

Show Of The West Answer Key

1. Possible answers: staged battles, trick riding, sharpshooting, portrayals of frontier life. (Any two correct.)
2. It shaped the image of the West as adventurous, brave, and exciting for people who had never seen it.
3. It presented a simplified version of history, often ignoring diverse cultures and real conflicts.
4. Native performers were often given scripted roles that fit dramatic storylines rather than true history or their perspectives.
5. It spread the idea of the West as part of American identity-focused on independence, bravery, exploration, and frontier spirit.
6. Answers will vary; check for clear reasoning connected to historical accuracy and influence of media.

Teacher's Guide

- Remind students that entertainment can shape beliefs-encourage critical thinking about sources.
- Vocabulary support: **portray, perspectives, symbol, identity, independence.**
- Differentiation:
 - Provide sentence starters such as "The show influenced people by..."
 - Offer an optional Venn comparison of show vs. reality for advanced students (done verbally or in notes, not on worksheet).
- Engagement ideas:
 - Show students a brief, teacher-approved image or quote from Buffalo Bill's advertising posters to analyze representation.
 - Group discussion: "What parts of history are we most likely to misunderstand from movies or shows?"
- Extension activities:
 - Students research a real person featured in the show (e.g., Sitting Bull, Annie Oakley) and compare their true story to their stage role.
 - Connect to media literacy standards: discuss why dramatic storytelling sometimes replaces accuracy.