



Ideas from the



Wild West



Crafts, Games & Decorations



by Angie Kangas



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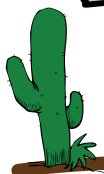
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Crafts



Cactus

Using green paper, cut out the shape of any kind of cactus that you want. Stir about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of rubbing alcohol with 20 drops of green food coloring into a bag of rice. Spread the rice out on a large paper to dry. Once the rice dries, have the children glue the rice to the paper cactus. Cut small squares of red tissue paper and gather the middle of each tissue square and put a drop of glue at the gather. Stick the red “flower” to the top of the cactus!



- Green paper
- Red tissue paper
- Rice
- Green food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol
- Glue
- Scissors



Nighttime Scene

Flatten a coffee filter (or paper towel) and use pink, yellow and orange washable markers to draw

- Coffee filter (or paper towel)
- Markers that will fade with water
- Water
- Black paper
- Blue paper
- Glue

some squiggly lines. (If you use a paper towel, cut it into a circle for the moon.) Drip small drops of water on the markings and watch it “bleed” and spread. Keep adding water until you like the look. Set it aside to dry. Cut a landscape of the ground and cacti out of black paper. Glue the coffee filter moon to the blue paper sky. Glue the cactus scene over the moon. Gorgeous!





Horseshoes

- Cardboard
- Brown paint
- Glue
- Glitter
- Scissors

Cut horseshoe shapes out of cardboard. Paint them brown and let them dry. Lightly cover them with glue and sprinkle glitter on them. If you do not want to glitter them, make little slits to mimic the nails holes in horseshoes.



Paper Bag Horse

Lay a paper bag flat on a table. Using scissors, cut an oval for the horse's nose, triangles for the ears, and the forelock part of the mane (see picture). Cut white ovals and small black ovals for the eyes. Glue on the

- Paper bags
- Brown paper
- White paper
- Black paper
- Glue
- Black marker
- Scissors

nose and eyes and draw on the nostrils. Open the bag and fold over the top edge. You might want to stuff the bag with some pieces of paper or plastic bags, or fill it with goodies. Glue on the forelock and ears. What a cute horse bag!



Straw Painting

- Straw or hay
- Paint
- Paper
- Glue



Have children use pieces of straw or hay for paint brushes. Use different colors and experiment with different looks and methods. Glue the pieces of straw to the pictures when the paintings are complete.



Foot Horse

Put brown paper on the floor and trace around the child's foot. Cut out the foot, two triangle ears and a long rectangle for the neck. Glue the neck onto a piece of paper and add the traced foot (the head). Place it so that the toe end of the foot is the nose of the horse. Add the ears, eyes and nostrils. Glue on pieces of string or yarn for the mane and forelock.

- Paper
- Brown paper
- Yarn or sting
- 2 Wiggle eyes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black pen



Horseshoe Stamping

Cut sponges into horseshoe shapes. Place the "horseshoes" in shallow containers with small amounts of tempera paint (or whatever paint is available to you). Stamp horseshoes onto large pieces of paper.



- Sponges
- Scissors
- Paint
- Shallow styrofoam plates
- Paper



Rope Initial

- Rope
- Hot glue gun
- Cardboard or a piece of wood

Cut wood or cardboard to the size you want. Use hot glue to attach rope around the edge of the board and the child's initial in the middle.





Sheriff Hat

Draw a large oval for the outside rim of the hat. Now draw a squarish oval in the center of the hat with a U shape in the middle (see picture). Use the scissors to cut out the squarish oval, making sure to leave one edge uncut. Draw a star on the yellow paper. Cut it out and attach sequins onto the points. Write “sheriff” on the star. Make a hat band at the base of the oval with the black marker or another strip of paper or foamy. When you put on the hat, the inner oval will stand up like the front of a cowboy hat!

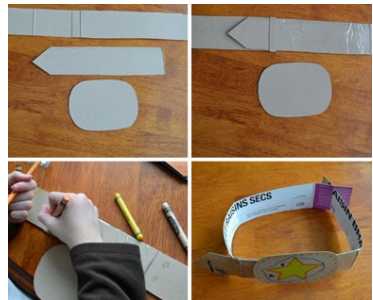
- Large piece of sturdy paper or foamy
- Yellow paper
- Scissors
- Black marker
- Sequins (optional)



Cowboy Belt

Cut out two long strips from a cereal box. Cut out a shorter strip with the end pointed as the picture shows. Cut out an oval shape and a tiny strip. Tape or Glue the long strips together. You need the length to be about 3 inches wider than the width of the child’s waist. Tape or glue on the strip with the pointed end over the long pieces you have glued together. Glue on the tiny strip; this is the front where you tuck in the belt. Glue on the oval; this is the belt buckle. Take some time for the children to color the whole belt. In order to put on and to take off the belt easily, cut a slit in the back of the belt about half-way through. Measure the other side of the belt and, where it fits the child well, make a slit about half-way through the strip (from the other direction). Slip one slit into the other for the belt to be put on and taken off.

- Cereal boxes
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Crayons or markers





Sheriff Badge

Cut out a star with little circles on the points; then cut out a smaller star without any circles. Glue the small star inside the larger star. With a black pen, write "SHERIFF" in the middle of the smaller star. Glue on some sequins and put a star sticker under the word "SHERIFF." Using a safety pin, attach the sheriff's badge onto the child's shirt.



- Gold or yellow paper
- Sequins
- Star sticker
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black pen
- Safety pin (optional)

Games



Horseshoes Game

Cut horseshoe shapes out of cardboard. Tape pieces of metal (nuts, washers, screws, etc.) to the cardboard and cover the horse shoe with foil. Tape two cans together end to end. Set up the cans on one end of the room and allow the children to throw the horseshoes at the cans. Whoever gets the horse shoe around the can is the winner.



- Foil
- Cardboard
- Little pieces of metal (for weight)
- Scissors
- Tape
- 2 Cans with the labels removed



Cattle Corral Game

Tape or ribbon to mark off the corral area

In this game one player is the rancher, trying to corral the cattle. The remaining players are the cattle. Ahead of time, mark-off a square to be the corral. Let the children run around freely, while trying to avoid being tagged by the rancher. When a player is tagged, he must go and stand in the corral. Another of the cattle players can go into the corral and tag him to set him free, but if that player is caught by the rancher while doing so, he also becomes a rancher and must help gather the remaining players. The game continues until all the cattle players are in the corral and only ranchers remain outside of the boxed area.



Decorations



Paper Garland

- Paper in various colors
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Hole-punch



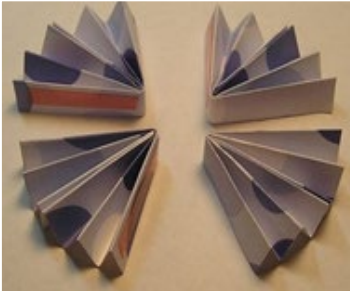
Cut triangles out of paper. Using the hole-punch, make holes in the short side of the triangles. Thread your ribbon through to make a garland. Leave some space at the end of the ribbon to allow you to hang the garland.



Rosette

- Paper
- Tape
- Glue

Fold paper into fans. Tape the last edge of the fan to the last edge of another fan until you have a circle. Make different sizes and glue them together for a very fun look. Attach decorations on top to match the theme of your VBS.



Cactus Scene

- Large pieces of yellow, green and brown paper
- Red paper
- Empty plastic bags
- Scissors
- Glue, tape, or stapler

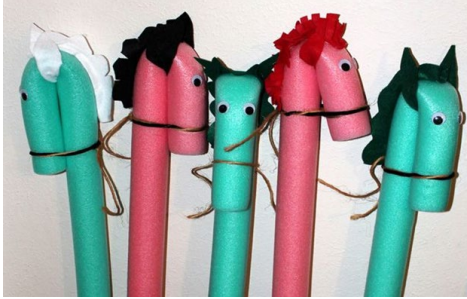
Cut out two sides of a sun in any shape you like. Staple around most of the way then puff it out by stuffing it with plastic bags. Close off the opening by stapling it shut. Cut out two sides of green paper in the shape of

a cactus. In the same way, staple around it, fill it with plastic bags, and staple it closed. To make the ground, take brown paper and make two long and skinny sides. Crumple it some then smooth it flat. Use the same process as before to stuff the brown ground. Cut flowers out of red paper and glue them onto the cactus. Make marks on the cactus with a black pen to look like the spines.





Pool Noodle Horse



Bend the top part of a pool noodle and use a string to hold it in place. Leave the long ends of the strings for the reins of the horse. Glue on the large wiggly

eyes. Use colored foamy to make the forelock and mane of the horse. Use hot glue to attach the foamy.

- Pool noodle
- Large wiggly eyes
- Various colors of foamy
- Scissors
- String
- Hot glue gun



Wanted Poster Banner

Tear out one rectangle piece of paper for each child in your class. Write "wanted" at the top and his/her name along the side. Glue the picture of the child in the center of the rectangle. Add details

- Pictures of the children in your class
- Brown paper
- Black pen
- String
- Wooden Clothes pins
- Glue



about the child under his/her picture. Use clothespins to attach to a string and hang the string across a wall.



Cowboy Commandments

Using the black pen, write the Ten Commandments using “cowboy” slang. Use scissors to cut it out.

Example:

1. Just one God
2. Put nothin' before God
3. Watch yer mouth
4. Git yerself to Sunday meetin'
5. Honor yer Ma & Pa
6. No killin'
7. No foolin' around with another fella's gal
8. Don't take what ain't yers
9. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

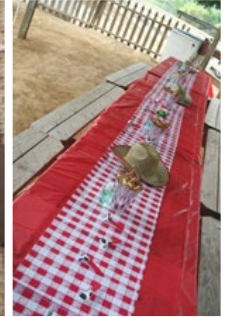
- Brown paper
- Black pen
- Scissors



Simple Decorating Ideas

Use cowboy-themed items to decorate your VBS! If you don't have the real things, be creative and make them out of paper (pics on next page).

- Bandanas
- Horseshoes
- Ropes
- Bales of hay or straw
- Jars
- Red and white checkered tablecloths
- Blue and white checkered tablecloths
- Cow print fabric
- Cowboy hats
- Cowboy boots



Angie Kangas is a faithful wife, mother of two, and a serious craftaholic who loves to bake and spend time with friends.



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Sheriff Ideas Booklet

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