All About Cowboys

The Open Range and Cattle Drives

open range - unfenced land of Texas

Cattle Drives - the herding & moving of cattle over long distances

Life on the Trail

- hard & dangerous
- hot dusty trails, cowhands could spend 18 hours a day in a saddle earning less than $1 a day
- saved cattle from river currents, fires & theives

The Myth of the West

myth - the west was violent had adventure & endless opportunities

promoted by William "Buffalo Bill" Cody → created a traveling show in 1883; Cowboys & Native Americans performed daring sharpshootings & horseback riding

Vaquero

the Spanish word for cowhand or cowboy

tended cattle on ranches in Mexico, California & the Southwest

The end of the Cowboy days

more cattle then the land could feed.

grazing competition with sheep.

Farmers fenced in open range

pg 590-594