# Grade 5: Unit 5, Lesson 23

**Title:** *Vaqueros: America’s First Cowboys*

**Essential Question:** How has the Vaquero culture developed and changed over time?

**Week 1**

Questions to ask and discuss while reading:

**Summarize the methods the Spanish used to colonize territories in North America.**  *Columbus’ voyage in 1492 opened up the Americas to colonization. When the Spanish first came to North America, they brought settlers, horses and cattle for food. The natives were enslaved. The Spanish rewarded explorers with land gifts where ranches were built. Priests built churches and missions along the coast extending and claiming land for Spain and the church. Soldiers and others settled there and established ranches. Vaqueros worked on the large ranches herding the cattle.*

**What do the details in the text suggest about the traits of a successful vaquero?**

*He had to love the outdoors; he had to accept uncomfortable living conditions; he had to be at home in the saddle (an excellent horseman). The vaqueros had to work together to move large herds of cattle, so working together would be important. A vaquero also had to be outdoors in all sorts of weather and had to have the proper tools for the job. He also would have to be a good roper and physically strong to deal with the cattle branding.*

**What do the details in the text show about the rise and fall of the vaquero culture?**

*The number of vaqueros increased as freed slaves and easterners came west. Vaqueros were needed for the huge cattle drives. The invention of barbed wire, however, began to make vaqueros obsolete.*

**What evidence does the author provide to support the point that the vaquero culture continued to influence mainstream culture?**

*The author includes a Tom Mix movie poster; he says “at the turn of the century the cowboy became the hero of the west.” Cowboy movies, books, and magazines became very popular and “featured the brave exploits of the American cowboy.” Today two countries celebrate the arts and skills of the vaquero - Mexico and the U.S. El dia del charro and rodeos are two ways this way of life continues to celebrate and influence culture.*

**Written Response**

**Option 1**

Although the lives of the vaqueros changed over time, they had a lasting effect on America. Write a paragraph in which you explain what changes the vaqueros went through. *(Adding on in Week 2 and how they had a strong influence on culture in the United States).* Use specific details, direct quotations, and other text evidence to support your explanation.

**Sample Student Response**

 *Vaqueros played an important role in the history of America. The vaquero, or cow man, first appeared when the Spanish brought cattle to New Spain, the area of that is now the western U.S. Some of the vaqueros were natives forced to work for the expanding numbers of settlers. The vaquero’s way of life was difficult. It took many vaqueros to round up or rodeo livestock. A vaquero did not own his horse, but did own his equipment. A vaquero’s equipment included a sombrero, chaparreras, lasso and saddle. The most important tool was the lasso which they used to rodeo or round up the wild mustangs and longhorns. As the ranchers prospered, conflicts happened over land. The barbed wire fence was invented and the decline of the vaquero began. The railroad, too, changed the west because cattle could be delivered by train rather than being herded. Vaqueros will be remembered for their skillful horsemanship to bring livestock and horses to the hacienda (ranches) on long cattle drives. They are remembered today through traditional rodeos, books, tv and movies.*

**Option 2**

Describe the rise and fall of the vaquero culture in America.

**Sample Student Response**

 *Columbus first introduced livestock and horses to America in 1492. In 1540, Coronado brought 500 longhorn cattle to the northern territory. By the 1800’s longhorns had grown to ten million across the Texas plains. This sprawling land was so vast that ranchers needed help in rounding up livestock which later became rodeos. This was the time period when vaqueros became important to the culture of America. According to the author, soldiers and priests of New Spain were skilled horseman that needed help in rounding up the cattle. They focused on the natives; even though it was against the law for natives to ride horses. They taught the native converts to ride and use the lasso. These skilled workers were called vaqueros. Vaqueros had to surround a herd using their lassos to round them up. Then move the herds to the ranches or to be sold. Also, vaqueros were needed to round up wild mustangs. The decline of the vaqueros started with the invention of barbed wire fences to keep the livestock inside their pastures and the coming of the railroad that could deliver cattle more easily. Even though the need for vaqueros declined, the American cowboy culture continues to live on for those dedicated to the ranching life.*

**Week 2, Building Knowledge: Extending the Topic**

**Essential Question:** Why does the cowboy lifestyle and tradition still appeal to many Americans?

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| Cumulative Activities – The following activities should be completed and updated after reading each resource this week. The purpose of these activities is to capture knowledge building from one resource to the next, and to provide a holistic snapshot of central ideas of the content covered in response to the essential question. *It is recommended that students are required to complete one of the Cumulative Activities (Rolling Knowledge Journal or Rolling Vocabulary) for the week.* |

**Rolling Vocabulary: “Sensational Six”**

* Read each resource then determine the 6 words from each text that most exemplify (show best) the central idea of the text.
* Next use your 6 words to write about the most important idea of the text. You should have as many sentences as you do words.
* Continue this activity with EACH selection in the text set.
* After reading all the selections in the Expert Pack, go back and review your words.
* Now select the “Sensational Six” words from **ALL** the word lists.
* Use the “Sensational Six” words to summarize the most important learning from this text set.

**Sample Student Response**

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| **Title** | **Six Vocabulary Words & Sentences** |
| *Rodeo!* | **Words: frontier, arenas, prospered, sprawling, feats, dominated****Sentences:**1. The **frontier** provided wide open spaces for the vaqueros to graze cattle.
2. Today’s rodeos are held in outdoor **arenas**.
3. From the 1860s through the 1890s cattle ranchers **prospered**, or made a lot of money.
4. **Sprawling** rangeland required that cowboys kept control of the herds of cattle.
5. **Feats** of roping skill and cowriding are shown at rodeos.
6. The Spaniards coming to the west **dominated** the natives and enslaved them.
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| *How Barbed Wire Changed the West* | **Words: ingenuity, steadily, prosperous, homestead, intriguing, patent****Sentences:**1. Barbed wire was an ingenious invention, but it caused conflict. It is a story of **ingenuity**.
2. The U.S. government was **steadily** taking over the lands in the west.
3. The pioneers dreamed of owning a **prosperous** farm.
4. The **Homestead** Act allowed people to get 160 acres of land on the frontier for free.
5. Farmers found Henry Rose’s fence idea **intriguing**; that is, they were interested in it.
6. Glidden eventually got the **patent** for the barbed wire fence.
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| *In the Days of Missions and Ranchos*  | **Words: extending, missions, residents, dominate, acknowledged, ranchos****Sentences:** 1. One way of **extending** power was to send settlers to the frontier.
2. **Missions** were churches built in the Spanish territory.
3. Some of the natives became **residents** of the missions because they gave them food.
4. The missions grew and came to **dominate** large areas.
5. Some Native Americans **acknowledged** the Spanish way of life, others tried to escape.
6. Mexico gave mission lands to people who became rich because they owned the large **ranchos**.
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| *All About the Rodeo: The Rodeo* | **Words: sponsors, replica, venues, capacity, sanctions, gore****Sentences:** 1. **Sponsors** provide money for rodeo events.
2. Rodeo is not an exact **replica** of life in the west.
3. **Venues** are the places rodeos are held.
4. Different venues have different seating **capacity**.
5. Rodeo organizations **sanction** over 700 rodeos per year.
6. Some cowboys risk being **gored** by a bullhorn to win prize money.
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| *Modern Day Western Cowboy* | **Words: driven, tradition, lifestyle, cow sense, hands, pasture****Sentences:** 1. Cattle would be **driven** to California by cowboys.
2. Cowboys are carrying on a **tradition** of the Old West.
3. Working with cattle on a ranch is a **lifestyle** that is hard.
4. A valuable horse has **cow sense**.
5. Horses are measured in **hands.**
6. The pasture is the grassy space where the cattle **graze**.
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| *Kansas cattle rounded up just like in Old West days* | **Words: spurs, herded, shipping, vast, ranchers, generations****Sentences:**1. The cowboy’s **spurs** helped him control the horse.
2. The cattle were **herded** into the round pen.
3. **Shipping** cattle to market was a cowboy’s job.
4. The cattle grazed on the **vast** lands of the west.
5. **Ranchers** worked long hours herding their cattle.
6. There are many **generations** of cowboys out west.
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| *History of the Rodeo Cowgirl (timeline)* | **Words: steer-roping, horsemanship, barrel racing, evolved, necessity, formation****Sentences:**1. Cowboys had to learn the art of **steer-roping** to be successful.2. Most cowboys showed great **horsemanship** during the roundup.3. **Barrel racing** is a competitive sport that many young girls enjoy.4. The life of a vaquero **evolved** into a competitive sport.5. It was a **necessity** that women help on the ranch. 6. The cowboys lead the cattle in **formation** on the trail. |
| **Sensational Six**: **horsemanship, herding, tradition, ingenuity, frontier, extending** |
| **Summary:** Modern day rodeos carry on the **tradition** begun by the vaqueros, the first cowboys. The **horsemanship** necessary for **herding** cattle on the **frontier** continues to beshown in competitive events. The story of how missions and the settlers **extended** to change the west involves **ingenuity** and conflict. As more settlers came and fenced land in, the ways of the Old West declined. Today rodeos try to keep that Old West spirit alive.  |

**Rolling Knowledge**

1. Read each selection in the set, one at a time.
2. After you read *each* resource, stop and think what the big learning was. What did you learn that was new *and important* about the topic from *this* resource?
3. Write, draw, or list what you learned from the text about (topic). Then write, draw, or list how this new resource added to what you learned from the last resource(s).

**Sample Student Response**

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| **Write, Draw, or List** |
| **Title** | **New and important learning about the topic** | **How does this add to what I learned already?** |
| 1. *Rodeo*
 | After the decline of the cowboys because of barbed wire, rodeos became popular. Cowboys could show their skills in rodeos. | Rodeos carried on the tradition of cowboys. |
| *2. How Barbed Wire Changed the West* | Several different approaches to fencing were tried before a number of inventors started working on barbed wire. There ended up being patent wars over who really invented barbed wire. First, the fencing was sold to farmers and later ranchers. Fence wars broke out and ranchers would cut farmer and other rancher’s fences. In 1884 it became illegal to cut fences. The fences also limited cattle movement and caused animal deaths.  | The invention of barbed wire and the fencing of the western lands contributed to the decline of the vaqueros.  |
| *3. In the Days of Missions and Ranchos* | Missions were established for the settlers and to try to convert the local American Indians to their religion, Catholicism. Missions grew into communities that were later given away as ranchos. Many local Indians were enslaved to work at the missions.  | The Spanish came to the western lands and brought cattle. |
| *4. All About the Rodeo: The Rodeo* | Cars and electricity were coming to the Old West and changing the way people lived.  | Cowboys learned some of their skills from the vaqueros. The Old West was coming to an end due to the railroads. Rodeos became local festivals.  |
| *5. Modern Day Western Cowboy video*  | Cowboys still work on ranches. It is not glamorous work. Dogs are helpful on the ranch. Cowboys get up early in the morning and work late in the day. They have to check on the health of their horses and dogs. If they have problems, they have to work on them before they can round up their herd. | A cowboy’s work is never finished. It is a dirty, rough and hard job. The health of their horses is as important as their equipment used to care for the cattle. All kinds of accidents and health problems can arise when working on a ranch. |
| *6. Kansas cattle rounded up just like in Old West days* | Today, cowboys still round up their cattle to take them to the stockyards. The round ups are carried out much the same way as the past. Cowboys dress has not changed and the work is difficult. | A cowboy’s job is the same as the past. Sometimes, trucks are used instead of horses. Women also perform a cowboy’s job today. |
| *7. History of the Rodeo Cowgirl (timeline)* | In the 1800’s women could not be cowboys. In 1900’s the early beginnings of the cowgirl started with women competing in steer roping and bronc riding. Horsemanship pageants and horsemanship displays later started for women as a sport competitions. | Cowgirls evolved from pioneer women. Women were not recognized as cowgirls until the 1900’s. Cowgirls show their skills in rodeos. |

**Week 2 Written Response**

Although the lives of the vaqueros changed over time, they had a lasting effect on America. Write a paragraph in which you explain what changes the vaqueros went through and how they had a strong influence on culture in the United States. Use specific details, direct quotations, and other text evidence to support your explanation.

**Sample Student Response**

 *In early America, the vaqueros now known as cowboys were very important in the west for keeping and herding cattle. Vaqueros had many horsemanship skills to bring livestock and horses to the hacienda (ranches) on long cattle drives. The vaquero’s way of life was difficult. It took many vaqueros to round up or rodeo livestock. A vaquero did not own his horse, but did own his equipment. A vaquero’s equipment included sombreros, chaparreras, lasso and a saddle. Their most important tool was the lasso because this is what they used to rodeo or round up the wild mustangs and longhorns. They had to be able to control their herd using their lasso swinging it in a loop above the head to rope the cow’s neck and heel to catch them. Farmers began using barbed wire in the early 1900’s to keep their cattle enclosed on certain property. Subsequently, the need for vaqueros declined. Vaqueros or cowboys were still an important part of American culture. They began using their skills in rodeo competitions. Cowboys became heroes of the American West according to the text. Women began to participate in rodeos using skills from the pioneer days. Women were calf roping, barrel racing and displaying their own horsemanship skills. There are still cowboys around today working at cattle ranches. Yet, they will continue to be remembered with the traditional rodeos, books, tv and movies.*

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| Note to Teacher: *It might be useful for this lesson to begin with the leveled and vocabulary readers to build historical knowledge in advance of reading Vaqueros: America’s First Cowboys. The reader, In the Days of Missions and Ranchos could provide additional evidence for many of the discussion questions. Also, the Teacher Read Aloud, The Turbulent History of Texas, is worth adding to the reading assignment.*  |

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**Title:** *Vaqueros*

**Essential Question:** How has the Vaquero culture developed and changed over time?

*This is a note taking form for you to collect thoughts and evidence during your reading and class discussions. You can use this when you write your essay later.*

Summarize the methods the Spanish used to colonize territories in North America**.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What do the details in the text suggest about the traits of a successful vaquero? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What do the details in the text show about the rise and fall of the vaquero culture? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What evidence does the author provide to support the point that the vaquero culture continued to influence mainstream culture? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 1 Written Response**

**Prompt #1:**

Although the lives of the vaqueros changed over time, they had a lasting effect on America. Write a paragraph in which you explain what changes the vaqueros went through. (Adding on in Week 2 and how they had a strong influence on culture in the United States). Use specific details, direct quotations, and other text evidence to support your explanation.

**Prompt #2:**

Describe the rise and fall of the vaquero culture in America.

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**Building Knowledge: Extending the Topic**

**Essential Question:** Why does the cowboy lifestyle and tradition still appeal to many Americans?

**Rolling Vocabulary: “Sensational Six”**

* Read each resource then determine the 6 words from each text that most exemplify (show best) the central idea of the text.
* Next use your 6 words to write about the most important idea of the text. You should have as many sentences as you do words.
* Continue this activity with EACH selection in the text set.
* After reading all the selections in the Expert Pack, go back and review your words.
* Now select the “Sensational Six” words from **ALL** the word lists.
* Use the “Sensational Six” words to summarize the most important learning from this text set.

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| **Title** | **Six Vocabulary Words & Sentences** |
| *Rodeo!* | Words: Sentences: 1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *How Barbed Wire Changed the West* | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *In the Days of Missions and Ranchos* | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *All About the Rodeo: The Rodeo* | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *Modern Day Western Cowboy video*  | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *Kansas cattle rounded up just like in Old West days* | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| *History of the Rodeo Cowgirl (timeline)* | Words: Sentences:1.2.3.4.5.6.  |
| **Sensational Six:** |
| **Summary:** |

**Rolling Knowledge Journal**

1. Read each selection in the set, one at a time.
2. After you read *each* resource, stop and think what the big learning was. What did you learn that was new *and important* about the topic from *this* resource? Write, draw, or list what you learned from the text about (topic).
3. Then write, draw, or list how this new resource added to what you learned from the last resource(s).

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| **Write, Draw, or List** |
| **Title** | **New and important learning** **about the topic** | **How does this resource add to what I learned already?** |
| 1. *Rodeo!*
 |  |  |
| 1. *How Barbed Wire Changed the West*
 |  |  |
| 1. *In the Days of Missions and Ranchos*
 |  |  |
| 1. *All About the Rodeo: The Rodeo*
 |  |  |
| 1. *Modern Day Western Cowboy video*
 |  |  |
| *6. Kansas cattle rounded up just like in Old West days* |  |  |
| *7. History of the Rodeo Cowgirl (timeline)* |  |  |

**Week 2 Written Response (optional)**

Although the lives of the vaqueros changed over time, they had a lasting effect on America. Write a paragraph in which you explain what changes the vaqueros went through and how they had a strong influence on culture in the United States. Use specific details, direct quotations, and other text evidence to support your explanation.

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