

READING ADVENTURE TREASURE CHEST KIT #15 AMERICAN HEROES

This Reading Adventure Treasure Chest Kit has been assembled to provide a thematic list of storytime materials for use by enhanced members and their patrons. The kit is geared toward the preschool age group yet is flexible enough to capture the interest of toddlers and early school age children. The [Activity Ideas](#) are designed to be aids to use the materials listed in the kits.

If you would like more information concerning this project, contact SERLS via e-mail at dirserls@oplin.org.

Material Type	Title	Author
BOOK	Arrow To The Sun	GERALD McDERMOTT
BOOK	Baby Rattlesnake	TE ATA
BOOK	The Cowboy And The Black-eyed Pea	TONY JOHNSTON
BOOK	Cowboy Country	ANN HERBERT SCOTT
BOOK	Cowboy Ed	BILL GROSSMAN
BOOK	Coyote Steals The Blanket: A Ute Tale	JANET STEVENS
BOOK	Disney's Pocahontas Painting With The Wind	TEDDY SLATER
BOOK	Dream Catcher	AUDREY OSOFSKY
BOOK	A Field Full Of Horses	PETER HANSARD
BOOK	Foal: See How They Grow	MARY LING
BOOK	The Goat In The Rug	CHARLES L. BLOOD
BOOK	How I Spent My Summer Vacation	MARK TEAGUE
BOOK	How The Mouse Got Brown Teeth	GEORGE LITTLECHILD
BOOK	If Wishes Were Horses	SUSAN JEFFERS
BOOK	Iva Dunit And The Big Wind	CAROL PURDY
BOOK	Just Like My Dad	TRICIA GARDELLA
BOOK	One Good Horse	ANN HERBERT SCOTT
BOOK	The Tale Of Pepper The Pony	TERRI WILTSHIRE
BOOK	Ten Little Rabbits	VIRGINIA GROSSMAN
BOOK	Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?	BERNELDA WHEELER
BOARD BOOK	Who Pretends?	CHARLES REASONER
BIG BOOK	Knots On A Counting Rope	BILL MARTIN, JR. and JOHN ARCHAMBAULT
RESOURCE BOOK	Daybreak Star Preschool Activities Book	
BOOK & TAPE	Johnny Appleseed	JAMES HOWARD KUNSTLER
CASSETTE	Horse Sense For Kids And Other People	
VHS	Arrow To The Sun	
PUPPET	Apache Horse Stuffed Animal	

ACTIVITY IDEAS AND FINGERPLAYS

Ask the children who their hero is and why. Ask your children who the heroes are in the books in this kit. Cowboys are heroes to many young children, but Native Americans are also heroic. Folklore heroes such as Johnny Appleseed are also represented.

Invite children to choose a name for the horse. Make a horse stall or pen for the horse out of boxes. Have the children pretend to feed and care for the horse. Read several books featuring horses such as *One Good Horse* and *Foal: See How They Grow*.

Share the VHS and book versions of *Arrow To The Sun*. Using the oranges, browns and blacks found in the story, make a mural on an old bed sheet or large piece of paper.

Ten Little Ponies

Ten little ponies in a meadow green.
(Hold up ten fingers)
Ten little ponies, friskiest ever seen.
They go for a gallop.
(Make rapid running motions with fingers)
They go for a trot.
(Make slower running motions with fingers)
They come to a halt in the big feed lot.
(Hold hands still)
Ten little ponies fat and well fed,
(Hold up ten fingers)
Curl up together in a soft, straw bed.
(Slowly bend fingers down into palms)

Cowboys

Two little ranch houses closed up tight,
(Close fists)
Open the windows to let in the light,
(Open fists)
Ten little cowboys just like men
Ready for the Rodeo at the stroke of ten
Two little ranch houses closed up tight,
Open the widows to let in the light,
Ten little cowboys straight and true,
Ready for the Rodeo at the stroke of two.

Friends

I gave my horse an apple,
(Extend hand, palm up)
And she gave me a neigh.
(Neigh)
I gave my horse a carrot,
(Extend hand, palm up)
And she moved her head this way.
(Nod head up and down)
I gave my horse a sugar lump,
(Extend hand, palm up)
She gave me a smile,
(Smile)
And then she took me for a ride
For more than half a mile!
(Move up and down with hands in front as if holding reins)

My Horse

My little horse doesn't eat hay.
(Hold hands out, palms up, shake head)
My little horse doesn't neigh,
(Shake head and neigh)
But my little horse just loves to play
(Touch chest and nod)
And we rock and rock and rock all day!
(Rock back and forth)
Have children guess what's special about their horse! Answer: It's a rocking horse.

Ask your local children's librarian about more fingerplays, activities and books such as these recommended titles:

- *Dancing Teepees* by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve. Illustrations by Stephen Gammell give life to these poems of American Indian life and childhood.
- *The Mud Pony* by Caron Cohen. A Native American boy, unable to afford a horse, molds a pony from earth which in time of need comes to life.
- *With The Wind* by Liz Daniel. A young boy experiences freedom and power when he rides a horse.