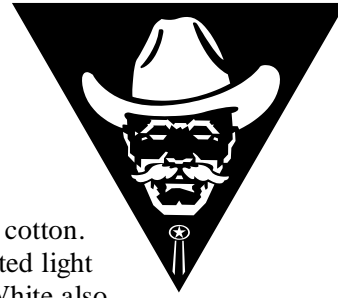


Bandana



Every Cowboy wore a *Bandana*. It was just about the most useful piece of equipment a cowboy owned. A bandana was a large handkerchief, usually red printed cotton. Cowboys wouldn't wear white ones, because they reflected light and could be seen at a distance and could spook cattle. White also got dirty. The bandana was usually worn folded in half diagonally and tied in a knot around the neck. The knot was worn in the back and the bandana hung loosely around the neck. That way, it could be pulled over the nose and mouth when riding in the dust behind cattle. It would protect the face from harsh wind, too. In the morning, a cowboy could use a bandana to wash his face. If he needed a blindfold for a nervous horse, he could use his bandana, tied over the horse's eyes. A bandana was useful to wipe away sweat, as a hot pad to protect his hand when holding a hot branding iron and to bind up wounds. In a fierce wind, a bandana could tie a hat to a cowboy's head. It could also be used as a flag to signal across the Plains to someone else.

Make Your Own Bandana

Supplies Needed:

(Supplies can be found at local hobby and craft stores.)

22" x 22" red cotton fabric per child

Black and White acrylic paint or fabric paint

Stamp Designs (cowboy hat, horse, cactus, cow, etc.)

Plastic Plates

Newspaper

Directions:

Cut fabric into 22" x 22" squares.

Zigzag stitch the edge
or leave unfinished.

Lay fabric on top of newspaper.

Pour paint in plastic plates.

Dip Stamp designs into paint.

Practice on scrap fabric or paper
to see how much paint should
be applied to the stamp.

Print the design on the red fabric in a
symmetrical pattern - same on both sides.

Allow time for the fabric to dry.

Fold in half and tie around neck.



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