

TEACHER'S OUTLINE

LESSON 2: "Ropin' Will"/GRADES 4TH – 6TH

Key Concept: The Cherokee Kid & Indian Cowboy

This chapter focuses predominantly upon Will Rogers' beginnings as a young man seeking his purpose in life. He traveled from Indian Territory to Argentina, and then to South Africa. It is in South Africa that young Will transitioned from a ranch hand to a cowboy entertainer. Will's first opportunity as a professional entertainer was with Texas Jack's Wild West Show where he was quickly dubbed the "Cherokee Kid." The Cherokee Kid as an Indian Cowboy provided Will new opportunities to transition as a boy from Indian Territory to a world traveler and popular cowboy entertainer.

Learning Objectives:

1. Examine the concept of an "Indian Cowboy" in historic and contemporary popular culture.
2. Increase awareness of stereotypical images of Native Americans during the time of Will Rogers and in contemporary society.
3. Describe Will Rogers' transition from a Cherokee citizen in Indian Territory to a world traveler and cowboy entertainer.
4. Increase understanding of Will Rogers and the Wild West Show.

Video Clip:

Before completing the *Learning Activity* or *Student Handouts* for this lesson, students should watch Chapter 2 of the documentary *Will Rogers & American Politics*. If time or resources do not allow, students should at a minimum, view the short video clip for Lesson 2. These clips can be viewed online by visiting www.insearchofwillrogers.org, and clicking the "Learn About Will" tab in the main menu.

Learning/Media Activity: Will Rogers Comic Book Creator

Using the supplied cutouts included in this lesson plan and their own creativity, students will be asked to create a comic strip featuring Will during his time as a Wild West performer. Students may print images from the photo gallery at www.insearchofwillrogers.org, to use in their comic strip, or may choose to draw their own illustrations. As an instructor, you should score students based upon their use of creativity, originality, thoughtfulness, and artistry.

Student Handouts

Students will be challenged to demonstrate their comprehension of material covered in Lesson 2. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to further explore and discuss various topics covered in the lesson material.

WILD BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW

FEATURING WILL ROGERS,

INDIAN COWBOY

INSTRUCTIONS:

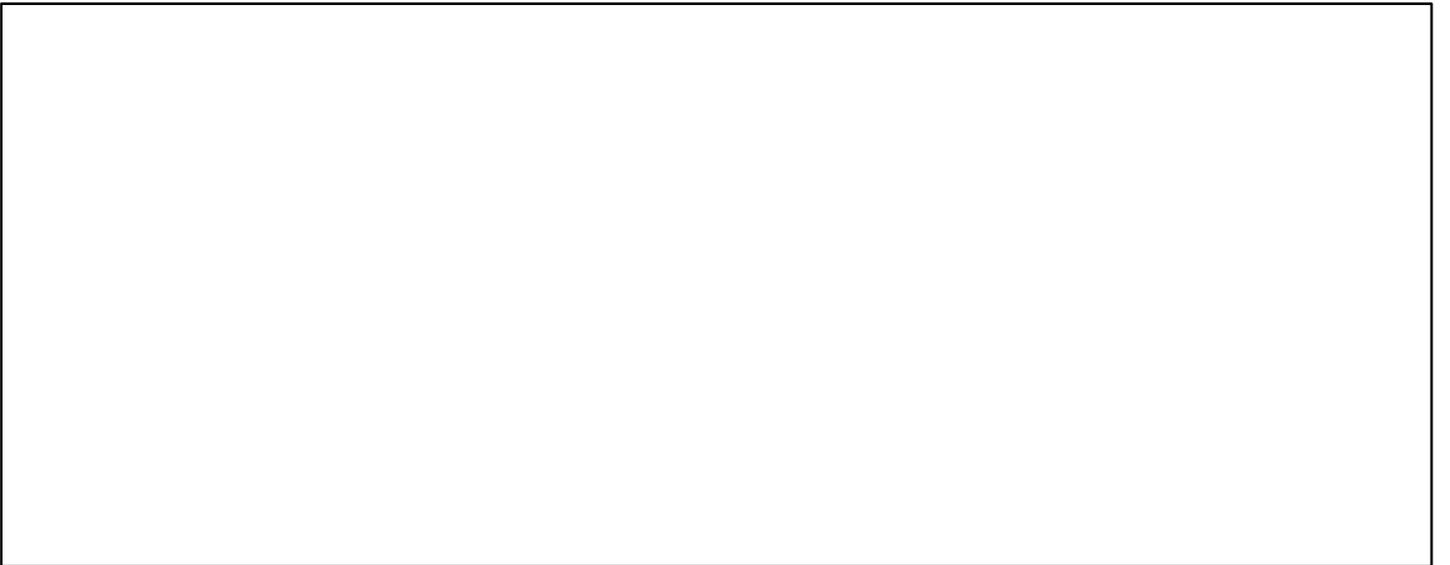
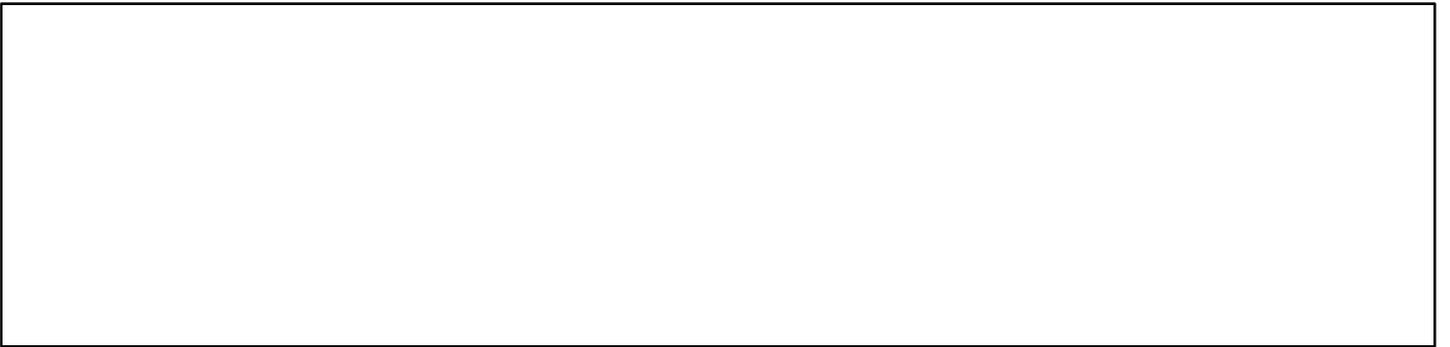
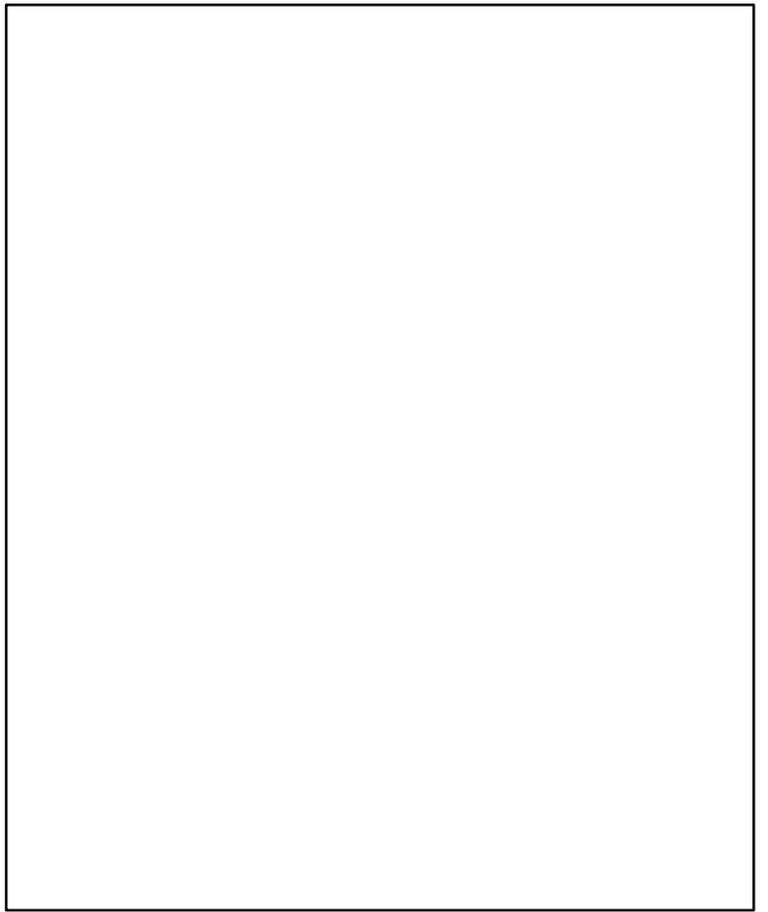
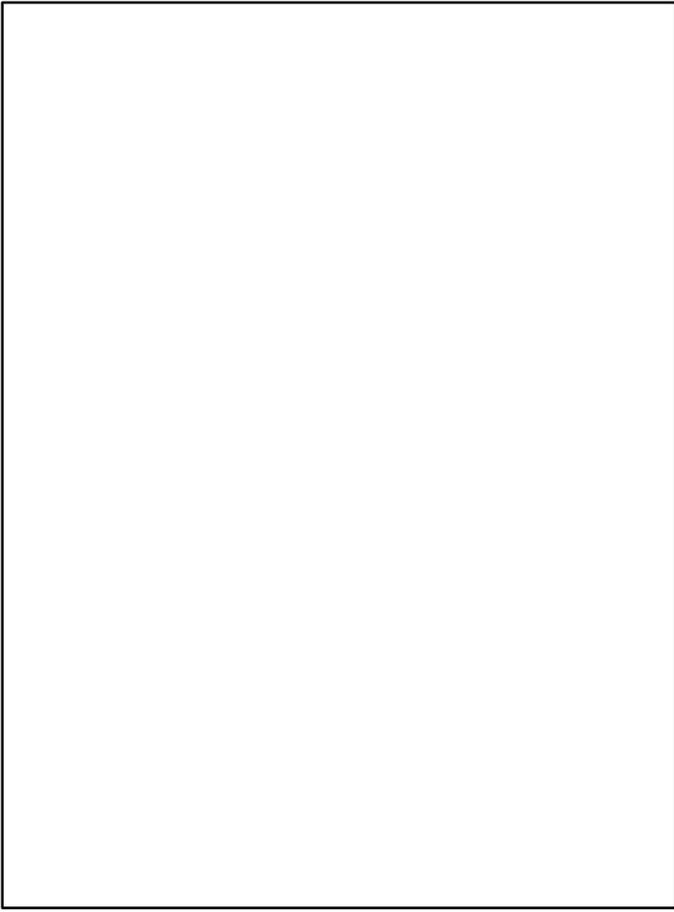
Welcome, Comic Book Creator! Your job is to create a comic strip that features Will Rogers' experiences as the Cherokee Kid and as a Wild West performer. You may choose to draw your own characters and/or print and cut images provided online by visiting www.willrogersed.org and clicking the image gallery menu item.

Don't forget to use the speech and sound bubbles provided to write your own script! Be creative and have fun!

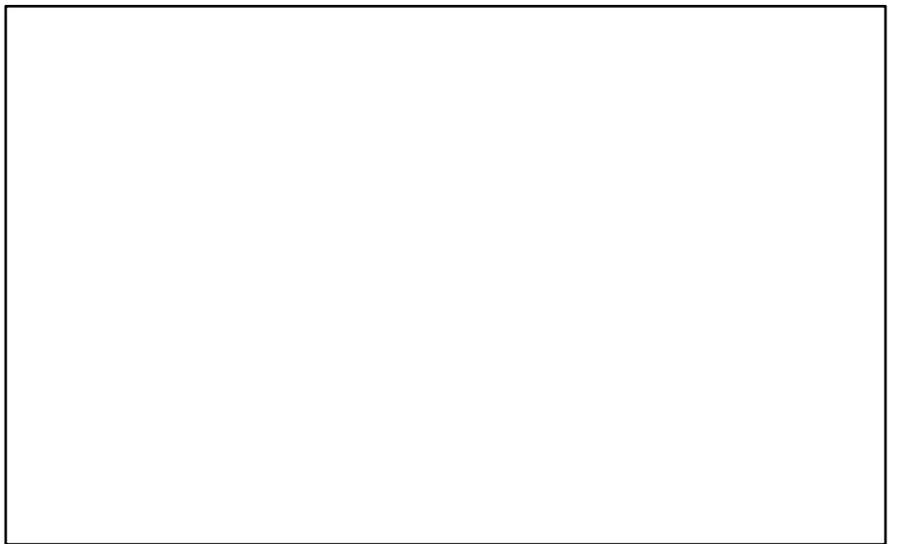
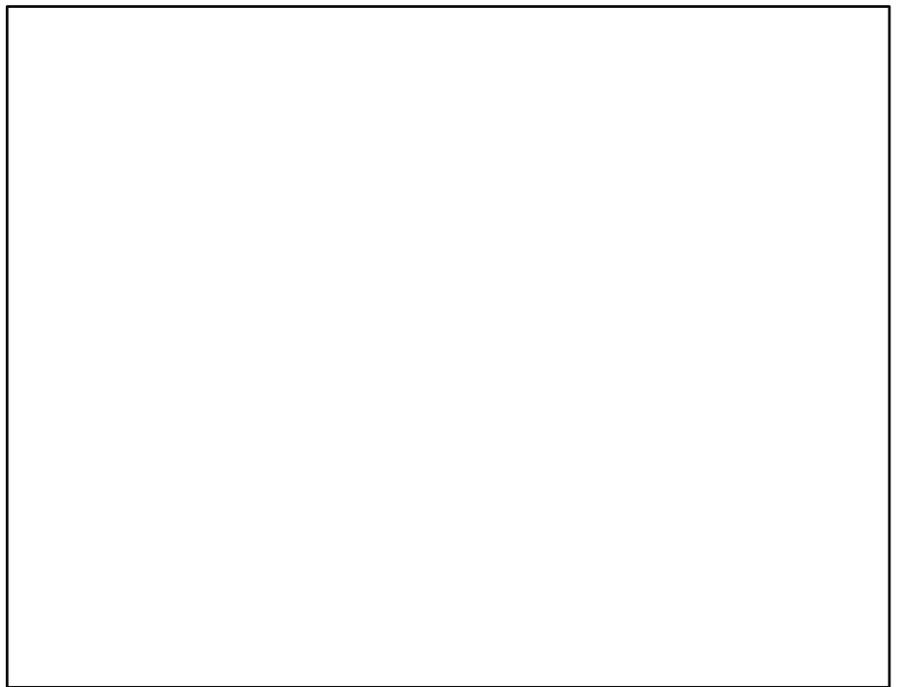
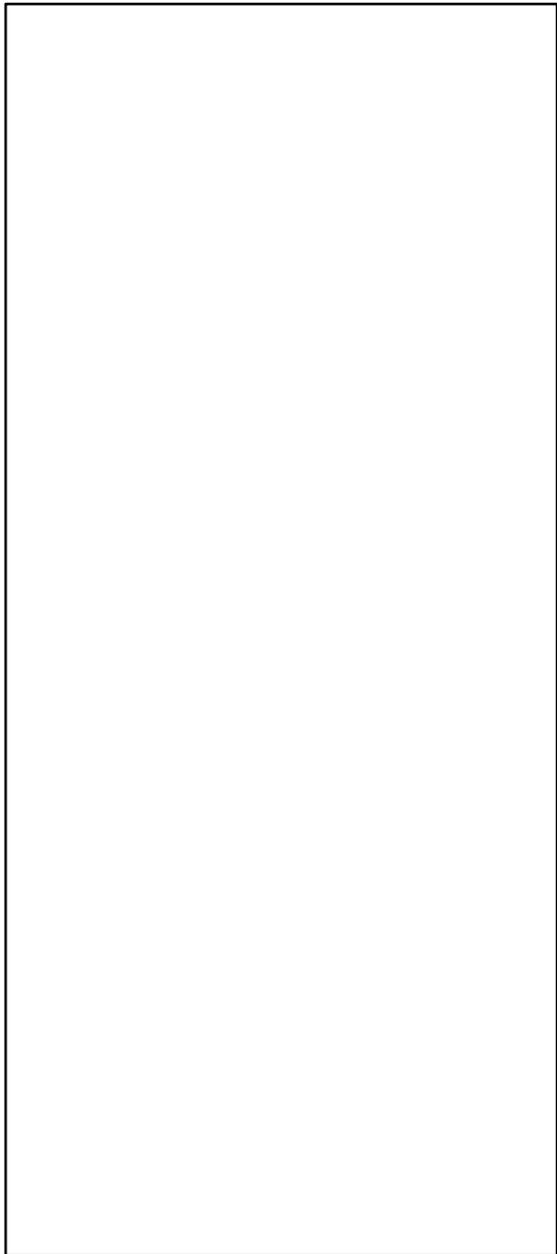
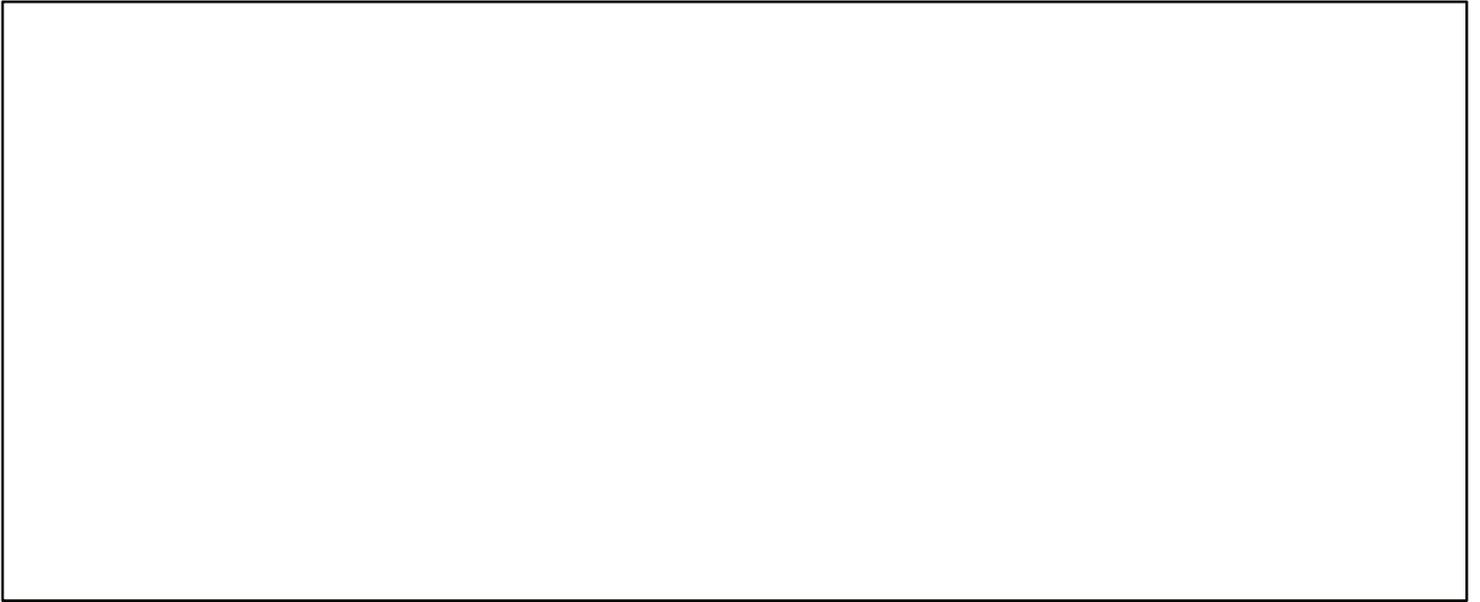
When you have finished, choose classmates to help you re-enact your comic in front of the class!

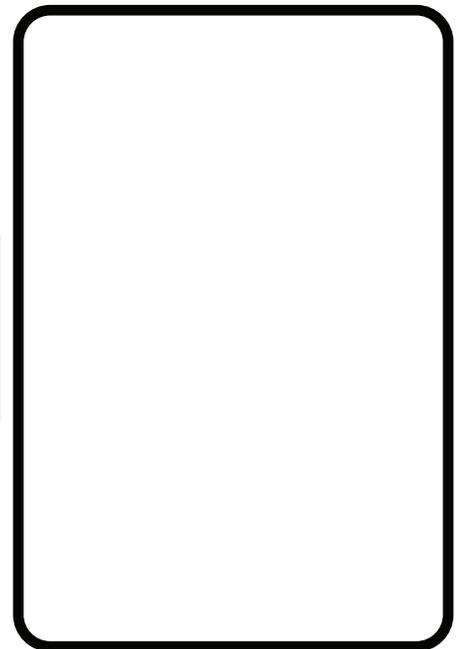
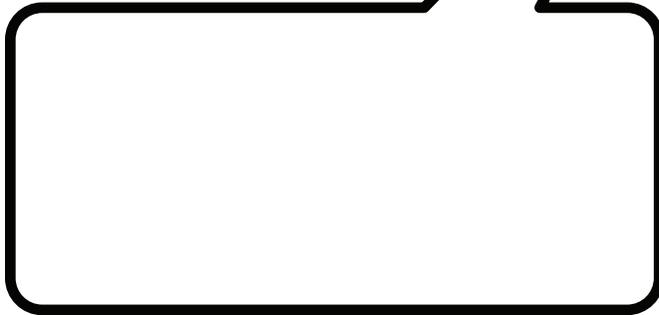
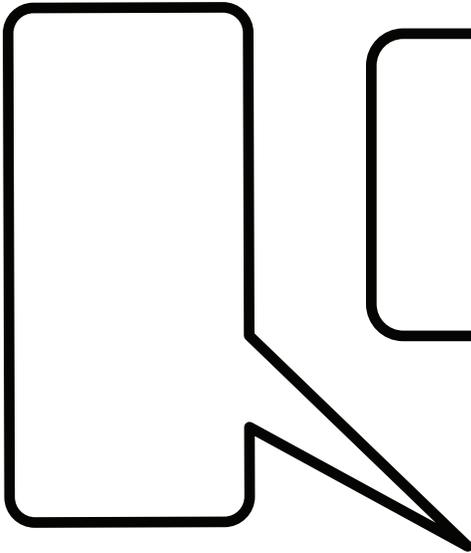
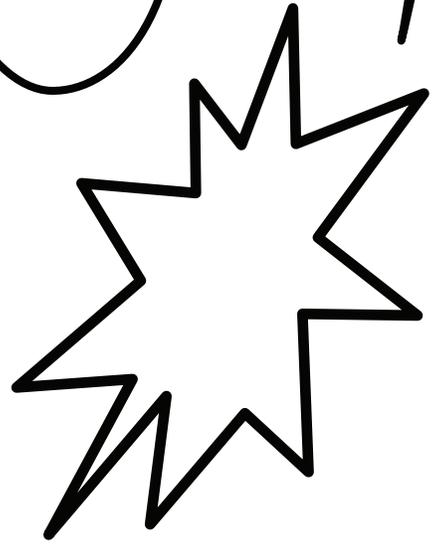
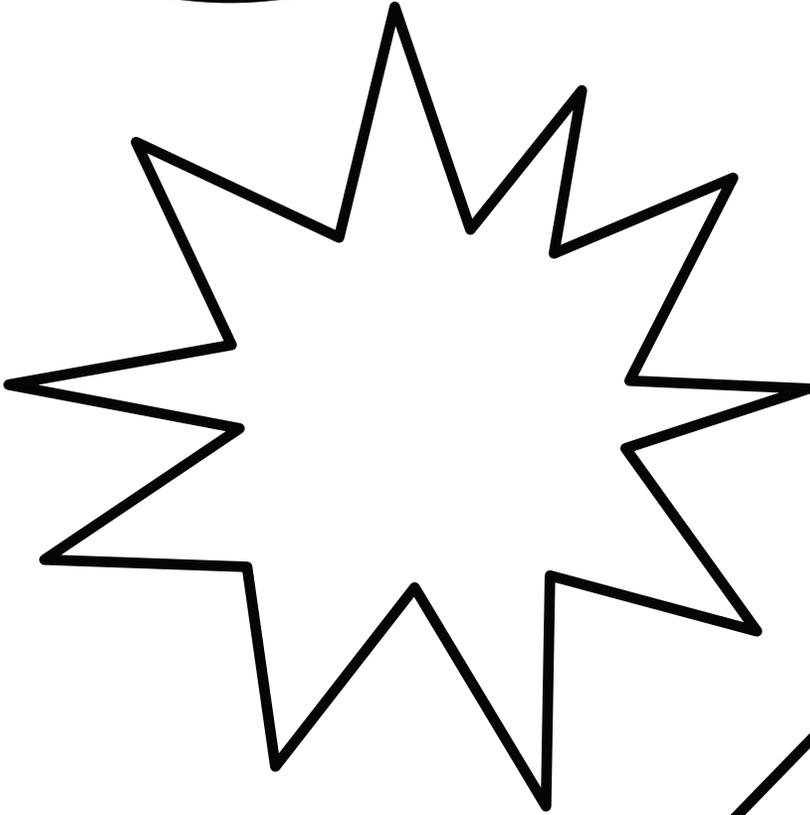
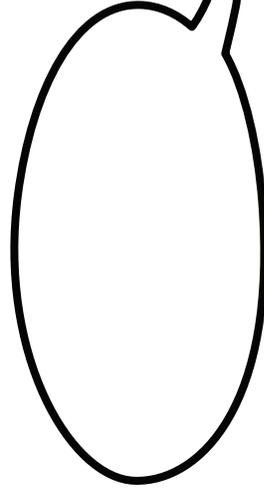
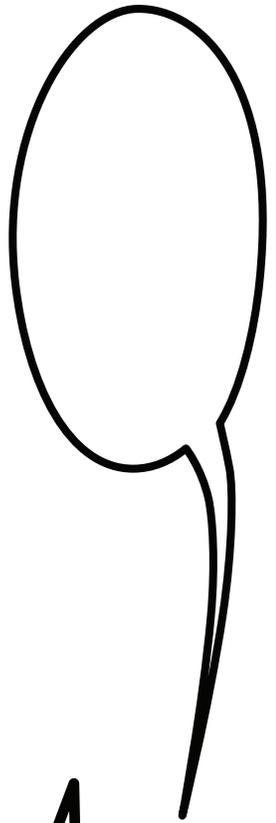
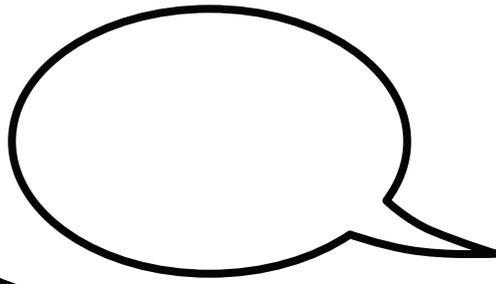
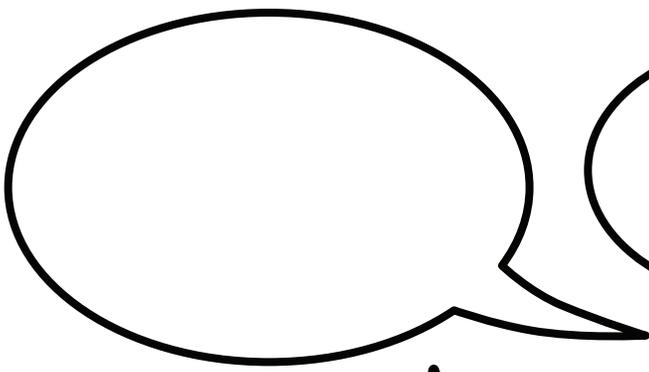
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STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 2: "ROPIN' WILL"
4TH-6TH GRADE

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

CONTENT REVIEW

1. In 1902, Will Rogers "worked his way on a cattle boat" from South America to _____.
2. What role did the Texas Jack's Wild West Show play in Will's early adult life?
3. Will Rogers became famous as a rope performing cowboy and was headlined as the _____.
4. Rogers was lured back into show business at what famous event held in St. Louis in 1904?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the idea of an Indian Cowboy seem strange? Why or why Not?
2. In the film short, there were pictures from the 1904 World's Fair of men dressed as Indians in headdresses. Such stereotypical images are common in history. Do you think that in 1904, these images would have seemed stereotypical? Why or why Not?
3. Discuss the connections between the "closing" of the Western Frontier and the rise of the Wild West Show in America during the turn of the 20th Century. 
4. How difficult do you think it was for Will Rogers to travel around the world over 100 years ago?

STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 2: "ROPIN' WILL"
4TH-6TH GRADE

ANSWER KEY

CONTENT REVIEW

1. In 1902, Will Rogers "worked his way on a cattle boat" from South America to _____.
Africa or South Africa
2. What role did the Texas Jack's Wild West Show play in Will's early adult life?
It was Will's first chance to pursue a life as a full-time performer as an entertainer.
3. Will Rogers became famous as a rope performing cowboy and was headlined as the _____.
Cherokee Kid
4. Rogers was lured back into show business at what famous event held in St. Louis in 1904?
The World's Fair

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the idea of an Indian Cowboy seem strange? Why or why Not?

TEACHER'S DISCRETION

2. In the film short, there were pictures from the 1904 World's Fair of men dressed as Indians in headdresses. Such stereotypical images are common in history. Do you think that in 1904, these images would have seemed stereotypical? Why or why Not?

TEACHER'S DISCRETION

3. Discuss the connections between the "closing" of the Western Frontier and the rise of the Wild West Show in America during the turn of the 20th Century.

TEACHER'S DISCRETION

4. How difficult do you think it was for Will Rogers to travel around the world over 100 years ago?

TEACHER'S DISCRETION