7A,B,E, 8A,B,C,
9A,B, 10A,B,D, 11A,B, 12A,B, 17A,B,
18C,D, 19A,B,C,D,E, 20A,C

8TH: 1A, 10B,C, 11A,B, 27A,B,C,
29B,C

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:

K-W-L Cowboy Culture:

Create a K-W-L chart on a large sheet of butcher paper or an easel pad that will be posted in the classroom! Have students fill in the “K” column with everything they already know about cowboy/girl culture and history. Then have students fill in the “W” column by predicting what they think they will learn during their visit. *After the Museum field trip, have a discussion about what students learned and fill in the “L” column together!*

Create a Cattle Brand

Share with students how brands were used to identify a cow’s owner, protect cattle from rustlers (cattle thieves), and to separate them when it came time to drive to market (or rail yards or stock yards). At its most basic, a cattle brand is composed of a few simple letters and numbers, possibly in combination with a basic shape or symbols like a line, circle, heart, arc, or diamond. Provide students with two pipe cleaners and have them construct their own unique cattle brand! Explain that brands cannot be complicated because they are made out of a piece of metal.

Additional information and examples of brands can be found here: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/decoding-the-range-the-secret-language-of-cattle-branding-45246620/?no-ist>

TRY THIS BACK IN THE CLASSROOM!

These lesson ideas will help extend the learning from the Museum visit and encourage students to explore the culture and history of the cattle industry.

Write Cowboy Poetry:

As a class, write an “add-a-word” poem about cowboys/girls. Begin with the words “A cowboy” or “A cowgirl.” Then go around the class and have each student add a new word that describes a cowboy/girl to create the next line of the poem. In each line, a new word is added and the rest is repeated. This poem can be long or short, depending on ability and time availability. For example: A cowboy (cowgirl), A bowlegged cowboy, A happy, bowlegged cowboy... After the class poem is written, have students write their own poetry using the vocabulary they have learned about cowboys/girls.

Fence That Farmland!

Explain how land surveying is an important task that civil engineers perform in order to better understand and describe particular areas of land. One part of surveying land is determining the boundary, or “perimeter” of the land area. Use materials such as Legos, craft sticks, wooden KEVA planks, craft or popsicle sticks, twigs or pencils.

Covered Wagon Challenge:

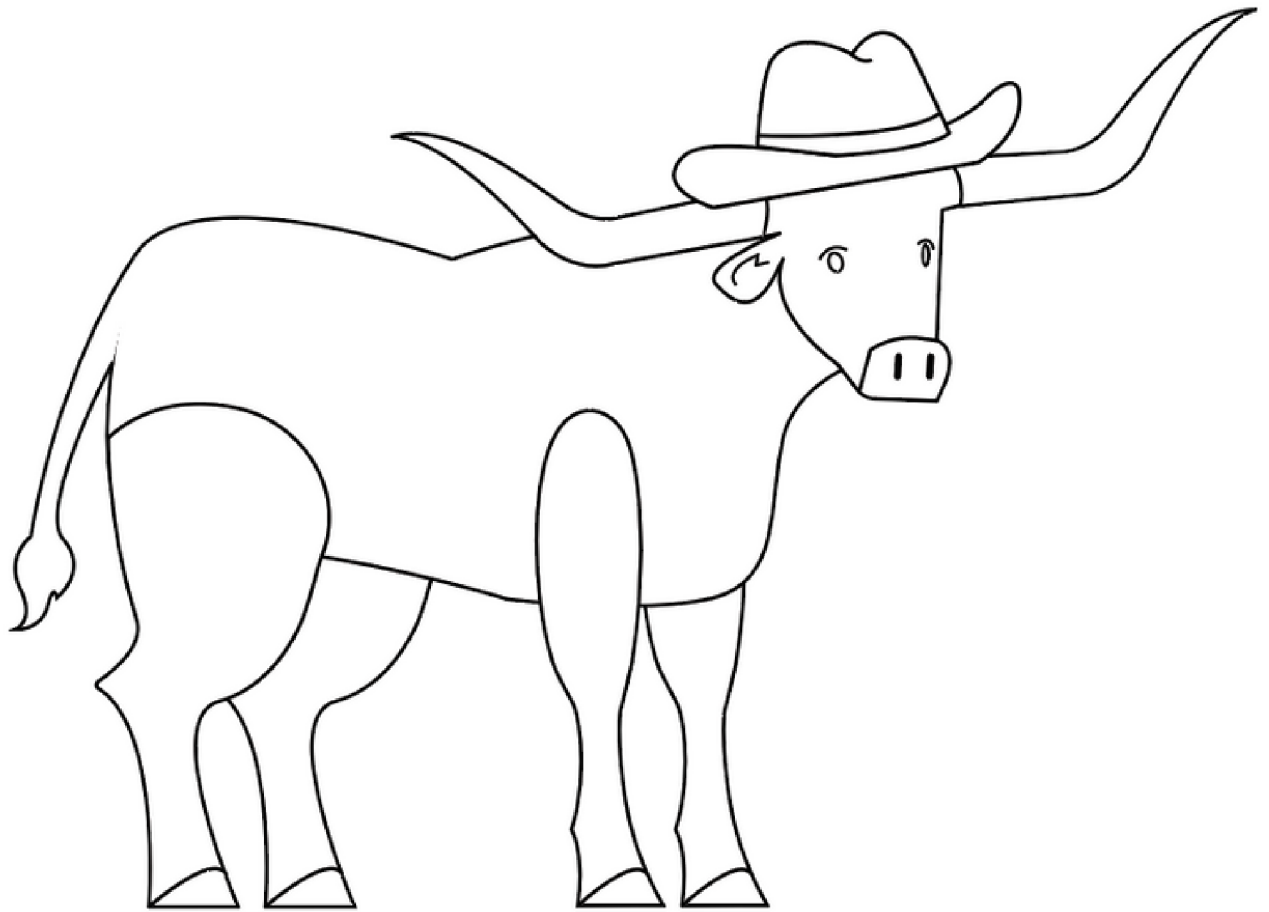
Split students into small groups and challenge them to construct a covered wagon that can hold the most weight without collapsing. Provide materials such as: pipe cleaners, cardboard, straws, toothpicks, construction paper, scissors, tape and glue!

SPARK CURIOSITY!

Encouraging children to use “**I Notice, I Wonder, I Imagine**” questions during a field trip can help them engage actively with the exhibits, stimulate their curiosity, and foster their creativity and critical thinking skills. It also provides an opportunity for meaningful discussions and reflections on their experiences.

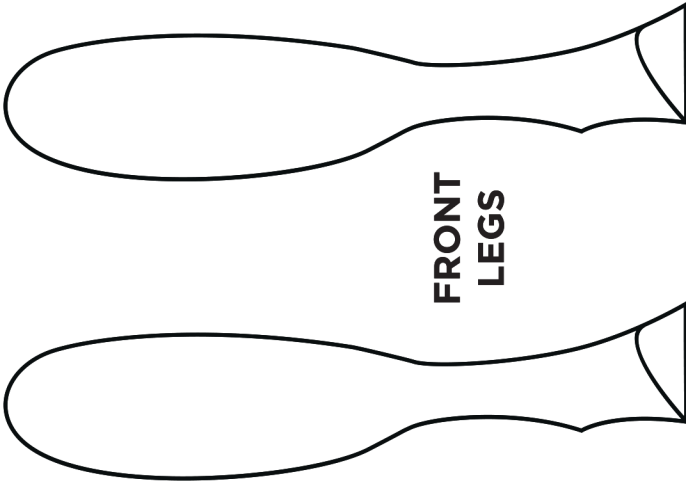
For Example: “I notice the old branding irons, cowboy gear, and photographs. I wonder about the lives of the cowboys and ranchers who worked tirelessly to raise and care for the cattle. I imagine they had a strict daily routine.”

MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER LONGHORN!

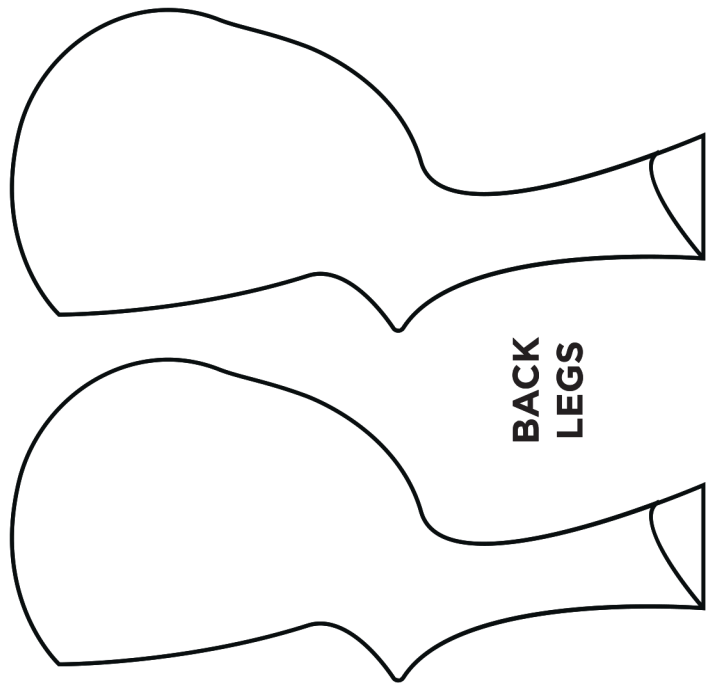


HOW TO:

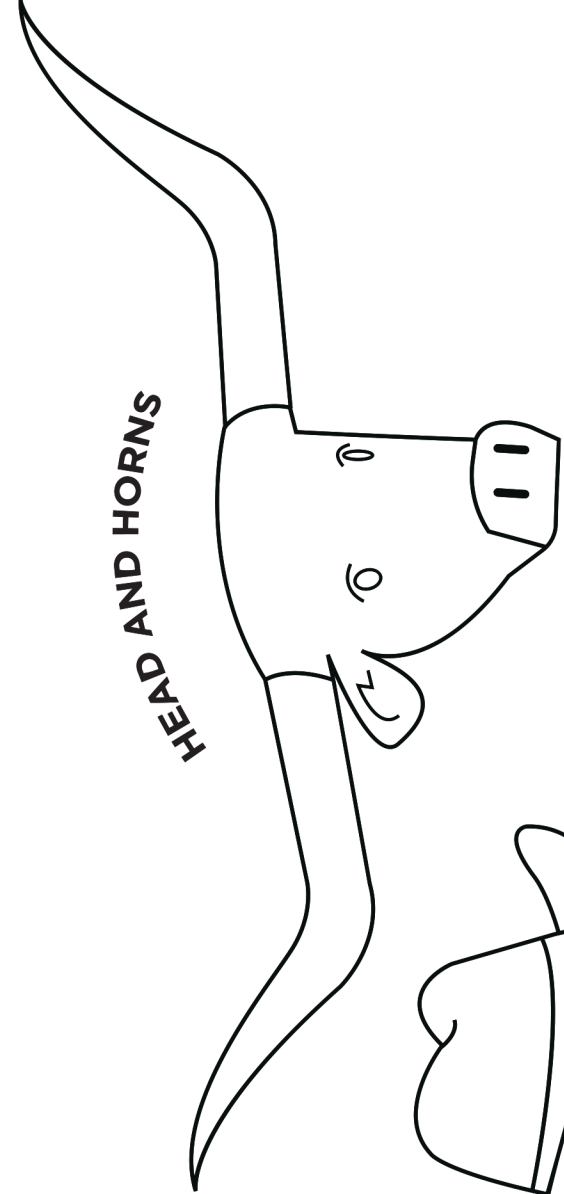
1. COLOR YOUR LONGHORN
2. CUT OUT THE SHAPES OF YOUR LONGHORN
3. GLUE THE DIFFERENT PARTS IN THE CORRECT ORDER
4. ALL DONE!



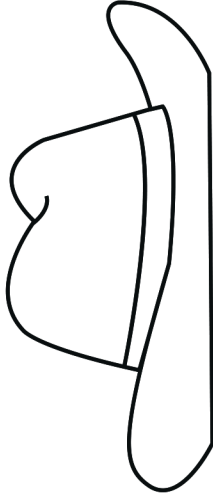
FRONT LEGS



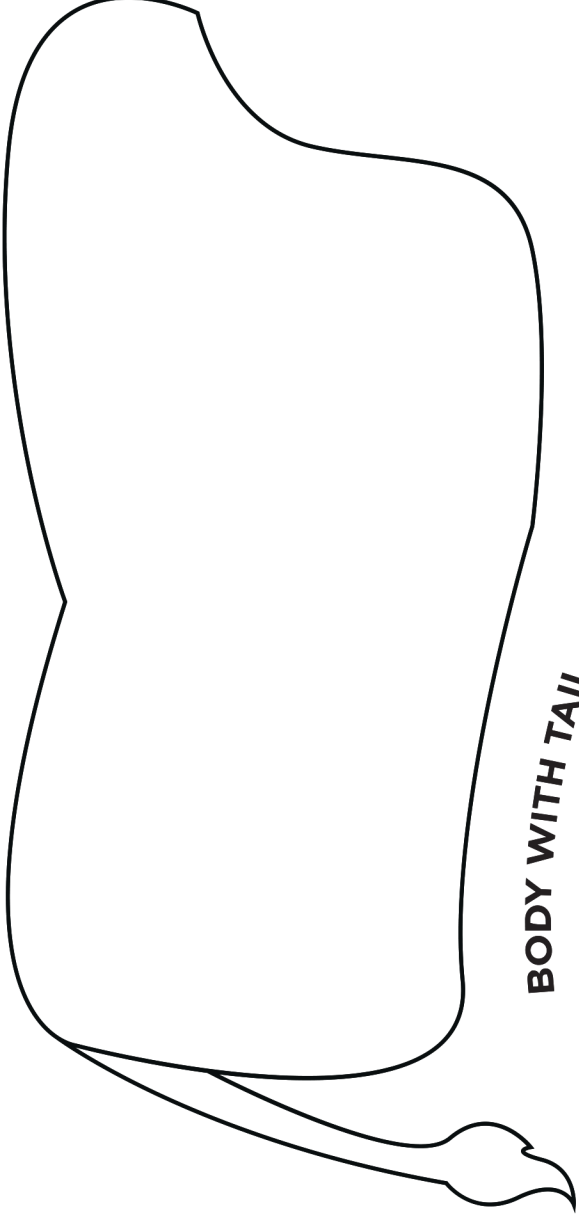
BACK LEGS



HEAD AND HORNS



COWBOY HAT

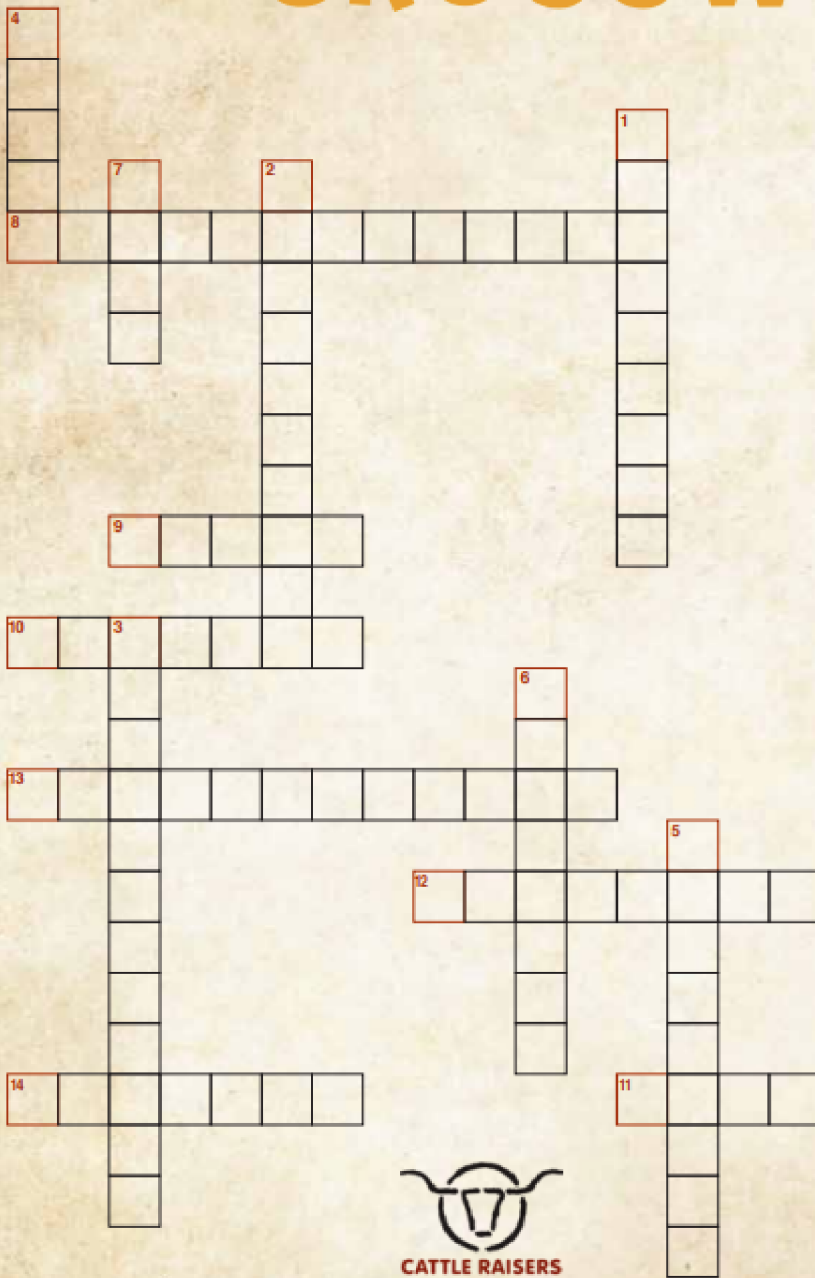


BODY WITH TAIL



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

CATTLE RAISERS CROSSWORD 1


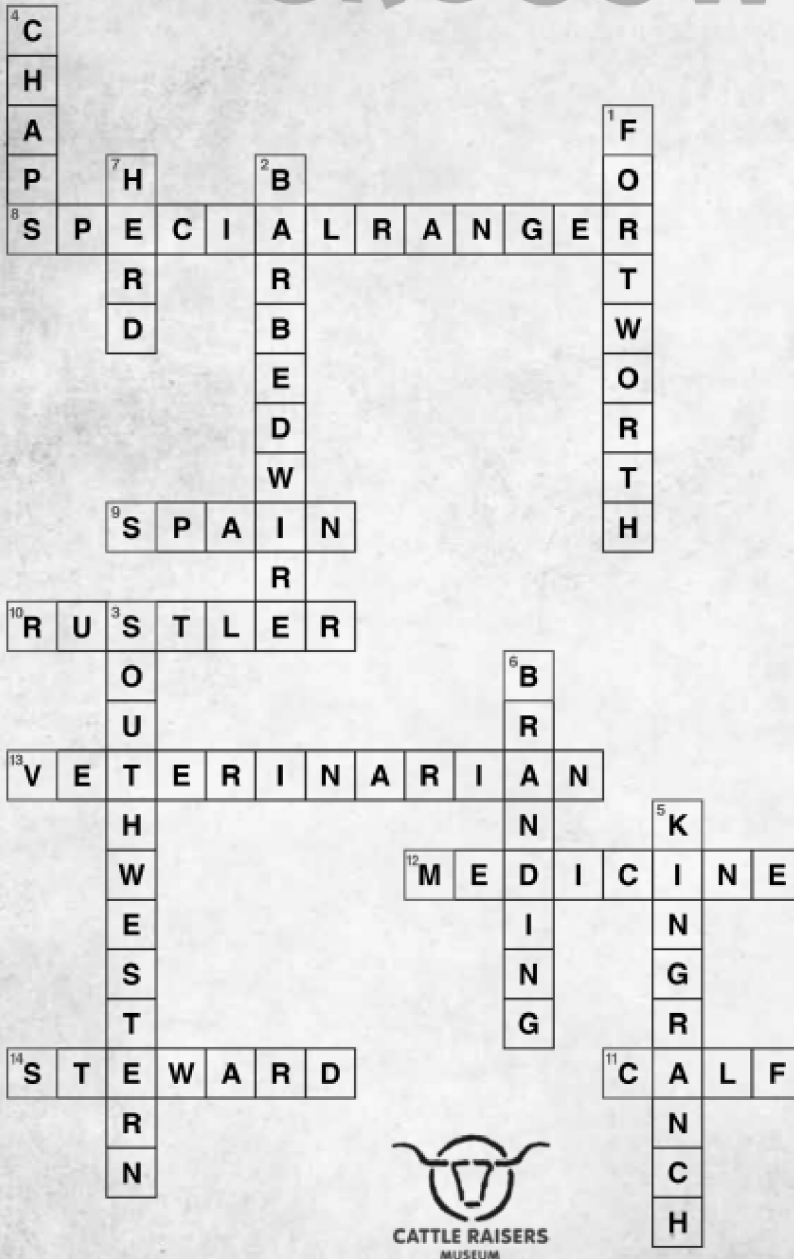
DOWN Questions and Answers

1. Texas city known as Cowtown
2. This invention enclosed ranches in the 1890's
3. Texas and _____ Cattle Raisers Association
4. Protect a Cowboys legs
5. Historic ranch in South Texas
6. A way to identify cattle to a ranch
7. A group of cows

ACROSS Questions and Answers

8. TSCRA law enforcement officer
9. Country who introduced cattle to Texas in 1600's
10. Another word for cattle thief
11. A baby cow
12. Cattle by-products can be used in this to cure health
13. Name of an animal doctor
14. Caretaker of the land

CATTLE RAISERS CROSSWORD 1

DOWN Questions and Answers

1. Texas city known as Cowtown
FORT WORTH
2. This invention enclosed ranches in the 1890's
BARBED WIRE
3. Texas and _____ Cattle Raisers Association
SOUTHWESTERN
4. Protect a Cowboys legs
CHAPS
5. Historic ranch in South Texas
KING RANCH
6. A way to identify cattle to a ranch
BRANDING
7. A group of cows
HERD

ACROSS Questions and Answers

8. TSCRA law enforcement officer
SPECIAL RANGER
9. Country who introduced cattle to Texas in 1600's
SPAIN
10. Another word for cattle thief
RUSTLER
11. A baby cow
CALF
12. Cattle by-products can be used in this to cure health
MEDICINE
13. Name of an animal doctor
VETERINARIAN
14. Caretaker of the land
STEWARD

FIND MORE OF THE CATTLE RAISERS MUSEUM'S ONLINE RESOURCES AT:

[HTTPS://CATTLEAISERSMUSEUM.ORG/EDUCATION-ONLINE-RESOURCES/](https://cattleraisersmuseum.org/education-online-resources/)