



Scavenger Hunt Imagining the West

The American West is a real place that includes all areas of the United States east of the mighty Mississippi River. In many books, movies, and television shows, the West has also been a fictional place that people have created using their imaginations. Explore the different ways people have imagined the American West using the clues below.

Find Michael Jackson's glittery glove to "thrill" your friends and family.

The American West inspired many of singer Michael Jackson's stage costumes. These costumes mixed traditional Western clothing with Jackson's signature bold style.



Dennis Tompkins and Michael Bush, designers. Worn by Michael Jackson on the cover of *Vibe* magazine in March 2002; this is the last glove Jackson was photographed wearing. From the Tompkins/Bush Collection; LT2010-64-10

A dime novel called *Old Solitary, The Hermit Trapper, or The Dragon of Silverlake*, is hiding in the museum. Can you find it?

Before comic books, dime novels ruled. Named after their price, dime novels were often filled with stories of frontiersmen, settlers, and heroism. These fanciful stories helped to create myths, make-believe, or grandiose stories about the American West.



Oll Coomes, *Old Solitary, The Hermit Trapper, or The Dragon of Silverlake* from Beadle's Half-Dime Library, no.178. New York: Beadle and Adams, 1880. Autry Museum; 88.34.245



Can you find a room filled with landscape paintings in the museum?

Landscape painters are artists who reimagine places. These artists create fantastic, often imaginary, landscapes that can include mountains, water, trees, and animals.

Take a close look at the wall of paintings. Which painting is your favorite?

Is there something special about this painting that you like the most?

Imagine you're a cowboy hero

Look for a saddle in the Imagination Gallery that turns you into a Western movie star.

Hint: This saddle is located in front of a large green screen. To start the movies, press the silver button on the saddle and hold on tight!



Can you find a picture of a cowboy riding a horse?

Artist David Levinthal used toys and figurines to create this photograph as part of his Wild West series. Try it at home—can you turn your toys into art?

