

= Pest of the West =

" Pest of the West " is the 16th episode of the fifth season and the 96th overall episode of the American animated television series *SpongeBob SquarePants* . In this episode , *SpongeBob* finds that he is a distant relative of *SpongeBuck SquarePants* , a sheriff from Bikini Bottom 's past who helped save the citizens from the quickest whip draw in town , the evil *Dead Eye Plankton* . It was written by *Luke Brookshier* , *Tom King* , *Steven Banks* and *Richard Pursel* , with *Andrew Overtoom* and *Tom Yasumi* serving as animation directors . *Brookshier* and *King* also functioned as storyboard directors .

Pest of the West originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on April 11 , 2008 , and became available on DVD four days later . It included the song " *Idiot Friends* , " written by *Tom Kenny* and *Andy Paley* , which was later released on the album called *SpongeBob 's Greatest Hits* in 2009 . Upon release , the episode garnered a total of 6 @. @ 1 million viewers , and was met with positive reviews from media critics .

= = Plot summary = =

At the *Krusty Krab* , *SpongeBob* discovers that his friend *Patrick Star* had a famous relative named *Patrick Revere* , (A parody of *Paul Revere*) , who warned Bikini Bottom of vicious man @-@ eating mollusks during the 17th century . Later , *Mr. Krabs* , *SpongeBob* 's boss , reveals that he also had a famous relative---his great @-@ great grandpappy *Krabs* , who invented " *The Spendthrift Bill Fold System* , " a booby trap that baits its victims with a dollar bill . Disappointed , he walks into the park where he observes a statue covered in poop and runs into *Sandy* , who reveals that her great aunt named *Rosie Cheeks* was the first squirrel to discover oil in Texas . Feeling sorry for *SpongeBob* , *Sandy* takes him to a library . *SpongeBob* learns that he is the great @-@ great @-@ great grandson of a Western hero called *SpongeBuck SquarePants* . *Sandy* begins to tell *SpongeBob* the story of *SpongeBuck* .

In the story , *SpongeBuck SquarePants* takes a train to a town named *Dead Eye Gulch* . He goes to *The Dead Eye Funeral and Ice Cream Parlor* , and later goes to a western saloon called the *Krusty Kantina* . There he meets *William Krabs* , (*Mr. Krabs* ' ancestor) , *Hopalong Tentacles* , (*Squidward* 's ancestor , a parody of *Hopalong Cassidy*) , and *Polene Puff* , (*Mrs. Puff* 's ancestor) . Later , *Pecos Patrick Star* , (*Patrick* 's ancestor , a parody of *Pecos Bill*) arrives and warns everybody that the town 's villain , *Dead Eye Plankton* , would arrive and sing a song called " *Dead Eye* . " *Dead Eye Plankton* then arrives , and challenges *SpongeBuck* to a duel at high noon . *SpongeBuck* gets kicked away to a desert and there he meets *Pecos Patrick Star* . *Pecos Patrick* tells *SpongeBuck* that he must smack *Dead Eye Plankton* several times to defeat him . When they get back into town , *SpongeBuck* meets *Dead Eye Plankton* and the two proceed to have a western duel . *SpongeBuck* then accidentally steps on *Dead Eye* , defeating him . The next scene shows *William Krabs* profiting by having the people of *Dead Eye Gulch* step on *Dead Eye Plankton* in exchange for one dollar . Eventually , the people build a golden statue of *SpongeBuck* to show their gratitude . *SpongeBuck* says that if he ever has a great @-@ great @-@ great @-@ great @-@ great grandson , he wanted him to say he was proud of his grandfather .

After hearing the story the two friends go back to the park and *SpongeBob* cleans the poop @-@ covered statue , which is actually a statue of *SpongeBuck* . The Episode concludes with *SpongeBob* saying that someday people will know the name *SpongeBob SquarePants* . In the epilogue , *SpongeBuck* and *Pecos Patrick* sing " *Idiot Friends* . "

= = Production = =

" *Pest of the West* " was a special episode written by *Luke Brookshier* , *Tom King* , *Steven Banks* and *Richard Pursel* , with *Andrew Overtoom* and *Tom Yasumi* serving as animation directors . *Brookshier* and *King* also functioned as storyboard directors . *Brown Johnson* , president of animation for Nickelodeon and MTVN Kids and Family Group , said " *SpongeBob* consistently finds

new ways to delight our audience [...] , and this special is just another example of how the creative team can put SpongeBob in any setting and deliver funny , unforgettable classic moments . "

To promote the episode , Nickelodeon released short @-@ form videos of the special including a two @-@ minute preview clip , song clips and an instant replay of the special following its premiere on TurboNick , the network 's broadband video service on Nick.com. Following its premiere , " Pest of the West " was streamed on video on demand and became available for purchase through downloads on various Nickelodeon partner video distribution platforms . Nickelodeon also launched an online page for the episode located on " www.nick.com / pest " , where it featured a new game of the week , and a " name generator " .

" Pest of the West " is the first episode in the series that the crew used Wacom Cintiqs for the drawings , instead of pencils . Series background designer Kenny Pittenger said that " the only real difference between the way we draw now and the way we drew then is that we abandoned pencil and paper during the fifth season . " The crew began the shift while they were working on the episode . Pittenger said that " it was while we were working on ' Pest of the West ' , one of the half @-@ hour specials , that we made the switch ? did you notice ? " The shift to Wacom Cintiqs let the designers and animators draw on computer screen and make immediate changes or undo mistakes . Pittenger said " Many neo @-@ Luddites ? er ? I mean , many of my cohorts ? don 't like working on them , but I find them useful . There 's no substitute for the immediacy of drawing on a piece of paper , of course , but digital nautical nonsense is still pretty fun . "

The song featured in the episode 's epilogue , " Idiot Friends " , was written by Tom Kenny , SpongeBob 's voice actor , and Andy Paley . In 2009 , the song was released on the album called SpongeBob 's Greatest Hits , alongside 16 other tracks .

= = Cultural references = =

" Pest of the West " features cultural references from various Western films . Aspects of the musical cues used in the high noon duel between SpongeBuck and Dead Eye Plankton was from Sergio Leone 's 1968 Spaghetti Western film Once Upon a Time in the West , complete with Ennio Morricone 's harmonica riff used for the Charles Bronson character .

= = Reception = =

" Pest of the West " first aired with a TV @-@ Y7 parental rating . The premiere marked the fourth Nickelodeon telecast in 2008 to move to the top of basic cable among total viewers , as well as handily ranking as number @-@ one on broadcast and cable television among kids 2 @-@ 11 , 6 @-@ 11 and teens 9 @-@ 14 . A total of 6 @. @ 1 million viewers tuned into the half @-@ hour " Pest of the West " special .

The episode received positive reviews from media critics . Paul Mavis of the DVD Talk said the episode is " a real treat for fans of westerns and spaghetti westerns " because " the writers play off time @-@ honored genre clichés so well . " Mavis lauded Plankton 's appearance in the episode , saying " Plankton reaches insane levels of hilarity here , brandishing a whip like Lash LaRue and cracking it at the ' hayseeds ' that get in his way . " He also praised Plankton 's voice actor , Mr. Lawrence , on his role , writing " It 's a terrific vocal performance by [Mr.] Doug Lawrence (made even more funny during the town 's ritualized squashing of villain Dead @-@ Eye , as he screams grotesquely off @-@ camera) . "

Lesley Aeschliman of Yahoo ! Voices praised the " going back in time " element of the episode , comparing it to " Dunces and Dragons " . Russ Evenhuis of Blogcritics was positive towards the DVD , saying " You won 't be disappointed . "

Roy Hrab of the DVD Verdict was negative towards the DVD , saying " adults will be disappointed further , but , more importantly , I think kids (except for the very young) will be less than [sic] impressed . Without question , the energy and imagination level of the show has dropped precipitously . " He criticized the featured song , " Idiot Friends " , saying it was " extremely idiotic (and not in a funny way) . " Mike McGuire of Napster , on the song " Idiot Friends " , said " [It]

illustrate [s] SpongeBob 's dedication to total absurdity , irreverence and harmlessly off @-@ color gags . "

= = Merchandising = =

On April 15 , 2008 , Nickelodeon and Paramount Home Entertainment released the episode on the DVD of the same name . The DVD featured six other episodes , including " The Krusty Plate " , " Pat No Pay " , " The Inmates of Summer " , " To Save a Squirrel " , " 20 @,@ 000 Patties Under the Sea " and " The Battle of Bikini Bottom . " Bonus features include a " Pest of the West " original animatic and four " Pest of the West " shorts . It also became available in the SpongeBob SquarePants : Season 5 , Vol . 2 DVD on November 18 , 2008 . On September 22 , 2009 , " Pest of the West " was released in the SpongeBob SquarePants : The First 100 Episodes DVD , alongside all the episodes of seasons one through five .

In 2013 , Nickelodeon released a tie @-@ in book based on the episode called Pest of the West . The book was illustrated by Caleb Meurer , published by Random House , and was released on January 8 .