

MAKE YOUR OWN CATTLE BRAND

This activity aligns with the [California History-Social Science Framework for Fourth Grade](#) and following [History-Social Content Science Standards: 4.2.5](#).

Brands have been used throughout history as a way for owners to identify their cattle.

Each of the twenty-one Missions in California had an identifiable brand such as the iconic C-A-P Mission San Juan Capistrano brand. Today many sports teams and stores have logos which are similar to these brands.

To learn more about cattle brands before starting this activity, read *"Dig Deeper into Cattle Brands"* found along with this activity.



Mission San Juan Capistrano Branding Iron
MSJC Archives

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil or Marker (any color)
- Pipe Cleaners or Sponge
- Safety Scissors
- Brown Paper Bag or Brown Construction Paper
- Paint (any kind and color available)



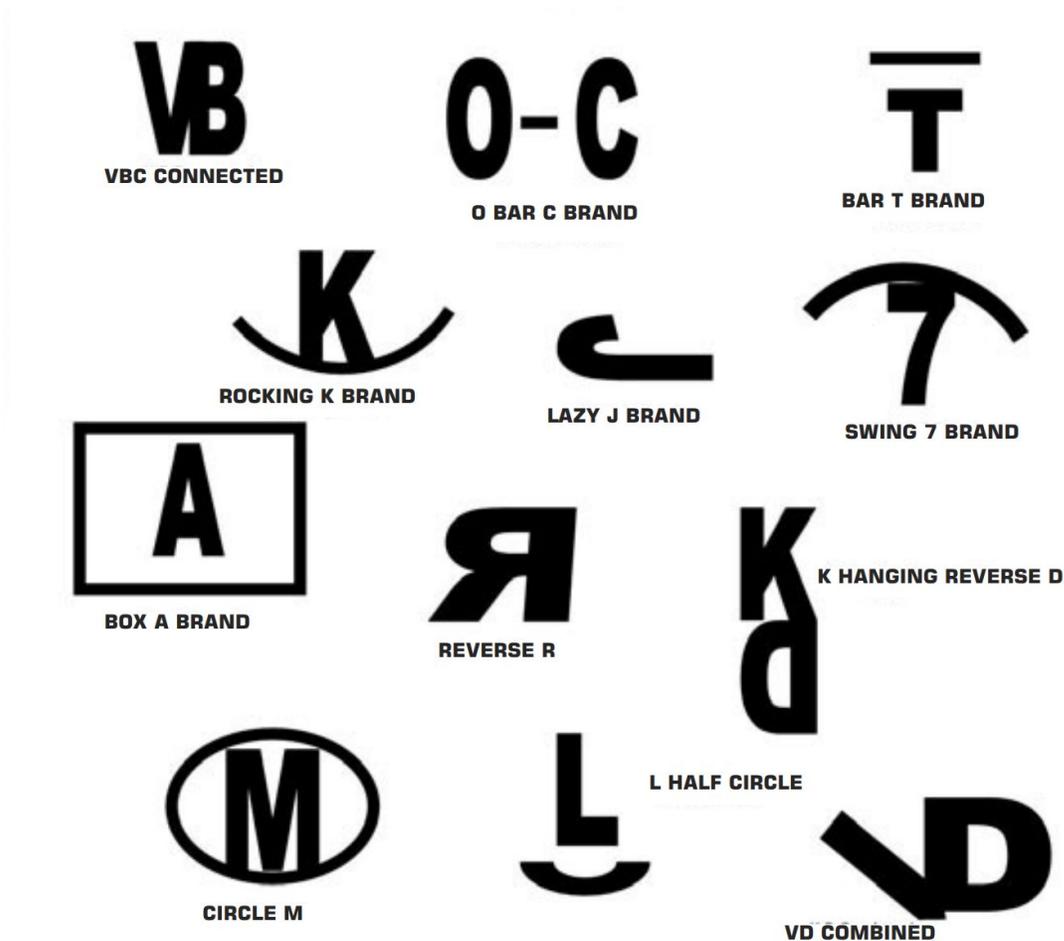
Mission San Juan Capistrano Brand

MAKE YOUR OWN CATTLE BRAND

Directions

STEP 1 - BRAINSTORM

Using a pencil and paper, sketch out a few ideas for your personal or family brand. Think about what letter and symbols would best represent you or your family. For ideas look at the cattle brand examples below.



TIP: Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, outside to inside. Letters, numbers and characters can be used.

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STEP 2 - CHOOSE YOUR MATERIALS

Once you have chosen the final version of your brand, decide if you would like to make your brand out of pipe cleaners or a sponge. These will act like a stamp for you to use on a piece of paper.

→ To make your brand out of a sponge:

- ◆ Use a pencil or marker to draw your brand onto the sponge. **Remember to draw it backwards** so when you use it as a stamp your brand is facing the right way.
- ◆ Use safety scissors to cut your brand out of the sponge. Ask an adult for help with this step if you need it.

→ To make your brand out of pipe cleaners:

- ◆ Bend and twist your pipe cleaners together into the shape of your brand. **Remember to shape your pipe cleaners so your brand looks backwards** because when you use it as a stamp your brand will be facing the right way.
- ◆ Cut off any extra pieces with safety scissors.

TIP: Look at the examples below for what your backwards brand stamp should look like compared to your brand design.



Backwards Brand



Brand Design

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STEP 3 - MAKE "LEATHER" OUT OF PAPER

Use safety scissors to cut a brown paper bag or brown construction paper into a cow hide shape like the one pictured here. Crinkle the paper bag to give it a leather look.



Branded Cow Hide
MSJC Archives

STEP 4 - STAMP YOUR BRAND

Put your paint into a container wide enough for you to dip your brand stamp. Dip your brand stamp into the paint, then press it evenly onto your brown paper "leather."

Share your brand on social media with the hashtag **#MissionSanJuanCapistrano** and we'll reshare it in a future post!

This activity was created by Mission San Juan Capistrano.

