

Old West Games



**“Sheriff’s Hacienda”
Vacation Bible School**

Pamphlet for the leader of
Old West Games



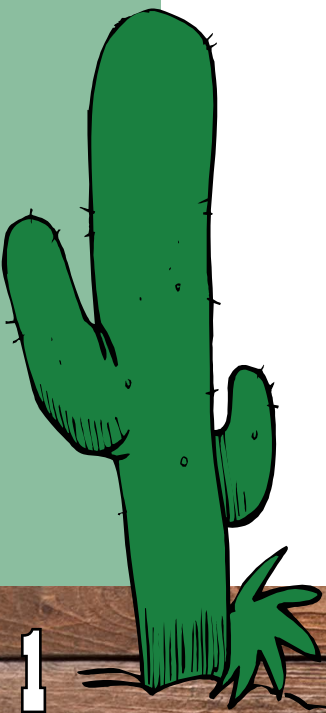
The “Old West Games” will be a favorite station with two games provided each day for lots of fun. Plan ahead for each game, and make sure you have all the supplies needed onsite.

Competition can be a really fun part of your VBS, but it is totally optional. In order to keep the groups even, divide each age group into four groups. Bandanas are an easy way to show which team each child belongs to. For example, you could have the blue team, red team, yellow team, and green team. Give each team a fun, creative name. Each age group would then have children who were a part of each of the four color teams. Likewise, each of the four teams would have some children from all ages included.

There are many areas in a VBS where points can be earned, but the easiest area is the “Old West Games.” Be sure to encourage friendly team rivalry in the competitions. As the leader of the games, it is important that you take notes on which groups win the games each day and that you report the winning teams back to the VBS director.

If you can, make plans with the VBS director to have some sort of reward for the team that wins at the end of the week!
Alright cowboy, have fun with these games!

Four bandana colors for four teams



Lesson 1

Wanted

Supplies

Watermelon
String, tape, or a line in the dirt
Two horse heads (fabric, paper, cardboard, etc.)
Bale of hay (or stick the “horse” into the ground)
Hula hoops
Ropes

Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest

Divide the kids by their team colors. Make a line on the floor with a string or tape for all the kids to stand on. Give each child a piece of watermelon and have them collect the seeds. Have each team take turns spitting the seeds. Mark who spit the furthest seed to see which team wins.

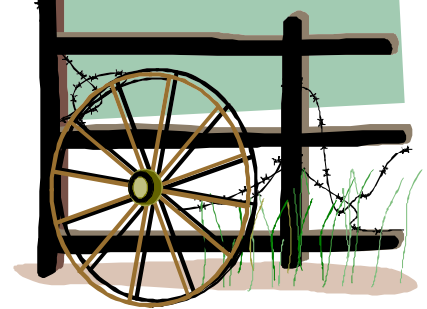
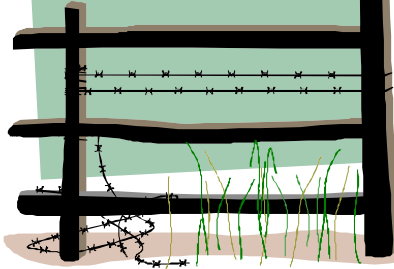


Rope the Pony

Make two pony heads on broomsticks or poles and stick them into the ground or bales of hay. Create two lassos out of hula hoops and ropes by tying a rope to a hula hoop. Divide your group into color teams and have the children take turns trying to lasso the pony.

Lesson 2

Jailed



Supplies

String, tape, or lines in the dirt to mark the start and finish lines

Bananas

String

Ball



Wheel Barrow Race

Divide the children into their color teams and have them pick a partner. Have one child lie on the ground on their stomach while the other child grabs their ankles and lifts their legs in the air. (This is the wheel barrow position.) The pairs of children race one another to the finish line.



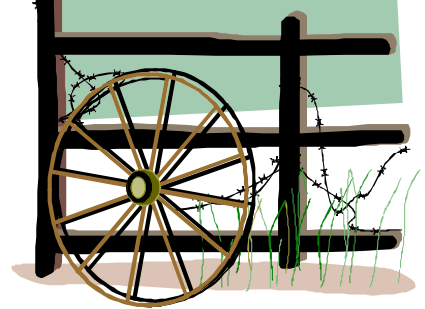
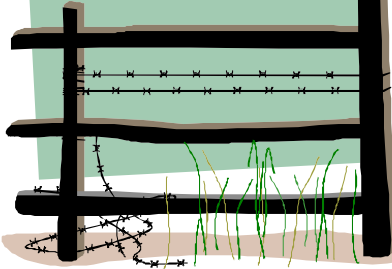
Inside or Outside Banana Olympics (Relay Race)

Divide your class into their color teams. Give each team a banana. Using the ideas below choose one of the races or use them all.

1. Place the banana between the knees and hop to the finish line and back.
2. Two teammates toss the banana back and forth down to the finish line and back.
3. Children put the banana under their armpit and hop on one leg down and back, one person at a time.
4. Each player has a banana tied to a string that is tied around their waist. Use the banana to roll a ball to the finish line. (Pictured here.)

Lesson 3

Bailed



Supplies

- Thick rope
- String or a line in the dirt marking the middle
- Long rags (or the students' bandanas)
- String, tape, or lines in the dirt marking the start and finish lines



Tug o' War

You need a thick rope for this game with a large knot tied in each end. The rope needs to be thick enough that it will not burn the children's hands. Divide the children into their color teams. Have one team line up and grab one end of the rope; have another team do the same on the other end. Mark the middle of the rope with a line in the dirt. The children pull the rope as a team and try to pull the other team over the middle line. Repeat the tug o' war game with the other two teams. Then have the two winning teams compete against each other.



Three-Legged Race

Have the children divide into their color teams and pick a partner. The partners stand side by side. Using a long rag, tie their touching legs together. They have to run on their "three" legs to the finish line. Whichever team gets there first wins!

Lesson 4

Branded

Supplies

Large drawn or painted paper cow
Painted or drawn paper brands, enough for a rotation and a few extra

Blindfolds
Tape
Apples
Large container
Water



Blindfold Branding

Draw a large picture of a cow on a piece of paper. Cut out one paper horseshoe per child about the size of a brand that you would put on the cow. Draw a circle on the rump of the cow where the brand should go. Line the children up. During each child's turn, blindfold him, put tape on his horseshoe, and turn him in circles. Then point him in the direction of the cow and have him "brand" the cow. Whoever is the closest to the circle wins.



Bobbing for Apples

You will need a container large enough that a child can bend over and stick their face inside. Fill the container with water and drop in one apple per child. Each child takes a turn trying to get an apple out of the water using only their mouth, no hands! The children will have great fun; this does not need to be a competition.

Lesson 5

Deputized

Supplies

- String, chairs, or a line in the dirt to mark the start and finish lines
- Balloons of two colors
- Four brooms or water noodles (poles with soft ends in case of whacks)



Leap Frog

Divide the children into color teams and line them up. The first person in line bends over like a frog. Then the second person puts their hands on the frog's back and leaps over. As soon as they are over, they bend down like a frog as well, continuing as each child leaps over the frogs making a full line of frogs. Keep going until one team reaches the finish line.



Round up the herd

Divide your group into color teams. For each team you will need two brooms or water noodles and six balloons, three of one color and three of another. Set two chairs at the other end of the room/hall. Each team member has to use the broom to sweep the "herd" of balloons to the other end of the room, around a chair and back to the next team member. Have a few spare balloons handy in case some pop!

Extra games



Sack Race

If you can find big sacks (like flour sacks, potato sacks, gunny sacks, etc.), a sack race is lots of fun.

Balloon Stampede

Fill your play area with balloons. Then set the children loose on a balloon-popping stampede. Fill the balloons with prizes such as cowboy stickers and temporary tattoos prior to inflating. Once the stampede is over, kids can go back and collect the prizes.



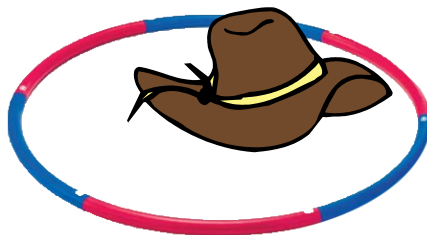
Balloon Stomp

Tie a balloon on the ankle of each child. Their goal is to try to pop the other children's balloons without getting their own balloon popped. The winner is the person who still has a balloon tied to his/her foot.



Cowboy Hat in the Ring Toss

Place a hula hoop on the ground. Have your little cowboys line up behind a line and try to toss their hats into the ring. (Or have a few hats available for the game.) Award a prize to players who land their cowboy hats inside the hula hoop. You can also draw a large bull's-eye target on the lawn and have the player whose hat lands closest to the bull's-eye win the game.



The Children
Count