



Buffalo Bill Scouting Mission

Scout out answers as you visit the Museum. Be sure to keep your eyes open! You may have to look for answers in more than one place.

Buffalo Bill's Adventurous Childhood

Fill in the missing words. Answers can be found in the exhibit section "Life in the Outdoors."

Cody lived in Kansas, but he always said he felt "more at home" in the saddle.

Cody loved horses and started riding when quite young. He later featured horsemanship in his Wild West show.

As a young boy, Cody led a very exciting life. He met his first Indians in Leavenworth, Kansas. They were from the Kickapoo tribe and Cody thought they were very friendly.

Will Cody's early exposure to the Kickapoo helped him develop an understanding of Indian culture that helped him during his scouting and Wild West years.

When Cody was eleven years old he took a job as a wagon driver and saw that the country was "alive with buffalo."

Young men had to grow up very quickly on the frontier. As a wagon driver, Cody traveled from Leavenworth to Salt Lake.

Cody was a rider with the Pony Express. This company carried mail across the country on speeding horses. He carried a Colt revolver for protection and blew a horn to announce his arrival at each stop.

Working as a young Pony Express rider could be very dangerous. The horses ran very fast and a simple stumble could injure and even kill the horse or rider. There were also wild animals and hostile Indians to avoid.

Cody's father did not believe in slavery. Injured during an argument, he later died from his wounds.

Many people say that this was an important moment in Buffalo Bill's life. It helped him form his opinion that all people were equal and we should always treat everyone with respect. This is probably why he decided to join the Civil War and fight against slavery with the Northern Army.

Bill Cody: Buffalo Hunter

William "Buffalo Bill" Cody earned his nickname while hunting buffalo to feed workers building the railroad across the plains. Draw a line to match the numbers to the correct answers:

- | | |
|--|------|
| How old was Cody when he participated in his first buffalo hunt? | 12 |
| How many railroad workers did Cody need to feed every day? | 18 |
| How many buffalo were needed to feed that many people? | 17 |
| How many months did Cody work for the Railroad? | 11 |
| How many buffalo did Cody own in 1888? | 16 |
| On average, how many buffalo hides does it take to make a tepee? | 1200 |

Buffalo Bill's Famous Friends

Buffalo Bill and his friend, President Roosevelt, used the same type of rifle.

Author Mark Twain saw Buffalo Bill's Wild West and suggested Cody take it to Europe.

Mark Twain felt that a genuine show about the American frontier would be very well-received. He was right, when the Wild West went to Europe it was a big hit.

Buffalo Bill considered General George Custer a friend and was very upset when he was killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

The deaths of Custer and his command just before July 4, 1876, America's centennial, was a terrible blow to the whole nation, which saw westward expansion as its destiny.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West

The video in the Showman exhibit shows horsemen from different countries. Name three.

Mexican Vaqueros, Irish Lancers, Arab Riders, Japanese Soldiers

**There were many other nations represented in the Wild West, but these are the four specifically identified in the video.*

What famous female sharp-shooter joined the Wild West in 1885? Annie Oakley

Annie Oakley was working in another show when she met Buffalo Bill. She was impressed with the way he treated the animals in his show, and this helped in her decision to leave her old job and become a member of the Wild West.

Cody created the "Old Glory Blowout" to celebrate which American holiday? Fourth of July

Cody was well known as a patriotic American. He was surprised when no one in town was planning to celebrate July 4, and did his best to insure this became an annual tradition.

Which British Monarch requested a "Command Performance" of the Wild West? Queen Victoria

Before people had even seen the first Wild West performance in England they admired Cody for his excellent organizational skills and his ability to get along with everyone, from Indians to shop keepers to royalty.

Cody later had a partner who also went by "Bill". What was his real name? Gordon Lillie

Gordon Lillie used the stage name "Pawnee Bill." He had his own show that was more circus-like, featuring exotic acts from Pacific nations. Once combined the show was called "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East."

Buffalo Bill's Wild West traveled to many places. Where did the Wild West NOT perform?

Croatia

Scotland

Mexico

Spain

Even though the Wild West never toured in Mexico, the Mexican Vaqueros were very important in show. These were the people who taught Americans how to be cowboys.

Buffalo Bill and the Indians

In his show posters, Buffalo Bill did not call Native Americans “Indians,” he called them **Americans**.

This was a very advanced way to think. Very few people liked to bring up the fact that the Indians were here first, but Cody thought it was an important thing to remember.

Many fictional stories about Cody’s life came from comic-book-like magazines called **Dime** novels.

This is actually one reason Cody was so famous. Dime novels were written about his life when he was still a scout for the army, long before he started touring the world. You might even call him one of the world’s first Comic Book heroes!

Check the items you see used for decoration on Native American clothes in the Museum.

<input type="checkbox"/> silver bells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> beads	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ribbons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> leather fringe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> shells
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> buttons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> feathers	<input type="checkbox"/> gold stars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> porcupine quills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hair
<input type="checkbox"/> bones	<input type="checkbox"/> teeth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paint	<input type="checkbox"/> zippers	<input type="checkbox"/> lace

**Did you miss some of these? Many people forget to consider the headdresses in the exhibit! Another common error is misidentifying the dentalia shells on the wool dress. Many people think they are teeth.*

The model for the Indian Head nickel was in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West. His name was **Iron Tail**.

Iron Tail was a Lakota (Sioux) chief and Buffalo Bill’s good friend. The buffalo depicted on the other side of the nickel was also in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West.

The name of the famous Sioux leader who performed with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West for one summer was **Sitting Bull**.

What famous battle did this Sioux Chief lead in 1876? **Battle of the Little Big Horn**

Sitting Bull appeared with the Wild West in 1885 for four months. He and Buffalo Bill became friends and when Sitting Bull left the show they exchanged gifts. The Battle of the Little Big Horn became famous as “Custer’s Last Stand.”

True or False

Buffalo Bill did not want women to vote	T / <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
Indians liked working in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West	<input checked="" type="radio"/> T / F
Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody were the same person	T / <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
Buffalo Bill died on his ranch in Nebraska	T / <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
Buffalo Bill did not want to be buried on Lookout Mountain	T / <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
Buffalo Bill died of kidney failure	<input checked="" type="radio"/> T / F
Cody included children as Wild West performers	<input checked="" type="radio"/> T / F