

Cracker Exhibit

The Cracker cowmen were known as America's first cowmen and in 1605 the first working ranches were established in St. Augustine or "La Florida." During the 1800's the Crackers were drawn to the cow hunter lifestyle and its rugged lonely existence. Some of the problems that Cracker cowmen faced were stealing or rustling cattle which often led to violence.

Cracker horses were very important to the Cracker cowmen and they have always been a tough low maintenance horse known for their ability as cow herders. Ponce de Leon brought the first horses to Florida in 1521. Cracker horses got their names from Cracker cowmen's whips that made a loud cracking sound.

Crackers ate a varied cuisine that includes tortoise, opossums, squirrels, raccoons, rattlesnakes, bears, fish, snails, frogs, crayfish and a variety of edible wild plants such as collards, turnip greens, and mustard.

Crackers built their houses out of logs and had different styles known as the Single Pen or Double Pen, Saddle, Dog Trot, and Shotgun.

Cracker music was described in the post civil war day as music played by Crackers and listened to by Crackers. Cracker music was not written down and was all sung from memory and each region of Florida had its own unique Cracker music.

Objectives:

Third Grade:

Understand how Cracker horses adapted to changing seasons.

Use maps to measure the distance between two places.

Write song lyrics about the Cracker way of life.

Solve addition facts with sums to 18 and related subtraction one digit fact families.

Science:

SC.3.L.17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons.

Do you think Cracker horses had to adapt to changing seasons, why or why not?

Social Studies:

SS.3.G.1.6 Use maps to identify different types of scale to measure distances between two places.

The first working ranches in Florida were established near St. Augustine, Florida. Using a map's scale measure the distance between your hometown and St. Augustine Florida.

Reading and Language Arts:

LA.3.4.1.2 The student will write a variety of expressive forms (e.g., chapter books, short stories, poetry, skits, song lyrics) that may employ, but not be limited to, figurative language (e.g., simile, onomatopoeia), rhythm, dialogue, characterization, plot, and appropriate format. Cracker songs can be about a variety of topics such as swamps, survival, and a Cracker way of life. Use your imagination and write song lyrics about the Cracker way of life based on what you learned today.

Mathematics:

MA.3.A.1.In.b Solve addition facts with sums to 18 and related subtraction one-digit fact families using the formal algorithm with numerals and signs (+, -, =).

13 Cracker horses + 4 Cracker horses =

9 Cracker horses – 7 Cracker horses =

8 Cracker horses – 6 Cracker horses =

10 Cracker horses + 7 Cracker horses =

14 Cracker horses + 4 Cracker horses =