



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



© 2014 Universal Uclick

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Lasso Up Some Fun

Let's Go to the Rodeo!



Is going to a rodeo on your list of summer plans this year? Rodeos are lots of fun for kids and adults.

This week, The Mini Page goes to the rodeo to find out more about this entertaining sport.

Rodeo history

An ancestor of the horses we know today (Equus) lived on our continent millions of years ago. But at some point, those early horses crossed a land bridge into Asia and Europe. For many years, there were no horses at all in North America.

About 500 years ago, Spanish explorers brought horses back to the Americas. They also brought cattle. North American cowboys used horses to round up the wild cattle. ("Rodeo" means round-up in Spanish.)

American and Spanish cowboys, or **vaqueros** (vah-CAIR-ohs), learned to rope and tie the cattle as they were herding them. They had to **break**, or tame, wild horses to use them for work. Soon they began competing against each other in contests of cowboy skills.



An early cowboy

image courtesy University of Houston Libraries

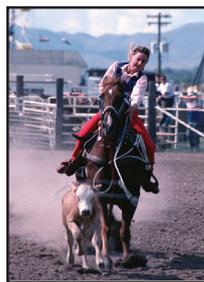


photo by Tom Donoghue, courtesy PRCA

Bull rider Tate Stratton comes out of the chute at the 2012 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Every bull has a different bucking pattern. Cowboys and rodeo clowns study the animals to get an idea of how they buck. Some may spin more than others, dart to the left or right, or jump straight up in the air.

Bulls weigh around 2,000 pounds, so bull riding is a dangerous and exciting event.



Rodeo livestock steal the show

Horses compete in nearly every rodeo event. The most popular type of horse for rodeo is the American quarter horse.

Rodeo horses require a lot of care. Their exercise includes trotting up and down hills to build their stamina. They must be fed healthy food and have plenty of water.

Some horses are bred especially for their events. For example, breeders raise and train some horses to be bucking broncos for bronc riding events.

Bulls are the biggest of the rodeo animals. They are used only in bull-riding events.

Steers, or male cattle that have been neutered, are used for timed steer wrestling, steer roping and team roping events.

Calves, or young cattle, are used for the tie-down roping event. This timed event originated with cowboys catching cattle to give them medicine.



Meet a Rodeo Clown

Justin Rumford is a rodeo clown. He works from January through November, traveling around the country to entertain crowds and protect cowboys in the ring. He spoke with The Mini Page about his work.

MP: What does a rodeo clown do?

JR: The rodeo clown helps the announcer entertain the crowd and make sure they have a great time.

During the bull riding, the clown has a serious role. He is called a **barrelman**, and he works inside a barrel that he can move around.

The barrels we use are made of aircraft aluminum. They are padded inside and out and are almost impossible to get hurt in. I have only had minor injuries competing, and none clowning.

At each rodeo there is only one clown. There are two **bullfighters** who take the role of cowboy protection. The bullfighters distract the bull (after the rider has fallen off) until the cowboy can get to safety.



photo by Brian Gauck, courtesy PRCA

Rodeo clown Justin Rumford entertains fans at a rodeo in Colorado in 2013.

MP: How did you start clowning?

JR: I have been involved in rodeo my whole life. I went to college on a rodeo scholarship. I started clowning four years ago to try something new. I've always been a joker!

MP: What should kids know about rodeo?

JR: I want kids to know about the livestock. Some people say you have to hurt animals to make them buck, but that is not true at all. Horses and bulls have been bred to buck for the last 75 years. These animals are great athletes that their owners take great pride in!



photo © Lincoln Rogers | Dreamstime.com

Spurs, or metal attachments to cowboys' boots, must be dull.

What about the animals?

Some people protest that rodeos are cruel to animals.

According to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, it and other rodeo organizations work together with breeders and trainers to make sure that rodeo animals are cared for humanely. A **veterinarian**, or animal doctor, must be at every rodeo event to examine animals before their events and to treat any injured animals.

Cowboys are not allowed to be overly rough with animals during their events. They will be disqualified if they break this rule.

Steers' horns are wrapped with a protective covering during their events. Straps for bulls and bucking broncos must be soft.

Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- prorodeokids.com
- nlbra.com
- pbskids.org/buster/videos/tx_houston_vid.html

At the library:

- "Rodeo" by Robin Johnson
- "Rodeo Clown: Laughs and Danger in the Ring" by Keith Elliot Greenberg



Basset
Brown's

Try
'n'
Find

Rodeo

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

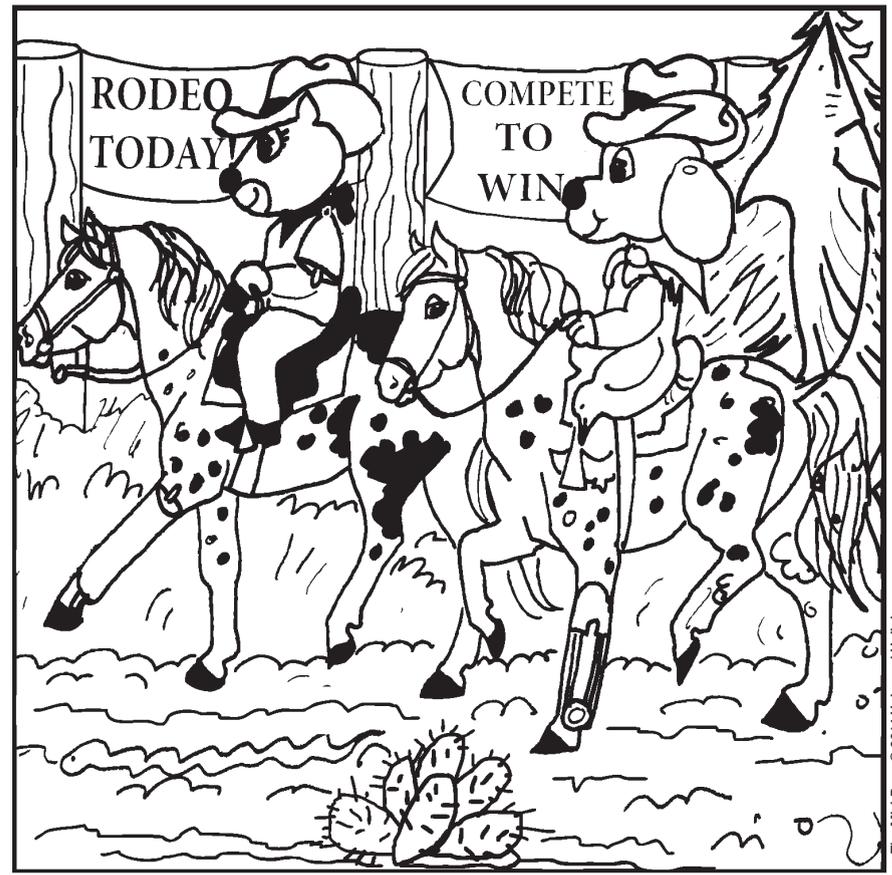
Words that remind us of a rodeo are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: BAREBACK, BARREL, BUCK, BULLDOGGER, CALF, CLOWN, COWBOY, COWGIRL, FALL, HORSE, LIVESTOCK, RIGGING, RODEO, ROPING, SADDLE, SPIN, SPURS, STEER, VAQUERO, VETERINARIAN.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are going to a rodeo competition. See if you can find:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> olive | <input type="checkbox"/> snake | <input type="checkbox"/> tooth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> safety pin | <input type="checkbox"/> bell | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pin | <input type="checkbox"/> bird | <input type="checkbox"/> question mark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shark | | |



from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Roasted Red Pepper Dip

You'll need:

- 1 cup chopped roasted red peppers
- 4 ounces light vegetable cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

What to do:

1. In a food processor or blender, combine peppers, cream cheese and basil. Puree until smooth.
2. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
3. Serve with jicama or carrot sticks, or other cut-up vegetables.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Meet Ella Linnea Wahlestedt



photo by Peter Iovino, © 2013 Relativity Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved

Ella Linnea Wahlestedt stars as Emma in the movie "Earth to Echo." She has acted in several movies, TV shows and commercials.

Ella, 15, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and moved to the United States when she was 6. When she was 10, she became a skilled gymnast. One day, her gymnastics coach didn't show up, so she went to an acting class instead. She was excited by the idea of acting and entered a performing arts middle school.

She also enjoys singing, hiking, writing and photography. Ella speaks Swedish, Spanish and English. She supports charities that work to provide safe drinking water for people.

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick



Goldie Goodsport's Supersport



Height: 5-6
Birthdate: 3-3-93
Hometown: Bradenton, Florida

Doris Chen

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

The University of Southern California fields one of the best teams in women's collegiate golf, and junior Doris Chen has played a large role in the Trojans' recent success on the golf course. But Chen, a three-time All-America selection, had something other than golf on her mind recently.

Last year, Doris' mother, Yuh-Guey (YU-gway) Lin, was diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer. She would undergo surgery and chemotherapy in an effort to fight the disease. Doris found it hard to concentrate on birdies and pars while her mom was fighting for her life.

But Lin did fight back — and she was declared cancer-free. The relief for Chen was evident in her play. At the NCAA Women's Golf Championships in May, Chen helped her team to a second-place finish in the team competition and captured the individual national title with a 6-under-par score over four days. The highlight for Doris, though, was that her mom was there in person to watch her play.

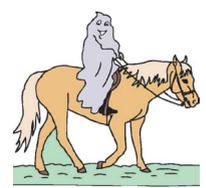


Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

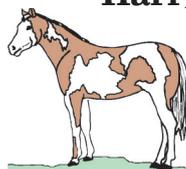
from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Honor: What kind of horse does a ghost like to ride?



Harry: Nightmares!



Hubert: Why is it hard to identify horses from the back?

Hilda: Because they keep switching their tails!

Harry: Why did the horse scold its colt?

Henry: For misbehaving!



A Mini Guide to the Rodeo

Bareback Riding

In bareback riding, the cowboy has to keep his feet in a certain

position while he hangs onto the **rigging**, a handhold made of leather and rawhide, for 8 seconds. He can't use his free hand at all. The score is based on the performance of both the horse and the rider.



Steven Peebles

photo by Larry Smith, courtesy PRCA

Steer Wrestling

A cowboy called a **bulldogger** must chase a steer, then reach down and grab the steer's horns and dig in his own heels to stop the animal. Then he must lift the steer and lay it down on its side. Another cowboy, called a **hazer**, keeps the steer running in a straight line.



Luke Branquinho

photo by Larry Smith, courtesy PRCA

Tie-Down Roping

This event depends on great teamwork between a cowboy and his horse. The cowboy must rope the calf from his horse, then jump off and tie three of its legs together. Meanwhile, the horse pulls back on the roping line to keep it tight so the calf can't escape.



Tuf Cooper

photo by Mike Copeman, courtesy PRCA

Saddle Bronc Riding

This event requires a cowboy to ride a bucking horse using a saddle. The cowboy gets points for **spurring**, or prodding, the horse. He must not use his free hand, and his feet must remain in the stirrups.



Sterling Crawley

photo by Mike Copeman, courtesy PRCA

Barrel Racing

Cowgirls are the stars of barrel racing. The cowgirl and her horse enter the arena at full speed. She must guide the horse around three barrels in a particular pattern, then speed back out of the arena. The cowgirl can touch the barrel, but if it falls over, there is a 5-second penalty. The fastest time wins.



Lisa Lockhart

photo by Larry Smith, courtesy PRCA

Team Roping

In this timed event, two cowboys work together. One, the **header**, tries to rope a steer's horns or head. Then the other, the **heeler**, tries to rope its back feet. If he snags only one back foot, he gets a 5-second penalty.



Clay Tryan and Jade Corkill

photo by Larry Smith, courtesy PRCA

Bull Riding

For this dangerous event, the cowboy must stay on a bucking, spinning bull for 8 seconds. He holds onto a rigging but must not touch anything with his free hand. The rider tries to lean forward over his hand to avoid being whipped around too much. Judging is based on the cowboy's good body position and on the efforts of the bull.



Ardie Maier

photo by Mike Copeman, courtesy PRCA

Look in your newspaper for rodeos coming up in your area. Which events would you like to compete in during a rodeo?

The Mini Page thanks Justin Shaw with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and rodeo clown Justin Rumsford for help with this issue.

Next week, The Mini Page is the first of two issues about architectural styles.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist