

Code of the West: Level 1

Men and women on the western frontier were judged by their actions – not by their past; not their accumulated wealth, family name, education or accent. Personal integrity, respectful conduct and hard work were traits valued by the people of the Old West. This code of behavior, referred to as the “Code of the West” has been idealized and romanticized in novels, movies, television and even comic books over the years. It is woven into the fabric of the American Cowboy.

Many have attempted to write down the “unwritten” Code of the West. There are many variations with various names; such as cowboy creed, cowboy code of ethics, cowboy wisdom, rules of the range. The 4-H Western Heritage project has adopted the code developed and shared by Jim Owen in his book, *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn from the Code of the West*.

Find a copy of Jim Owen’s book or search online and make a complete list of the Ten Principles to Live By:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Select two of the 10 principles; and explain in your own words what they mean to you.

1. _____

2. _____

