

Name _____



Wild West Truths

Directions: Read each statement about the American Frontier and Wild West. Write **F** for Historical Fact or **M** for Hollywood Myth in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. Cowboys spent most of their time in dangerous shootouts on dusty town streets.
- _____ 2. Many cattle drives lasted months and required long hours of hard work.
- _____ 3. Outlaws were extremely rare, and most settlers followed local laws.
- _____ 4. Hollywood movies created the idea that every cowboy carried two shiny pistols and always wore a perfect white hat.
- _____ 5. Women, including ranchers, sharpshooters, and business owners, played important roles in western communities.
- _____ 6. Native American tribes were often forced from their homelands as settlers moved west.
- _____ 7. The West had no kind of law enforcement at all, so criminals did whatever they wanted.
- _____ 8. Cowboys often had diverse backgrounds, including African American, Mexican, and Native American workers.
- _____ 9. Most cowboys worked on ranches and earned low pay.
- _____ 10. The West was constantly wild and chaotic, with no peaceful towns or families.

Reflection Questions

1. Which statement surprised you the most? Why?

2. Why is it important to separate myth from reality when studying history?
