



# SIXTEEN HORSES / VAQUEROS

Level: high school, grades 10-12

Course: Spanish

## Rationale

The coming of horses and cattle to the Americas changed forever the cultures, ecologies and histories of these Western continents. Horses enabled the Spanish not only to conquer and subdue many of the indigenous nations, but also to spread very successful cattle-ranching enterprises throughout their colonies and missions in North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean islands.

## Lesson Overview

This lesson, "Sixteen Horses," is part of a lengthy study of the equine/bovine impact upon the land and people of the Americas as it spread from Hispaniola to Mexico. We will follow the trail northward to our own Estancia Valley [near Albuquerque, NM], searching for its ramifications upon our valley and our families.

During the year we will study not only the history of the Estancia Valley, but also the history of how our families came here. By the year's end, I would like the second year students to complete a videotape of these histories. It will feature site visits to the pueblos, missions at Gran Quivira and Quarai, and interviews with los viejos of this ranching/farming community and with family and neighbors who remember something of the "old days," as well as the present.

This portion of the unit will cover the horsemen of New Spain. The lessons are not necessarily on successive days.

by  
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## Objectives

Students will demonstrate

- \* the ability to relate what/who/when/how used concerning the ranching objects they have provided from home
- \* the ability to record pertinent notes on lecture topic.
- \* group operation ability
- \* research abilities
- \* the ability to draw, cut-out, or obtain object example for visual of their research topic
- \* translation abilities (especially past-tense verb forms) in preparing brief oral presentation of research topic
- \* comprehensible pronunciation and sentence structure capabilities in Spanish
- \* proper oral presentation form

## Time needed

1 week or more

## Materials

video camera, videotapes, horseman equipment

## Procedures

### Lesson 1: Horseman's equipment

Spur/saddle/bits/bridle/chaps display (students have brought these from home). Students will relate vintage/owner/use/etc. of the piece of equipment they brought in. This is video-taped. This will provide one segment of our tape on the history of our valley and how our families came here.

### Lesson 2: Lecture

Introduce the arrival of the horses in 1493 and the progression of horsemen and equipment in Central America and the Southwest, utilizing wall display of sketches with brief texts from Jose' Cisneros' book Riders Across the Centuries. Begin with conquistador (early 1500's) and progress through Mexican ranchero (1830's) and Buffalo Soldier (1880). Class takes notes. This information deviates in places from the accepted concepts of some of the designations (ex: vaquero, comanchero).

Also included in lecture:

- \* horse and cattle ranches of Hispaniola during conquests
- \* how "wild" horse and cow herds really came to be (ref: Pueblo Revolt, 1680)
- \* how Spaniards spread horse/cattle/sheep ranching as they came to and settled the Northern Frontier of New Spain

### Lesson 3: Group Work — Research

Teacher divides class into 4 groups. Each group is given a list of related terms under horses/ranching of Spanish origin, many of which are loan words. Each group is to divide their list for research so that each member is responsible for a 2-3 minute explanation of his/her term(s) in Spanish to the class. The oral presentation is to be accompanied by a visual/graphic/object example of the term.

#### Group A:

jinete/jinetear  
hidalgos  
caballeros  
vaquero(-a)/buckaroo  
encomendero  
comanchero  
cibolero  
ranchero  
sabanero

#### Group B:

encomienda  
cienegas  
rancho  
remuda  
charreada  
ganado mayor/menor  
sabanas  
estancia  
tanque/estanque  
rodeo

#### Group C:

estribos  
espuelas  
garrocha  
chinquederos  
jaquima  
bosal  
tapaderas  
silla vaquera  
la reata/dar la vuelta  
chaparreras  
mecate

#### Group D:

mulattoes  
mestizos  
indios  
dogey  
riollos  
mesteños  
indigenas  
concha

### Lesson 4: Group Work — Prepare to present

Students meet in groups, review/check group-members' preparations, decide system/sequence of presentation and organization of visuals. Practice.

### Lesson 5: Oral Group Presentations to class

## Bibliography

Cisneros, Jose. Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands. University of Texas, El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1984.

Chronological history in sketches with brief texts of Spanish horsemen and horsewomen from the conquest to the twentieth century.



Cisneros, Jose. Riders of the Border. University of Texas, El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1971.

An earlier, briefer version of the above.

Dobie, Frank. Historical and Biographical Record of Cattle Ranching--Texas and Adjacent Territories. Vols. I and II. New York: Antiquarian Press, 1959.

Fascinating, detailed accumulation of cattle-ranching in the Southwest with vivid biographical experiences as examples.

Graham, Robert Bontine. Los Caballos de la Conquista. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Editorial Guillermo Kraft Limitada, 1946.

Written in Spanish, a gathering of personal accounts by figures of the conquest. This book is also published in English.

Hunt, Frazier and Robert. Horses and Heroes: The Story of the Horse in America for 450 Years. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1949.

Individual accounts of famous and hitherto unknown horses, riders and rides. Not specific to the Southwest.

Jones, Malcolm, Jr. "When the Horse Came." Newsweek. Winter 1991:76-77.

A brief overview of the dramatic changes in the Americas with the arrival of the horse.

Jordan, Terry G. North American Cattle Ranching Frontiers — Origins, Diffusion, and Differentiation. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1993.

This book is the definitive work on the subject. It begins with cattle ranching practices in Europe, Africa, and Ireland long before the discovery of the Americas.

Kelly, George and Rex. Farm and Ranch Spanish. Kerrville, TX: Braswell Printing, 1974.

A delightful book on practical ranching terminology. Also contains pages on Spanish grammar and idiomatic phrases.

Miller, Henry. Account of a Tour of the California Missions and Towns. Santa Barbara, CA: Bellerephon Books, 1991.

This book contains the 1856 account and sketches of Mr. Miller's tour of the hard-fought-for settlements of CA.

Myers, Sandra. The Ranch in Spanish Texas 1691-1800. El Paso, TX: Texas Western Press, 1969.

Discusses the how and why cattle ranching arose in Texas in such vast proportions. Analytical overview loaded with details.

Pourade, Richard. The Silver Dons. San Diego, CA: Union-Tribune Publishers, 1963.

Begins with the first supply route to California, the Sonora Trail. Includes accounts of clashes between the Californios and the US Cavalry, horsemen all.

Redford, Robert. "Riding the Outlaw Trail," National Geographic. November, 1976: 622-657.

Narrated by the author, a west-wide tour of the multi-state "outlaw trail" and histories of some of the infamous who frequented it. Typically excellent photos.

Schlissel, Lillian, Vicki Ruiz and Janice Monk, Eds. Western Women: Their Land, Their Lives. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1988.

Views the settling of the West from individual, feminine points of view.

Swain, Gloria. The Black Cowboy. Santa Barbara, CA: Bellerephon Books, 1994.

Text and illustrations focus on individual black horsemen and cowboys throughout history.

Tomb, Ubet. Ed. Cowboys. Santa Barbara, CA: Bellerphon Books, 1994.

Another gem of a paperback with text and illustrations. Begins with vaqueros.

Worcester, D.E. "The Spread of Spanish Horses in the Southwest". New Mexico Historical Review. Vol. XIX 1944:225-232.

Methodical explanation of the Spanish rationale in exploring, conquering, and settling New Mexico using the horse as the basic tool for all three.

Worcester, D.E. "The Spread of Spanish Horses in the Southwest 1700-1800," New Mexico Historical Review. Vol. XX 1945: 1-13.

Continues with the spread and multiplication of "wild" livestock herds as a ramification of the Pueblo Revolt.