

Math Worksheet: Cowboy Equipment and Clothing

| Item | Mid to Late 1890s | 1998 prices |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Saddle | \$37.50 to \$95.00 | \$800.00 |
| Saddle Blanket | \$3.00 | \$40.00 |
| Shirt | \$0.90 | \$25.00 |
| Vest | \$1.50 | \$25.00 |
| Pants | \$1.15 | \$25.00 |
| Hat | \$3.00 to \$5.95 | \$40.00 to \$350.00 |
| Handkerchiefs | \$0.07 | \$2.00 |
| Boots | \$4.00 to \$8.50 / pair | \$100.00 + |
| Rain Slicker | \$2.85 | \$40.00 |
| Chaps | \$8.00 | \$200.00 |
| Spurs | \$1.00 to \$10.00 | \$70.00, U.S. made working spurs |
| Gun | \$12.95 | \$350.00 |
| Rope | \$2.00 | \$30.00 |

1. A horse wrangler was a young person who wanted to be a cowhand and was paid \$25.00 per month to watch the remuda on the trail drive. Sometimes it would take three months to trail the cattle to their final destination. Once the cattle were delivered, the wrangler would get paid. How much would the wrangler get paid if he worked three months?
2. After the wrangler was paid, he would buy some additional clothes and supplies. Using the chart above for prices, determine how much the wrangler would spend if he purchased a new shirt, rope, hat, and boots? How much of his salary would be left after he paid for these items?
3. Cowhands today need the same clothing and equipment that cowhands in the 1890s needed. Prices of clothing and equipment have increased in the last one hundred years. Using the chart above determine what a shirt, rope, hat, and boots (the same items listed in question no. 2) would cost today.
4. How much have these items increased in price (dollars) from the 1890s to 1998? What percentage increase would this be?