



# The Wild West

## Unit Study for Grades 4, 5, 6, & 7

Created by Michelle Morgan from [anmgameschool.com](http://anmgameschool.com)



### Books

#### Which Way to the Wild West?

By Steve Sheinkin

- Wild facts about America's greatest adventure. From the Louisiana Purchase (remember: if you're negotiating a treaty for your country, play it cool.) to the gold rush (there were only three ways to get to California--all of them bad) to the life of the cowboy, the Indian wars, and the everyday happenings that defined living on the frontier.
- Available on [SCRIBD](#)

#### Old Yeller

By Fred Gipson

- Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?
- Available on [SCRIBD](#)



### Games

#### Circle the Wagons

Button Shy Games

- Blaze a trail by draftin' cards 'round the circle and placin' 'em in yer town, tryin' to connect matchin' territories to score prosperity points!
- Available to Print and Play from [PNP Arcade \(\\$3\)](#)

#### Alternate Game Suggestions

- Coloma
- Bang! The Dice Game
- Colt Express
- Flick 'Em Up
- Great Western Trail
- Tumble Town

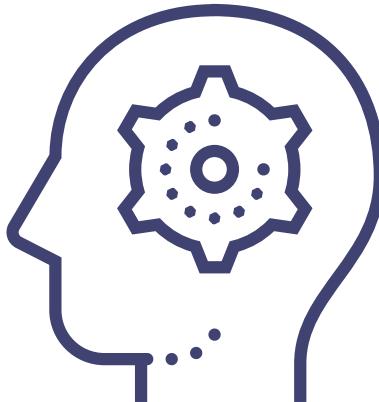
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## Activities

### Old Yeller – Literature Kit Gr. 5–6

By Chad Ibbotson

- The easy-to-use format allows for lots of variety in activities to go along with the book, Old Yeller.
- Available on [SCRIBD](#)



### Reading

- Choose one book to read aloud together.
- Have your students read the other book on their own.
- Have open discussions about the books as they are read.
- Using the Old Yeller Lit. guide above will give you additional talking points and activities for the book.

### Writing

- Choose a person from the time period to study and do a research paper about them.
- Write a short story about the settlement you created in your game of Circle the Wagons, or other game, using the settlement you created as the setting.

### The Wild West Website

<https://www.thewildwest.org/>

- Explore the Wild West website.
- Read or watch about the various topics.
- Do the puzzles, and play the online games

### The Wild West

By [BBC Documentary on YouTube](#)

- Watch this documentary series that includes Custer's last stand, Billy the Kid, and the Gunfight at the OK corral.
- Have open discussions about the videos.

### Film Analysis

- Choose a wild west themed movie to watch.
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the movie and what real life was like in the wild west.
- If you want an extra writing project, have your students write an argumentative or persuasive paper about why the movie is/isn't like the historic wild west.

### Hands-on Activities

- Each student draws a map of the United States showing the territories at the time.
- Construct a replica old west town in Minecraft or as a diorama.

### Posts from AnM Gameschool

Check out our [board game spotlight](#) for Circle the Wagons to learn more about the game for this unit. You can learn more about the game design process (Tumble Town) with an [interview with Carla](#) from Weird Giraffe Games. You can find our list of [10 print and play games that includes Circle the Wagons here](#) they are great for building a budget game collection.



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