

Continue the exciting saga begun in Westward Ho! Part I as you journey with the forty-niners, ride the rails of the Transcontinental Railroad, experience life on the prairie, and discover the exciting era of cowboys and cattle drives in Westward Ho! Part II.

Westward Ho! Part II is broken up into four weeks:

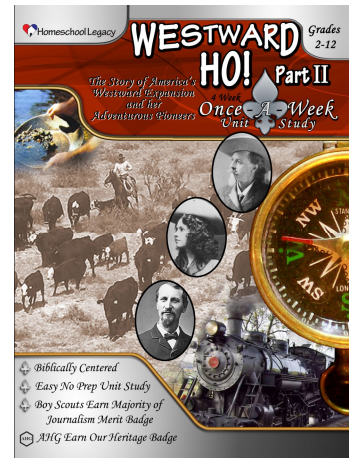
Week 1 - Gold Rush!

Week 2 - Life on the Prairie

Week 3 - The Great American Railroad Race

Week 4 - Cowboys and Cattle Drives

The following is a sample of what you will be doing in the final week of Westward Ho! II as you complete the Westward Ho! series. Red lettering is added here for further explanation.



### **Week 4: Library Reading/Video Choices**

An \* denotes that it or an equivalent of same subject matter is necessary in order to complete an assignment.

+ Younger Reader

++ Mid-level Reader

+++ Older Reader

### **Focus: Cowboys and Cattle Drives**

JB CALAMITY JANE Calamity Jane: Her Life and Her Legend/ Doris Faber (+++)

JB CODY Buffalo Bill/ Ingri D'Aulaire (++)

JB LOMAX Home on the Range: John Lomax and His Cowboy Songs/  
Deborah Hopkinson (+)

JB OAKLEY Annie Oakley/ Charles Wills (++)

JB OAKLEY Annie Oakley: Wild West Sharp Shooter/ Elaine Landau (+)

JB PICKETT Bill Pickett, Rodeo Ridin' Cowboy/ Andrea Davis Pinkney (+)

JB ROGERS Will Rogers/ Jane A. Schott (+)

J DEA Dear America: The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy/ Walter D. Myers

J OAT Cowboys on the Western Trail/ Eric Oatman (++)

J WIL The First Four Years (The last book in the Little House series)\*

J 759.13 R Frederic Remington/ Adeline Peter (++)\*

J 791.8 B Rodeo/ Cheryl Walsh Bellville (+)

J 976.04 M Gunfighters/ Leonard Matthews (++)

J 978 A Cowboys, Roundup on an American Ranch/ Joan Anderson (++)

J 978 P Cattle Trails: Git Along Little Dogies/ Kathy Pelta (++)

FIC JAM Smoky the Cow Horse/ Will James\*

759.13 RUSSELL The Charles M. Russell Book; The Life and Work of the Cowboy

Artist/ Harold McCracken\*  
978.00496 K The Black West/ William L. Katz (++++)  
DVD 791.43 C Cowboy (starring Glenn Ford and Jack Lemmon)\*  
DVD 799.34 A Annie Oakley (PBS – An American Experience documentary)\*  
DVD 978.02 Buffalo Bill (PBS - An American Experience documentary)\*

*Above is an abridged version of Week 4's library list. Each Once-a-Week Unit Study provides a weekly library list that includes a variety of books for that week's focus.*

*As you can see, I have alphabetically and numerically arranged each call letter in order for you to quickly and easily gather your library books.*

*I include books of different reading levels, have chosen books of superior quality, and have carefully screened all books for objectionable material.*

*Your children are not meant to read all of the books listed. They pick and choose books to read throughout the week which most interest them. Reading is the only activity they will continue daily throughout the week.*

*Only books noted with an asterisk (or an equivalent of same subject matter) are necessary in order to complete a specific assignment.*

*What if you cannot find the exact book? No problem. Just pick another from that same library section and focus.*

*In addition to books, your list will also include documentaries/movies for you to pick up at the library or get from Netflix.*

### **Supplies:**

Clean, dry kitchen sponge  
Acrylic paints  
Paper towels

*Each Once-a-Week Unit Study provides you with a supply list for that week's assignments. Most will be items you already have in your home. Others will be inexpensive items you can pick up at a discount, craft, or hardware store.*

### **Daily Activities**



Independent Reading: Week 8 Library Choices

Family Read-Aloud:

Option 1: The First Four Years (Book 9 in the Little House series)  
Option 2: Smoky the Cow Horse

(Smoky the Cow Horse will take longer than one week to read, but it is well worth it. Why not take the next couple of weeks to keep your schooling to a minimum while you finish Smoky the Cow Horse? You will fall in love him!)

*Each week's family read-aloud introduces your family to great literature while staying focused on that week's topic. It will most often be a classic, Caldecott/Newberry Award winner, or other noteworthy literary piece.*

*Throughout Westward Ho I & II you have the option of either reading through the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House series or a weekly alternative such as this week's very special Smokey the Cow Horse, by Will James.*

### **Once-a-Week Activities**



#### **Family Devotional:**

Throughout the course of Westward Ho! I & II you have met many heroes of the American West, but one surpasses them all, the American Cowboy! He is the supreme American folk hero and is our nation's definitive icon. Americans already thought of themselves as independent, freedom-loving people before the age of the cowboy; he just helped solidify that image in the minds of people around the world as well.

The Wild West is chock-full of legends about bad guys like Billy the Kid and Frank and Jesse James. But there were many more good guys, men like Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, and ordinary folk, as well.

As wild as the West was it was, in fact, not as wild as movies and books have portrayed it. Yes, there were legendary bad guys and, yes, it did take a while for law and order to become established, but most western pioneers were people like you and your family, all trying to live upright lives while caring for one another.

It was through the righteous lives of ordinary people that God was able to grow and establish this great land we now call the United States of America. Many nameless souls braved the perils of the frontier in search of a better life for themselves and their families. It is through those same courageous men and women that law and order was established and eventually maintained. They, like Jedediah Smith before them, believed "the West to be just a place on the map, not a way to live."

As families arrived in the Wild West, so did marshals, deputies, schools, and churches. Each would help tame the land and its people, and in time each territory would be admitted into the Union.

Many ordinary citizens never made it into the history books, but each played a starring role in the development of the United States and overcame great odds in the process.

Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote:

Not gold, but only man can make  
A people great and strong;  
Men who, for truth and honor's sake,  
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,  
Who dare while others fly –  
They build a nation's pillars deep  
And lift them to the sky.

~A Nation's Strength~

This is a wonderful poem in many ways, but Emerson made one big mistake. It is God, not man, who makes a people great and strong.

History is full of great men and women, many who have achieved heroic status. The era of the pioneer, as well as that of the cowboy, is replete with heroes.

But what is a hero?

According to the American Heritage Dictionary a hero is: any man (or woman) noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose; especially, one who has risked or sacrificed his life; A person prominent in some event, field, period, or cause by reason of his special achievements or contributions.

Today's heroes tend to attain celebrity status. We admire them because of their outward achievements in sports or other such endeavors. But God looks at the inner man.

- Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

God's idea of a hero is often far different from ours. In fact, He often appoints weak, insignificant people who we might consider improbable prospects for heroism.

A number of God's heroes are listed in the Hebrews' Faith Hall of Fame. All of these heroes had one trait in common. Was it some great feat? Was each of them known for their outstanding careers? No, it was for their simple faith and trust in God. In fact, the Lord tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that "...without faith it is impossible to please God..."

It is nice to have heroes to look up to and emulate. But we must be careful to emulate only those who are men and women of great faith.

- Read Hebrews 11.

- Discuss what each of these heroes is most noted for and why you think he or she was inducted into God's Faith Hall of Fame.



### **History/Language:**

The heyday of the cowboy began at the close of the Civil War in 1865 and ended a mere twenty years later (TL).



It was a combination of wagonloads of homesteaders settling on the plains and Joseph E. Glidden's invention of barbed wire (TL) that would bring that short chapter in American history to a close. Barbed wire would enable homesteaders to protect their crops and themselves from cattle by fencing off their land, but it meant less open land for cattle to graze freely.

*Timelines are a great way for your children to "connect the dots" of history. A TL is to remind your children to add significant events and people to the timeline notebook they compiled in Week 1. They will continue to maintain it throughout the duration of this unit study and can continue to add to it as they go on to explore other exciting time periods.*

Yet, in spite of its short episode, the Hollywood image of the Wild West lives on in the minds of Americans and people around the world. It is the adventure, excitement, beauty, independence, and courage of the Wild West that continue to capture our imagination in the form of movies, books, plays, musicals, TV shows, and songs.

But who was it that birthed this unique period in American history? Entrepreneurs!

Texas Longhorn are cattle whose ancestors arrived in Mexico with the Spaniards in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their descendants multiplied and wandered across the border into Texas. By the end of the Civil War, there were around 6,000,000 Longhorn steer freely roaming the plains.

The law of supply and demand was at work once again. Due to the overabundance of cattle in Texas, a Longhorn steer was worth only \$4.00. But in the war-torn east where people were hungry for meat, a rancher could get \$40.00 for the same animal!

With the railroads now in place, entrepreneurs saw their opportunity. They hired cowboys to round up the cattle and drive them to famous, railroad towns like Dodge City and Abilene, Kansas. The cattle were then loaded onto trains and shipped east to customers willing to pay top dollar.

Most cowboys were in their teens or twenties. Many were black, Indian, or Tejano (Mexican Texans). A few were even girls.

The life of a cowboy was hard, dangerous, sleepless, exhausting work. Poisonous snakes, drowning, severe storms, and stampedes were constant threats. Cowboys spent seventeen hours a day in the saddle, seven days a week, and up to four months on a cattle drive.

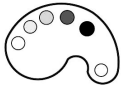
Much of their time spent on the trail was boring, so cowboys often made up and sang songs in order to entertain themselves. They soon found this also calmed the cattle, which are by nature nervous animals, and helped lull them to sleep at night.

In addition to his legend, the cowboy left behind a unique vernacular.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary the word *vernacular* is a *language or dialect native to a region or country rather than a literary, cultured, or foreign language.*

- Write a tale, poem, or song using some of the following cowboy vernacular.

*Included in your unit study is a creative selection of cowboy vernacular from which your children can choose.*



### Arts & Crafts:

- Make a cattle brand.

The practice of branding goes all the way back to ancient Egypt, but it was later brought to North America by the Spaniards.

A brand indicates ownership, thereby, identifying the ranch to which the cattle or horses belong. Brands were vital in the days of the cowboy since cattle roamed freely on the plains and were only rounded up once a year. They helped cowboys easily identify which cattle belonged to the ranch they worked for. They also made it difficult for rustlers to get away with stealing livestock.

*Simple instructions for doing some crafty cattle branding are included in your unit study.*

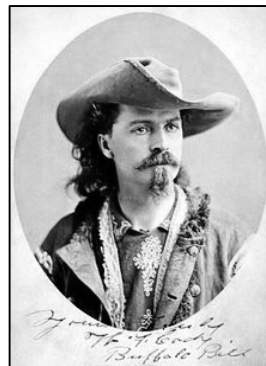


### Family Discussion/Documentary:



William “Buffalo Bill” Cody (TL) and Annie “Little Sure Shot” Oakley (TL) are two of our most beloved American folk heroes. Both led exciting lives.

Among other things, Buffalo Bill assisted wagon trains west, was a pony express rider, served as a scout in the Civil War, worked on the Transcontinental Railroad, was a renowned buffalo hunter, and produced a famous traveling circus known as the “Wild West Show.”



**William F. Cody**  
(1846-1917)



**Annie Oakley**  
(1860-1926)

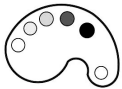
After overcoming a difficult childhood, Annie went on to become one of the world's greatest marksman and was a favorite attraction in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

She once said, *"Aim at a high mark and you will hit it. No, not the first time, nor the second, and maybe not the third. But keep on aiming and keep on shooting for only practice will make you perfect. Finally, you'll hit the bull's eye of success."*

What a great motto!

- Examine the wording of this motto. Discuss with your family the lesson to be learned from it not only in target practice, but in all of life.
- How can you apply this motto to a current challenge in your life?
- Take this week to memorize the "Bull's Eye of Success" motto.
- Watch either the Buffalo Bill or Annie Oakley documentary.  
(2ND half of AHG Req. 21)

*Documentaries are on your library list. If your library doesn't have them, Netflix will.*



### **Art Appreciation:**

Frederic Remington (TL) and Charles M. Russell (TL) are the two greatest artists of the American West.

- Compare and contrast their works and styles while paging through Frederic Remington and The Charles M. Russell Book.



**Frederic Remington**  
(1861-1909)



**Charles M. Russell**  
(1864-1926)

You can see more of Remington's and Russell's art at [globalgallery.com](http://globalgallery.com).



### **Family Night:**

**Option 1:** Attend a rodeo.



Horace Greeley, whom you began writing news stories for back in Westward Ho! I, has not forgotten about you. In fact, he is sending you out on one last assignment before you retire from the newspaper business. He would like you to write an article about a rodeo that has just arrived in town. This assignment is a bit different than those you have received from him in the past, however.



With photography gaining in popularity, Horace Greeley would like you to also take a series of photographs to better relay the story. You are to include a brief summary of the event and colorful captions for the photos.



He asks that you take both informative hard news and enjoyable soft news photos. (BSA Req. 4c)

To refresh your memory, the focus of *hard news* is to provide information to the reader, whereas *soft news* is meant to entertain and inspire.



Note to Boy Scouts: If you are unable to attend a rodeo, attend another public event while completing the above assignment in order to complete Req. 4c.

**Option 2:** Watch the movie *Cowboy*.

*Family nights are designed to be enjoyed on a different day of the week from your unit study day.*



### **Stump Your Dad Trivia:**

Q: When and where did the term “cowboy” originate?

A: In New York during the Revolutionary War.

It was common for colonists of the 1700s to allow their cows to roam free, so they dangled a bell from the cows’ necks. The bell jingled as the cow grazed making it easier for them to be found.

Young men in New York who were loyal to the King of England took advantage of this fact. They knew hungry soldiers would grab any food they could get their hands on, so they pretended to be a cow caught in the brush by hiding and jingling a cow bell. Fooled, the patriot was captured by the *cowboy*. It was not until many years later that the term was used for cowhands on the western frontier.

*Kids just love to discover they know something Dad doesn't...because Dad knows everything, right? We include Stump Your Dad Trivia as a fun way to involve Dad and alert him to what your children are learning in their studies. It also makes for great dinner conversation...if the kids can wait that long to stump him, that is!*