Witte Where You Are
Make Your Own Branding Iron Stamps

Being a vaquero, or cowboy, was a popular profession in Texas history. One of the responsibilities of a vaquero would be to use a branding iron to brand, or label, cattle and horses. Branding was an important way to tell animals apart from those of another cowboy on a Trail Drive. A brand could be a special symbol or a group of letters that best represent the ranch that the animals belong to.

Put yourself in the boots of a vaquero and create your own branding iron stamp to use at home. Show us what you design by sharing your pictures with us on social media @wittemuseum using the tag #wittewhereyouare.

Materials
Pipe cleaners
Non-toxic paint
Paper plate
Paper for stamping

Directions

1. Gather supplies
2. Form pipe cleaners into shapes; add a second pipe cleaner to act as a handle
3. Dip brand into paint
4. Stamp onto paper and create your masterpiece