



Especially

for

kids

and their

families

# The Mini Page®

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By BETTY DEBNAM

## Soldiers, Pioneers and Cowboys

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# Blacks in the West

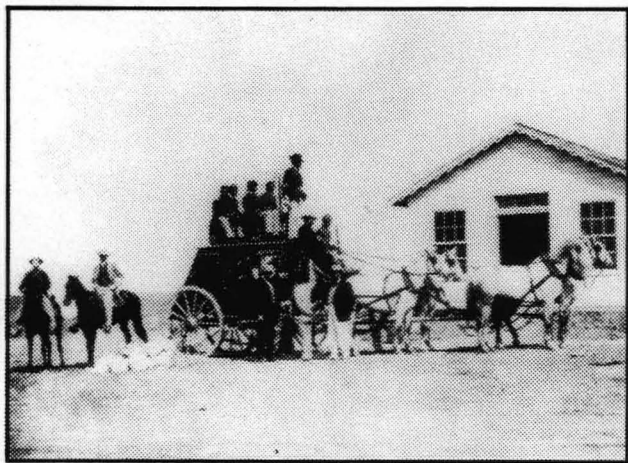


photo courtesy National Archives

Black soldiers guard a stagecoach.

## Buffalo soldiers

Buffalo soldiers belonged to black army units that served in the West.

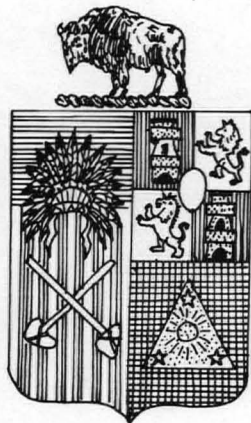
They got their nickname from the Indians they fought. Their curly hair and bravery reminded the Indians of the buffalo, which they respected very much.

After 1865, nearly one out of every five cavalrymen was black.

They felt a sense of pride in wearing their uniform and serving their country. They were commanded by white officers.

A soldier's life on the frontier was not just fighting. Buffalo soldiers' other work included:

- keeping order in town
- arresting rustlers
- guarding stagecoaches
- building forts and roads.

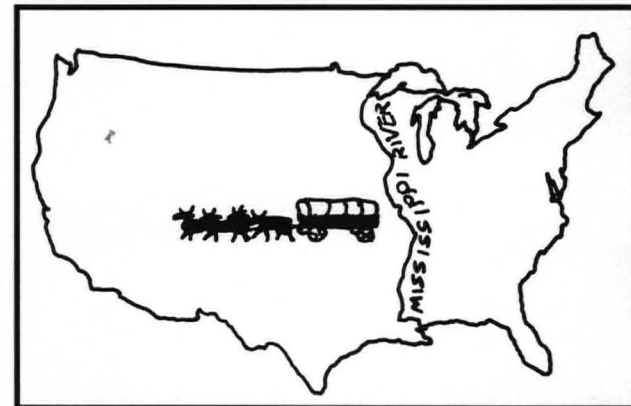


The 10th Cavalry, a black unit, used the buffalo as its symbol.



artwork courtesy National Archives

The famous western artist Frederic Remington made this drawing of a buffalo soldier in the 1800s.



The land west of the Mississippi River is what we think of when we think of the Old West.



photo courtesy Solomon D. Butcher Collection, Nebraska State Historical Society

A family in front of their sod house in Nebraska in 1887. Since there were few trees on the plains, many people built their first homes of sod (a layer of soil, held together by roots.)

## Pioneers

Beginning in 1862, the U.S. government offered free land to people who would move out West. They had to plant a crop and build a house and settle in before they could really own the land. This was called "homesteading."

Although life was hard for homesteaders, by 1910 there were a million black settlers west of the Mississippi River.

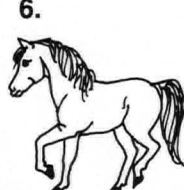
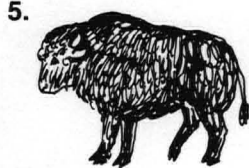
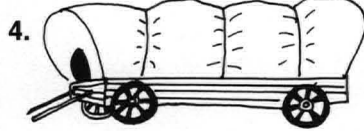


# PETER PENGUIN'S PUZZLE LE-DO

Fill in the blanks with these Old West words.

**Across:**

**Down**

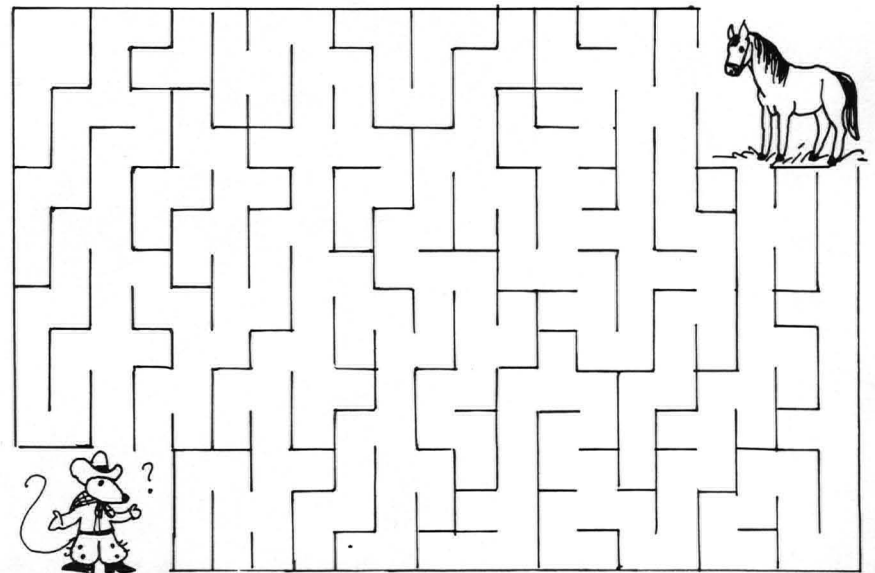


Answers: 1. Indian, 2. cowboy, 3. saddle, 4. wagon, 5. buffalo, 6. horse.



# MAZE

Alpha Mouse can't find his horse. Can you help him?



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# Rookie Cookie's Recipe Peanut French Toast

**You'll need:**

- 8 slices bread • 2 tablespoons margarine
- 4 eggs • 8 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/2 cup milk • 2 bananas, thinly sliced

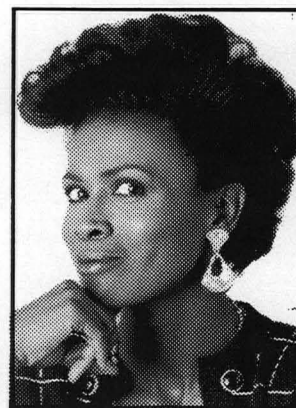
**What to do:**

- Spread 1/4 of peanut butter on each of 4 slices of bread. Place 1/4 banana slices on top. Cover with remaining bread slices.
- In a medium bowl, combine eggs and milk. Beat well.
- Melt margarine in a large skillet over medium heat.
- Dip each sandwich in the egg mixture to coat bread completely.
- Place sandwiches in skillet. Cook on each side until browned.

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# Meet Janet Hubert-Whitten



Janet Hubert-Whitten plays wife and mother Vivian Banks on "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air."

Janet is from Momence, Ill. After graduating from high school, she got a scholarship to study theater at the Julliard School in New York.

In her first professional acting job, she toured the country performing in the Broadway show "Dancin'."

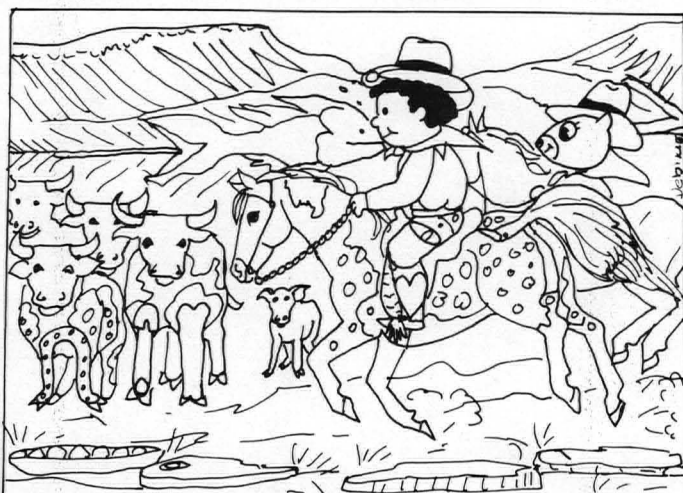
She later acted on Broadway, in soap operas, TV shows and movies.

Janet lives in Los Angeles. She enjoys riding horses and playing tennis and guitar.

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# Mini Spy . . .

Mini Spy and Casey Count are riding the range, as the black cowboys did in the West. See if you can find:



- horseshoe
- heart
- bird
- carrot
- letter V
- tooth
- peapod
- arrow
- word MINI
- bone
- exclamation mark
- steak

- fish
- bell
- safety pin

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# COWBOYS TRY 'N FIND

Words about blacks in the West are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: BLACK, COWBOY, BUFFALO, SOLDIER, PIONEER, CATTLE, DRIVE, TRAIL, RODEO, BRONCO, HORSE, INDIAN, FORT, STAGECOACH, WAGON, CHAPS, BOOTS, CAVALRY, ROPE.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN OUT WEST?



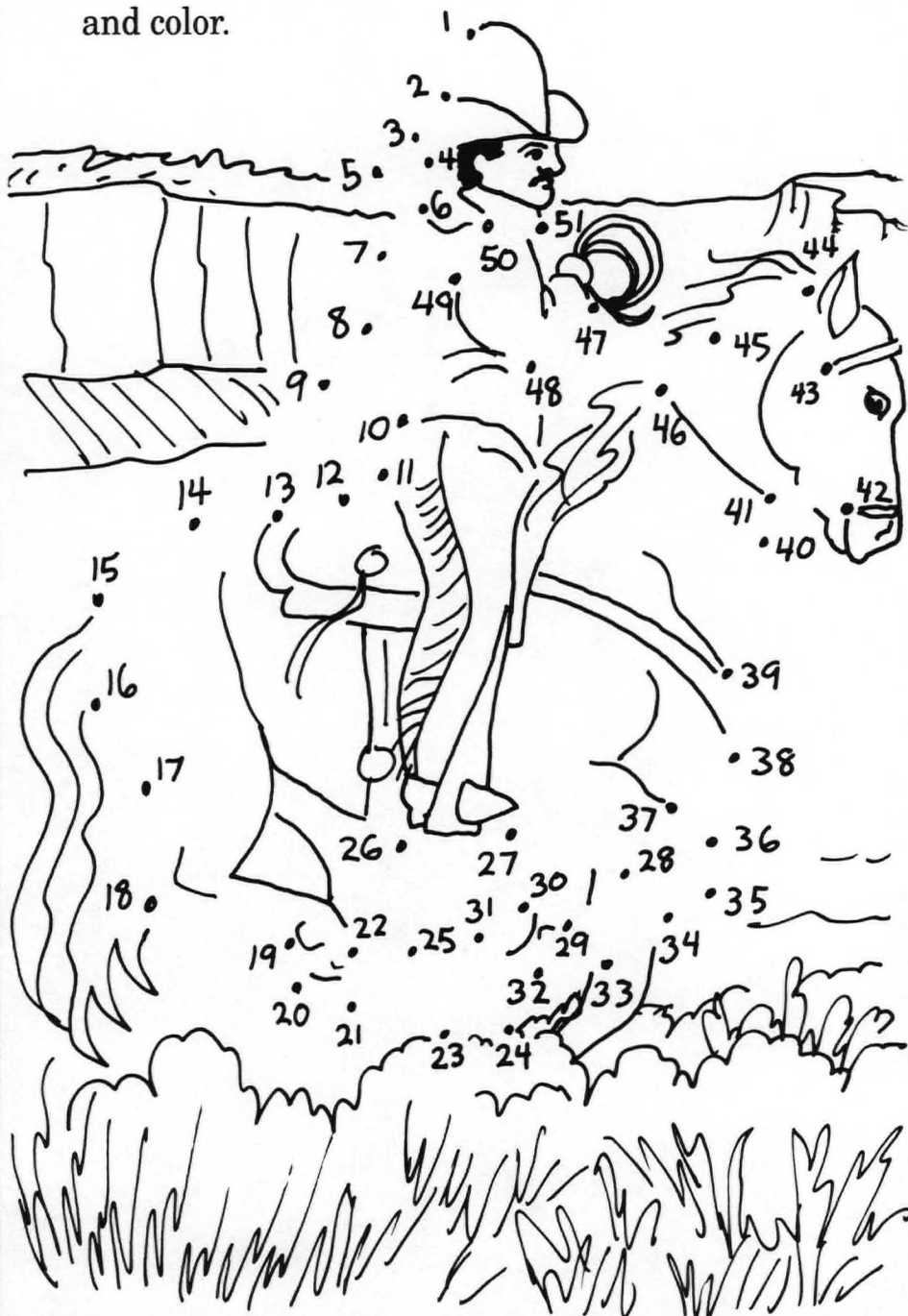
P R O D E O I N D I A N E E J  
I S T A G E C O A C H B C K T  
O B C L U C C O W B O Y H B Z  
N L D M B O O T S C V D A U B  
E A C A V A L R Y A D W P F R  
E C T R A I L F R T R A S F O  
R K G F O R T Q O T I G X A N  
S O L D I E R H P L V O R L C  
I X H O R S E Y E E E N A O O



**The Mini Page Language Series** (available as a set of all seven languages or individually) features games and activities to make learning a new language fun. (Languages include French, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, Japanese and Arabic.) To order, send check or money order only, \$6 for a set or \$1 for each issue, plus 75¢ postage and handling to: **The Mini Page Language Series**, P.O. Box 419150, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

Go dot to dot  
 and color.

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## Part 7 Columbus and King John II

Columbus did not have the money to buy ships and hire crews to prove that his idea would work. Only a king or queen would be rich enough to pay for his voyage.

Columbus wrote to the rulers of France, England, Spain and Portugal for help. He was not able to get a sponsor this way.

In 1482, Columbus met King John II of Portugal. Portugal had paid for other explorers' voyages and had become wealthy from their discoveries. Columbus told the king that he could find an even faster, shorter and safer route to the Indies.

The king's advisers were certain that going west would be longer than Columbus realized.

King John II turned him down.



King John II of Portugal

This is the seventh in a mini series about the life of Christopher Columbus.



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## The Presidents of the United States Poster

Including President George Bush, this is an attractive, educational reference for home and classroom use.

This 22½" by 28½" poster is illustrated with reproductions of engraved portraits of each of the 41 presidents.

The presidents are shown in chronological order, along with the dates they held office.



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## MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes



WHEN IS A DOG MOST  
 LIKELY TO ENTER A  
 HOUSE?

WHEN THE DOOR IS  
 OPEN!

THAT'S  
 MIGHTY  
 FUNNY!



(Sent in by Vanessa Fredzers)

**Q:** Why should a fat man wear a plaid vest?

**A:** To keep a check on his stomach!

**Q:** What did one ghost say to the other ghost?

**A:** It's the spirit that counts!

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# Black Cowboys



photo courtesy Solomon D. Butcher Collection, Nebraska State Historical Society

A bunch of old-time cowboys and bronco-busters pose for a 1901 photo in Denver, Colo.

After the Civil War, from 1865 until the 1880s, there were more cowboys than at any time in our history.

It was during this time that many black men decided to become cowboys.

Some experts say that about one out of every four cowboys was black.

Being a cowboy was one of the few jobs where blacks were paid equal wages.

Many blacks became cowboys because there was not as much prejudice on the job. Cowboys had to use teamwork to control large herds of cattle. They had to respect each other's ability.

Many black cowboys were also "bronco-busters." The bronco-buster had to ride a wild horse until it was tame. This was such dangerous work that many cowboys wouldn't do it.

## Bill Pickett

In 1971, Bill Pickett became the first black cowboy to be admitted to the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He started as a ranch hand and became a rodeo star.

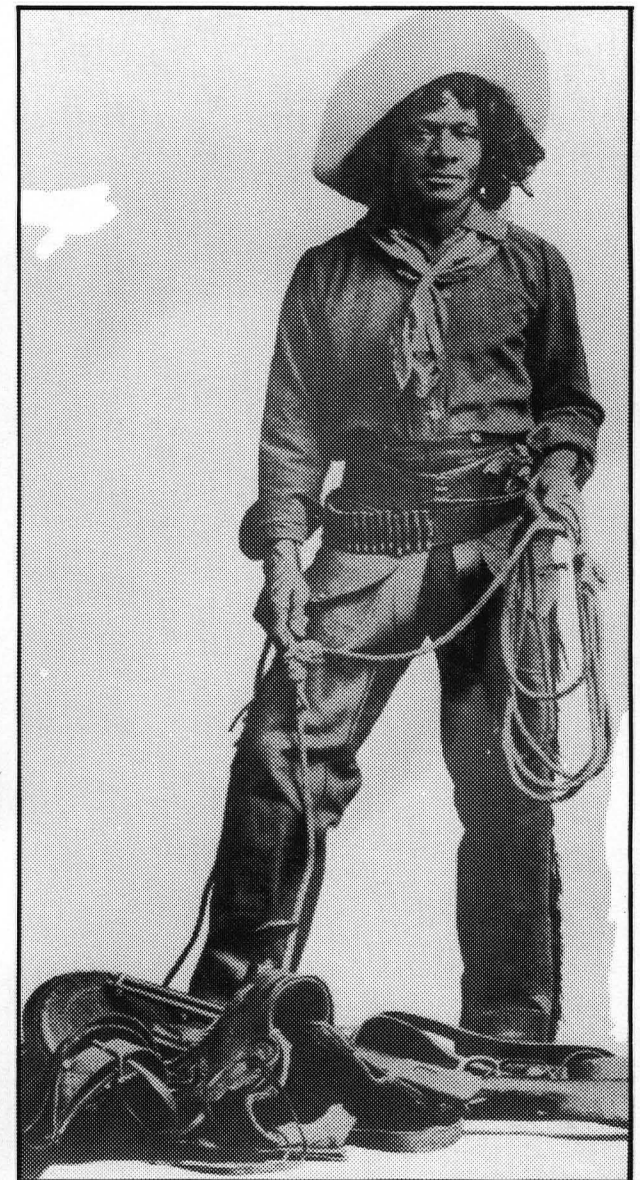


Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Library

Bill Pickett and his rodeo horse, Spradley.

Bill Pickett invented "bull-dogging." In this rodeo event, a cowboy wrestles a steer off its feet.

During his rodeo career, his assistants included Will Rogers and Tom Mix. These cowboys later became famous Hollywood stars.



Nat Love used this photo in a book he wrote about himself in 1907.

## Nat Love

Nat Love was one of the most famous black cowboys.

Nat Love was born a slave in Tennessee in 1854. After the Civil War, he went West.

He was hired as a cowpuncher, to drive cows from Texas to the railroad in Dodge City, Kan.

His nickname was "Deadwood Dick." He was named after Deadwood, S.D.

It was there that he won several roping and shooting contests. A crowd there named him the champion roper of the western cattle country.

When he got older, Nat Love wrote the story of his life.

He later left cowboy life and worked as a Pullman porter on the railroads.



Read about  
black soldiers  
and cowboys



in



by Betty Debnam

Appearing in your  
newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_.

(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-4 1/4-inch ad promoting Issue 8.)



## Teacher's Guide

For use by teachers and parents at home and at school.  
For use with issue: Blacks in the West

**Main idea:** This issue celebrates Black History Month. The following is a list of activities to be used with this issue. They are listed in order of difficulty, with the easier pre-reader assignments listed first. Ask the children to do the following:

1. Count the number of photos. What do you see in each one? What kind of outfits are the black cowboys wearing?
2. Travel was very different in the 1800s from what it is today. Look through your newspaper for ads or pictures of ways people travel today.
3. Look through your newspaper for pictures of famous black Americans.
4. Draw a picture of yourself dressed as a cowboy.
5. What do you think it would have been like to be a soldier, pioneer or cowboy in the 1800s?
6. Create a Black History Month poster.
7. Circle all the years. Which is the oldest and which is the most recent? How many years separate the two?
8. What do you see in the 10th Cavalry symbol? Design a symbol for your classroom.
9. Pretend you are traveling across the country in a wagon train in the 1800s. Make a list of things you would need. Look through the ads in your paper for supplies that you might use on a trip out West today.
10. Pretend you are a child in a pioneer family. Write a letter to a friend telling him or her about life on the plains.

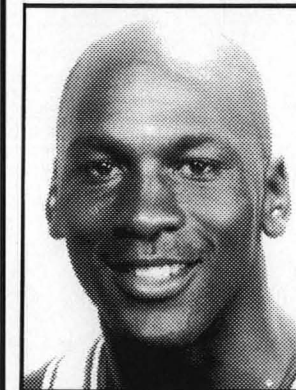
(Note to Editor: Above is the Teacher's Guide for Issue 8.)

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## Gus Goodsport's Report Supersport: Michael Jordan



Height: 6-6 Birthdate: 2-17-63  
Weight: 198 College: North Carolina

One of the best basketball players in the NBA is Michael Jordan. He has been a guard for the Chicago Bulls since 1984.

Last year Michael played in all 82 games. He had 223 steals, 2,580 points and an average of 31.5 points per game.

Jordan helped lead the team to the NBA championship. In the playoffs he averaged

31.1 points per game. He has scored more than 16,000 points in his career.

Michael was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He lives in Highland Park, Ill., with his wife and two sons. For good luck, Michael wears his college practice shorts under his uniform.

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 8, to be used in place of ad if desired.)