

**South Texas Ranching**  
Vocabulary and Definitions

Pony:	Smallest horse, usually used for work in mines. Weighed between 300-850 lbs. Stands between 3 ½ - 5 ft.
Light Horse:	Med. weight horse used for pulling light loads, ranching, and warfare. Weighs 800 – 1300 lbs. Stands 5 – 6ft.
Draft Horse:	Largest horse weighing between 1,500 – 3,000 lbs. Used for pulling heavy loads and doing farm labor. Stands between 5 ½ - 6 ½ ft.
Tack:	Equipment for riding a horse. Includes bit, bridle, and harness.
Bridle:	The part of a horse's harness that fits on the head and to which the bit and reins are attached.
Reins:	Long straps fastened to a horse's bit with which a horse is controlled.
Bit:	The metal mouthpiece of a bridle.
Saddle:	A seat usually made of leather, for riding horseback. Vaquero saddles have a saddle horn used for securing a rope or lasso.
Chaps (Chappareras):	Leather leggings without a back, worn for protection by ranch hands.
Sombrero:	A hat with a wide brim, low, flat crown, made of leather, woven palm or cheap felt.
Bandanna:	A large colored kerchief worn by ranch hands for various purposes.
Lariat (la reata):	A long rope, usually of braided rawhide, used to catch livestock.
Cabresto:	A hand-made, horsehair rope which can be used as a lasso.
Spur:	a metal device with a pointed rowel fastened to a rider's boot, used to urge on a horse.
Brand:	A mark indicating ownership, burned on the hide of an animal with a hot iron.

Livestock:	Domestic animals, such as cattle, sheep or horses, raised for home use or for profit.
Vaquero:	Cowboy, herdsman
Prairie:	An extensive area of flat or rolling grassland.
Ecology:	The relationship between organisms and their environment.
Barbed wire:	Twisted strands of fence wire with barbs at regular intervals.
Economy:	A system for the management and development of resources.
Ranching:	To work or manage a farm on which livestock are raised.