



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

A Stetson hat owned by western movie star Tom Mix who made nearly 300 films from 1909 to 1935 and helped to define the genre of “westerns.” Mix was a genuine cowboy and a national riding and roping champion. Artifact courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers’ Museum.

SUGGESTED USES

1. Employ this artifact as an introduction to the establishment and growth of two related 20th century phenomena: the movie industry and the power of celebrity.
 - a. Why would anyone be interested in preserving a cowboy hat from a person who died in 1940?
 - b. Why was his cowboy hat preserved and not his Fedora or a baseball cap?
2. Combine this hat with the Roy Rogers railroad lantern in order to discuss the power and draw of the West and western heroes.
 - a. What American values did these characters embody?
 - b. These people were very popular between 1930 and 1965. Why do you think their popularity existed during those times especially? What was occurring in and around American society that required the reinforcement of American values and ideals?
 - c. Do we have cowboy heroes today?
 - i. *We do, just dressed differently.*
 - a. *Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Ironman, Superman and Batman are all “cowboys” in different clothing.*