

South Texas Ranching Classroom Activities

Math Skills:

A horse's height is measured in "hands" to the withers (highest point of the shoulder). Using the information on the three horse classifications (pony, light horse, and draft horse), have students estimate how many hands it would take to measure each type of horse.

Language Arts:

Use the horse as a topic for one of the writing modes (narrative, compare/contrast, etc.). Students can compare the life of a Spaniard's horse to the life of a Native American's horse. Students can write about the role of the horse in ranching, or write about the everyday life of the vaquero.

Form acronyms using the horse and vaquero vocabulary or related horse terms.

Social Studies:

Let students design their own ranching brands. They can make brands using potato halves. Students can make a classroom mural that incorporates all of the students brands.

Have a ranch round-up day. Students can bring 'cowboy' foods from home or you can plan a barbecue meal in the class. Students can dress as vaqueros, tell western stories, read cowboy books and sing cowboy songs (*i.e., Home on the range*).