

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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For about as long as folks can remember, cowboys have been telling tall tales about the greatest cowboy ever known ...

PECOS BILL

How many cactus plants can you find on this page?

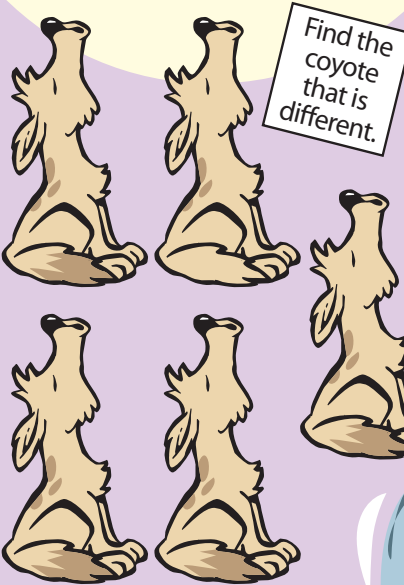
Now, you won't find Pecos Bill in history books ...



No, to find out about ol' Bill, you just have to sit around a campfire and listen as someone tells you the tale.

Baby Bill

Bill was the youngest of 17 kids. When Bill was just a baby, he fell out of his folks' wagon out on the Texas prairie. And, naturally, he began to cry and howl as the wagon traveled out of sight. His howling attracted a pack of coyotes. They joined in howling with Bill, but after a few hours, their voices were gone. They decided that Bill must be a coyote at heart, and they adopted him into their pack.



Bill and the Cyclone

It was said Bill could ride anything. No horse could throw him. He even rode a mountain lion once. So when

the biggest cyclone anyone had ever seen blew into town one day, Pecos Bill jumped right on it, riding it for days and days. The cyclone got frustrated and started crying big, salty tears around Utah. Today that pool of tears is known as the:



That poor cyclone had never met a cowboy like Pecos Bill and after trying to shake him loose from Texas to Arizona, it gave up and decided to turn to rain. That rain flowed and flowed and created one of the wonders of the natural world: The Grand Canyon!

Soggy Solution

During a drought, Pecos Bill needed to get water to his _____. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, so he got himself a big ol' stick and _____ it across the Texas desert to the Gulf of _____. And that's how the _____ called the Rio Grande was born!

Replace the missing words.

Widowmaker

Pecos Bill's horse was named Widowmaker because no cowboy could survive an attempt to ride him. But Pecos Bill could, of course, and Widowmaker and Bill became the best of friends.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read a variety of genres including tall tales.

Pecos Bill Invents the Lasso

Lots of cowboys know how to make a lasso out of a rope. But Pecos Bill invented the first lasso and he did not use a rope. Lasso every other letter to see what he used.

RDAPTYTNLGECSBNZATKPE

Create a Tall Tale

The fun of a tall tale, like Pecos Bill, is that the story gets a little taller and more outrageous with each telling. Find a sports story in the newspaper and start adding silly, strange and larger-than-life details to it to create a new tall tale.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write stories with a setting, main characters, beginning, middle and end.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Widowmaker was no ordinary horse. Instead of apples or carrots, he used to chomp on this unusual treat that Pecos Bill gave him. Cross out every other apple to reveal it.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- WIDOWMAKER
- PECOS
- COWBOY
- DROUGHT
- CYCLONE
- TEARS
- RANCH
- HORSE
- EXAGGERATE
- TEXAS
- PACK
- WONDERS
- WILD
- HOWL
- RAIN

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Action Language

Read today's newspaper and highlight each of the following examples of active writing:

- A sentence that commands or directs action
- One or more exciting verbs
- The shortest sentence you can find

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify different kinds of sentences.



What kind of cowboy steals teapots?

ANSWER: A kettle rustler!

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