

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE MEDALLION PUZZLE

The American Quarter Horse is known around the world as the most versatile breed in the equestrian world. His roots start in colonial Virginia. At that time, he was used for farm work and pulled wagons and carriages.

As our country started to expand to the west, so did the breed's popularity and the need for the horse's labor on the ranch and the open range.

Cattle were a huge source of meat and provided hides that were made into much-needed leather goods. People all across the Americas sought these products. Cattle drives eventually became a widespread endeavor across the country to the California gold rush areas, where cattle prices were higher. Thousands of cattle were moved by cowboys on horseback and a typical drive from Texas to California would take up to six months.

One of the most prominent cattle drive trails through Texas was the Chisholm Trail that stretched between the North Canadian and Arkansas rivers. This trail led cattle from Texas north to Abilene, Kansas. When the railroad began to establish travel, the old Chisholm Trail was no longer needed and began to fade away around 1884.

After the Civil War, ranches began to spring up everywhere. With many different ranches, cattle had to be branded or ear marked to let cowboys and ranch hands distinguish the herds if they got mixed or lost.

The horse and rider could not get the cattle to market, doctored or branded unless they worked as a team.

So just like the cowboy and rider, work on the medallion puzzle (as shown above) with a family member to put it together!

Materials:

- Printer
- Cardstock paper
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Download and print the medallion puzzle template.
2. Cut out the 8" x 8" image of the medallion puzzle.
3. Use the white lines to cut out the puzzle pieces.
4. Now, work with a family member to help you put it together!





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