



The Round-Up

Created by Rebecca Been for the Kern County Cattle Women
For Questions Contact: Rebecca Been @ kcteachersag@aol.com

A physical education game to teach about the role of cowboys on a ranch and the role of branding.

Materials: Balloons Trash Bags (to hold balloons) Permanent Markers 1 Large Tub/Team

Prior Knowledge / Timing of Lesson:

This game should be used after the students have a basic understanding of what branding is and why it has been utilized on ranches. It would also be helpful for them to have a basic background on cowboy duties and tools of the trade. You can use Build a Brand and Create a Cowboy as introductions to this lesson.

Procedure:

1. Blow up at least 15 balloons per team.
 - a. You can have as many teams as necessary, you will just need each team to have a unique brand.
 - b. Do not assign a particular color of balloon to each team, this will make the game too easy. Either use one color of balloon for everyone or use a variety of colors for everyone.
2. Have each team develop a brand and write their brand on each of their balloons. Put the balloons into a large trash bag.
 - a. This could be done ahead of time by the teacher to save instructional time.
 - b. In preschool and kindergarten we used lowercase and capital letters for the brands, so that we could tie in language arts standards. Just ask what letters the class is currently learning.
3. Go outside or to a large open room.
4. Have all the cowboys (students) line up along one side of the field / room with their team. Give each team a large tub.
5. Go over the rules of the game.
 - a. Each team is a ranch.
 - b. All of the ranches are neighbors. Unfortunately, some of your fences had holes in them, so your cattle herds have become mixed up.
 - c. As the ranch cowboys, your job is to round up your cattle (balloons) and put them back into your corrals (tub).
 - d. You won't be able to tell the cattle apart by their coloring, because you all have similar breeds of cattle. You will have to rely on your mark of ownership, your brand.
 - e. When I release the cattle and say go (or start music) you may begin rounding up your cattle. **You can make it a bit harder by not letting them pick up cattle, instead “push” them with their hands or feet to the corrals.
 - f. Two ways to end the game:
 - i. When you think you have found all of your cattle take a seat with your ranch team.
 1. The winning team will be decided on two factors -
 - a. Who found the most cattle and who found their cattle the fastest
 - ii. When the music ends take a seat with your ranch team.
 - g. Now remember a popped balloon means that one of your cows died, so step carefully!!
 6. Release the cattle (and mix them up a little) and let the round-up begin! If you are outside and it is breezy, it is even more fun!

Just think of all the exercise and learning that is going on during p.e.!!