

Memories of “Cookie” and His Chuck Wagon Live On!!!



By: Sheri Horsfall and Pam Swanson

Grade Level – 3

Subject: Social Studies, U.S. History, Montana History, Family Consumer Science and Reading

Montana Standards:

Social Studies: Content Standards 1-6

Description: The purpose of this lesson is to make the students aware of the importance of the Chuck Wagon cook during the days of the early west while following herds and feeding the hungry cowboys, to its current status of preservation at Grant Kohrs Ranch.

Goals:

1. Students will gain an appreciation to the importance of the chuck wagon cook during 1866.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the chuck wagon and how it began and worked in the early west.
3. They will gain an appreciation of knowing that a chuck wagon and cookie still exist on the Grant Kohrs Ranch.

Objectives:

1. The students will read the history of the chuck wagon and the life style of the cookie called “in the Beginning, King of the Range and Cowboy Etiquette”, by Nola Mckey Eads. Website: <http://www.phudpucker.com/bluebonn/chuck%20wagon.htm>
2. The students will develop a timeline of the day in the life of a chuck wagon cook.
3. The students will go on-line and research cooking frontier style. They will put a mini recipe book together using the recipes they find on line.
4. The students will separate into three groups: Breads, meat and soup and desserts.
5. The students will make Beaten Biscuits

Recipe for Beaten Biscuits:

2 cups flour	1/4 cup shortening
1/2 t. salt	1/2 cup ice water
1 T sugar	



Mix flour, salt and sugar together. Cut in shortening and add enough ice water to form a stiff dough. Beat the dough with a mallet until smooth, folding frequently, about 20 minutes. Roll out the dough, cut with a small cookie cutter and bake for 30 minutes in a moderate oven. Dust with powdered sugar.

Materials:

1. Markers
2. Index Cards (4 x 6)
3. Dutch Oven (Optional)
4. Beaten Biscuit supplies:
 - A. Flour, salt, sugar, shortening, powdered sugar, ice water, recipe card with directions.
5. Cookie sheet
6. Copies of “In the Beginning, King of the Range, Cowboy Etiquette”.
7. Copies of “Cookie’s Day”.

Cookie’s Day

Cookie’s day began at around 3:30 in the morning. He would get up and start fixing the beef or meat, bread or biscuits and dried fruit for the cowboy’s breakfast. At 4:00 a.m., Cookie would wake the cowboys up by yelling, “Chuck Away, Come and Get It”! Dishes would be “washed” with sand in the creek and camp packed up by 5:00 a.m. Cookie would head fro the open prairie. Cooke would charge ahead of the cattle drive because he could move faster than the cattle with his four horse team. He had to make a new camp and have lunch ready by noon. Cooke fed the crew a meat such as chili or stew with bread, coffee and water. At 1:00 p.m. the chuck wagon was packed again and headed toward the evening’s campsite. By 5:00 p.m. Cookie had arrived at the night camp, and a dinner of beans, beef, and potatoes and gravy was served at 6:30 p.m. For dessert, Cookie served prune and raisin cobbler. (Sometimes a special treat of fruit pie was served). Cooke sent to bed at 9:00p.m. He slept until morning because he did not have to watch the cattle herd at night.

8. Plastic gloves and mixing utensils.

Vocabulary:

1. **Cattle Drive:** The moving of a large group of cattle from one point to another that took at least a month in length.
2. **Chuck Wagon:** The wagon driven by the cook at round-up times and on trail rives, from which all of the meals were prepared and much of the equipment stored.
3. **Cowboy:** A young man, usually 17-25 years of age, that worked large numbers of cattle.
4. **Dutch Oven:** A large heavy pot. Burning coals from the fire pit were placed under the Dutch oven and on tip of the lid. Heat from the top and bottom helped to cook or bake the food evenly.
5. **Trail Boss:** The man hired to take charge of the men and the cattle during a trail drive.
6. **Cookie:** The wagon chef.
7. **Chuck:** To the cowboys, “Chuck: was food.

Procedure:

Vocab Activity:

1. Start by holding up big pieces of paper with vocab words and definitions. Go over these with the students. Pass the vocab words out to the students randomly, tape the definitions to the board. Call on student with a vocab word to come and match it to its definition.

Play several times, pass vocab words to other students.

2. Time line Activity:

A. Divide the students into groups of three and give each group a copy of cookie's Day.

B. They will need to read this as a group of three.

C. Explain that they will be making a time line of a Cookie's Day using markers and index cards. They must be able to mark their card with a time and draw a picture of (or label) what happens during that particular time of the day.

D. They will present this time line to the class by taking turns taping their cards in order on the board to a yarn line which will also be taped to the board

3. Beaten Biscuits Activity:

A. Divide the class into two groups

1. Taking turns putting together the individual ingredients and mixing them together, rolling the dough, cutting biscuits with a cookie cutter, and placing on a cooke sheet to bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

B. After the biscuits bake and cool, remove them from the oven.

1. Butter biscuits and sprinkle with powered sugar.

c. Eat them and ENJOY!!!

4. Creating a Mini Frontier Style Recipe Book:

A. Divide the students into three separate groups: Breads, meats and soups, and desserts.

B. The students will then go on line to [http:// www.lchamberlain.com](http://www.lchamberlain.com) and find two recipes to print for their appropriate group.

C. The students will cut and paste their recipes to pieces of construction paper.

D. As a class They will take turns punching wholes and assembling the cook book.

E. Have each student design a coversheet. Have a contest by voting to see which cover they will use.

Closure and Evaluation:

Each student will read their favorite recipe to the class.

Expansion/Enrichment:

Students will take a field trip to the Grant Kohrs Ranch and observe the Chuck Wagon meet "Cookie" and possibly participate and share in a meal.

