

Cowboy Culture



Life

Cowboys were workers who took care of a rancher's cattle.

Cowboys were often very independent people.
Their jobs required them to spend lots of hours alone.





Job Description

Help deliver **longhorn** calves in the spring.

Branded calves to show ownership.

Take the cattle to the **railhead/cow town** on a **long drive** through the open range.

Feed and tend cattle on the ranch and **open range**.





Housing

On the ranch the cowboys stayed in **bunkhouses**.

While on the long drive cowboys slept under the stars in tents or **bedrolls**.

The Bunkhouse





Cowboy Tools

Hats were designed to keep the sun and rain off their heads.

Boots and chaps were designed to protect the legs from sagebrush and snakes.

Spurs were used by some cowboys.

Bandanas were used to keep sun and dust out of their faces and a blindfold for horses.

Some cowboys carried a revolver for protection.



Colt 45



Obstacles to the Job

Harsh winters depleted the herd. Severe summers brought drought.

Rattlesnakes, thunderstorms, and river crossings made the long drive dangerous by causing stampedes.

Barbed wire was eventually used by farmers, sheepherders, and corporate ranchers to close off the open range, ending the cowboys' way of life.

Cattle Stampede

