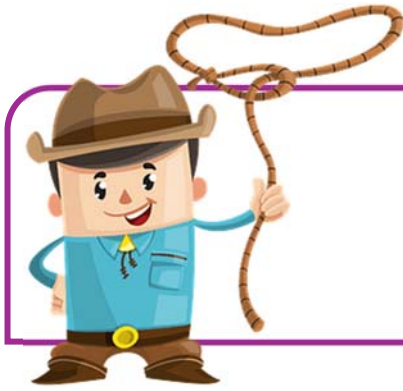


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Law Of The Range

**Directions:** Read the text below comparing the legendary cowboy code to real frontier laws. Then answer the questions in complete sentences.

### Legend Vs. Law In The Wild West

In popular stories, cowboys are shown as brave heroes who always follow an unwritten "code of honor." This mythic cowboy code emphasized fairness, loyalty, courage, and helping those in need. According to the legend, a cowboy would never steal, lie, or leave a friend behind on the trail. These ideas became a symbol of American independence and strength.

However, the real West was far more complicated. As new towns appeared, laws had to be created quickly. Sheriffs, marshals, and judges worked to keep order, but many areas had limited protection. Vigilante groups sometimes formed when settlers felt justice was too slow, which could lead to unfair or violent punishment. Instead of a perfect code of honor, justice on the frontier often depended on who had authority, resources, or community support.

1. What are two values that were part of the mythic cowboy code?
2. Why did frontier towns need official laws and justice systems?
3. Who helped enforce the law in real western communities? Name at least one role.
4. Explain one problem that occurred when vigilante groups took justice into their own hands.
5. Compare the two systems: Write one way the mythic cowboy code and real frontier law were similar and one way they were different.
6. Opinion: Which do you think is more important for a growing community - a shared moral code or official laws? Explain your reasoning.