

The Long Cattle Drive

The Oklahoma State Museum of History-Education Program for 4th –12th

Did You Know?

- Over 4 million head of cattle trailed out of Texas through Oklahoma to railroads in Kansas from 1867 to 1881.
- The Chisholm Trail was named after Jesse Chisholm, who never drove a steer up the famous trail, but instead established the route as a wagon road for his trading post.
- The most common cause of death on the trails for cowboys included stampedes, drowning, and lightning strikes.

The Oklahoma Museum of History, a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, has programs designed to bring this chapter of Oklahoma history alive to your students. Through the use of hands-on objects, costuming, and living history interpretation by a 1st or 3rd person reenactor, we will enable your students to develop critical thinking skills and to meet the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) for Oklahoma history.

The LONG CATTLE DRIVE program is designed to meet the following Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS):

Oklahoma History: grades 6-12, II B. (Assess the impact of the cattle industry on transportation routes). **United States History, 1607-1877: grades 6-8, XII C.** (Describe the importance of trade on the frontier). **XVII.** (Identify characters, settings, and events from narratives of Oklahoma, the United States, and World History from 1607 to 1877). **United States History, 1850 to Present: grades 9-12, I.G.** (Analyze causes, key events, and the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction).

The State Museum education staff can modify the Long Drive Cattle program to meet your individual and time needs. We offer an interpretive course that features hands-on objects, consisting of items that were carried by the everyday cowboy on a cattle trail. In addition, a costumed staff member can speak to the group as a 1st person character. This program will not simply be a historical monologue, but will allow your students to ask questions and to actively participate as if they were interviewing a person from that era. The students will hear period terms, see authentic gear and equipment, play historic games, and learn of problems common to cowboys and cattle at that time. Through the question and answer session and with the hands-on approach, the students will gain the necessary information to separate the myths associated with the American cowboy and to make an intelligent analysis of the cattle industry and its impact to Oklahoma.