What is the American West?

PART 1 - The Autry Museum of the American West is located in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California. The Autry Museum is a museum about the American West. There are a lot of different opinions about what the American West is.

When you think of the American West, what words, phrases, and images pop into your mind? Write these words, phrases, and images in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

American West Words, Phrases, and Images
PART 2 – Why do you think the words, phrases, and images you wrote about in PART 1 popped into your mind when you thought of the American West? Where do you think you got these ideas from? Write your answers to these questions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

What is the American West?
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PART 3 – Some of the words, phrases, and images that popped into your mind might be based on the imagined West from fiction books, movies, and television programs about Westerns. Some of the other words, phrases, and images that popped into your mind might be based on the actual American West from non-fiction books, movies, television programs, and your own experiences with the American West.

Is the American West a time-period from the past or a place? Why do you think so? Write your answers to these questions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

Glossary

Westerns: books, movies, and television and radio shows about life in the western United States, usually involving cowboys, especially in the last part of the 19th century
PART 4 – The American West isn’t just a time-period from the past. The American West is a place that includes all of the animals, land, people, plants, and types of water in it. When we think about the American West, we should be thinking about the past, the present, and the future of the American West. Now think about where the American West is located. Look at the United States map below.

Which states are located in the American West? Write the names of the states that you think are located in the American West in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

States in the American West
The Autry Museum recognizes that the American West is huge and that it includes lots of different people who have stories to tell. The Autry’s mission is to bring together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. The Autry Museum shares as many of these stories as possible through education, exhibitions, and programs.

Learn more about the stories the Autry Museum shares by going to the Autry Museum’s website at TheAutry.org. Look for and click on EXHIBITIONS. Click on the titles of three different exhibitions. Read about the exhibitions and look at the images. Then write at least one new thing that you learned about each of these exhibitions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

1. 

2. 

3. 

Glossary

Exhibitions: displays of artifacts for people to look at in a public place
Mission: goal, objective, or purpose
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PART 6 - After learning more about the American West and the Autry Museum, what words, phrases, and images would you add to the previous list that you created in PART 1? Write these additional words, phrases, and images in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

Additional American West Words, Phrases, and Images
**PART 7 –** The Autry Museum tells stories about the different peoples of the American West through artifacts such as documents, objects, and artwork. Artwork can be drawings, paintings, performances, photographs, **sculptures**, and so much more.

Choose one of the American West words, phrases, or images that you wrote about in PARTS 1 or 6. Then create a drawing, painting, performance, photograph, or sculpture that tells a story about the American West word, phrase, or image you selected. Plan your artwork before creating it by writing your answers to the questions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>ANSWER EXAMPLES</th>
<th>ARTWORK PLAN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which American West word, phrase, or image did you select?</td>
<td>Choose one American West word, phrase, or image from PARTS 1 or 6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| What type of artwork will you create? | Drawing  
Painting  
Performance  
Photograph  
Sculpture  
Other | |
| What materials will you use to create your artwork? | Camera  
Colored Pencils  
Costumes  
Crayons  
Markers  
Music  
Paint  
Paper  
Pens  
Pencils  
Props (Objects used in a performance.)  
Other: Cotton balls, paper towel rolls, popsicle sticks, etc. | |
| What story will your artwork tell about the American West word, phrase, or image you selected? What will your artwork represent? | You can tell a story about your American West word, phrase, or image by showing one or more of the following in your artwork:  
Animals  
Land  
People  
Plants  
Types of Water  
Other | |

**Glossary**

**Represent:** serve as a sign or symbol  
**Sculptures:** three-dimensional works of art made by artists out of materials that are used in interesting ways
What is the American West?

PART 8 – Create your artwork using your Artwork Plan from PART 7. Depending on the type of artwork you are creating, please feel free to use the space below or a separate piece of paper to create your artwork. Include a title for your artwork.

Artwork Title: ____________________________________________
What is the American West?

PART 9 – After creating your artwork, share the story your artwork tells, or what your artwork represents, by describing it in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.
Resources

United States of America Map Illustration by Alban Cooper

Do you want to see the artwork you created on our Instagram or Twitter?

Ask an adult to send a photograph of the artwork you created along with your name, your age, and the title of your artwork to outreach@theautry.org for a chance to be featured on our social media! Accepting work from artists of all ages. Must be 18-years or older to submit.