HOOF PRINTS

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE HISTORY

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WEATHER: AMARILLO, TX SUNNY AND SWINDY

Ranchers and Cattle Drives

Cattle were a huge source of meat and provided hides that were made into much needed leather goods.

The meat and goods created by these animals were sought after by many people all over the Americas.

Cattle drives eventually became a widespread endeavor across the country to the California gold rush areas where cattle prices were higher.

Thousands of cattle were moved by cowboys on horseback and a typical drive from Texas to California would take up to six months.

Cattle drives are a rarity these days, but there are ranches that still use the old fashioned cowboy techniques of riding and roping.



The American Quarter Horse Association gives an award each year called "The Best _____Award" to the working ranch that has the best group of American Quarter Horses still used to work livestock today.

Cattle have been in Texas since the Spanish brought the famous long-horn, whose horns spread a distance of four to eight feet from tip to tip into the country during the mid 18th century.

In 1844, the arrival of the legendary horse named Steel Dust in Texas changed ranching forever. Steel Dust possessed remarkable speed as well as a quality that became known as "cow sense". Ranchers began to discover that horses with "cow sense" were excellent mounts for ranching and cattle work. The cowboys treasured their horses bred out of Steel Dust called bloodlines and them "Steeldusts".

As the interest in breeding horses with ranch working skills continued to grow, the horses became more heavily muscled, had small ears, a big jaw, remarkable intelligence, and lightening speed. These horses became a fitting description of the Bull-Dog type of American Quarter Horse.





What famous brand is under the Hall of Fame Medallion in the Grand Hall?

After the Civil War, ranches began to spring up everywhere. With many different ranches, cattle had



to be branded or ear marked to let cowboys and ranch

hands distinguish the herds if they got mixed or lost.

After barbed wire was introduced, this problem subsided, and a new one was



presented as the land was divided thus preventing easy crossing. The cattle drives had to deviate from their fastest routes to avoid the new property fences.

Ranchers and Cattle Drives

Ranchers and cowboys have to feed and water their horses. They depend on their horses so they have to take excellent care of them.	Brands were made of symbols and letters that typically had a special meaning or representation to the brand owner. For example they used their initials or a symbol such as a moon. Draw your own brand below.
What items can a horse eat? How many gallons of water does a horse drink each	
day? Who is considered the	A Ranch Remuda is defined as
founder of the American Quarter Horse AND the American	
Thoroughbred?	Dan Casement was a respected cattleman and horseman. He was also part of the nucleus that founded AQHA.
How many cattle are shown in the Cattle Drive formation?	What year was AQHA founded? Who was the granddaughter of the founder of the 6666 Ranches and hosted a dinner party for the men that created the AQHA?
What are the first 2 cowboys called behind the Trail boss?	What was your favorite exhibit? Use the space below to make a sketch of your favorite exhibit to help you remember it! Title:
What Hall of Fame member	

Horse Video?