

WESTERN WORDS

chuck wagon: a wagon carrying food and supplies for cooking meals on the trail

Colts: firearms

desperado: a desperate and reckless outlaw

didn't cotton to: didn't like

dry-gulch: to lie in wait and attack someone by surprise

forked: straddled

holed up: hiding out

lynching: the crime of killing someone, often by hanging, without the approval of the law. A group of people that commits a lynching is called a lynch mob.

on the dodge (also called on the lam): moving from place to place to avoid capture by peace officers

peace officer: a marshal, sheriff, police officer, or other person whose job is to protect people and make sure that laws are followed

pluck: spirit or courage

posse: a group of people appointed by a sheriff or marshal to help with law enforcement, such as capturing outlaws

put down stakes: to claim a piece of land and make a home there

right as rain: honest and true

running muddy: going badly

shooting irons: firearms

sorrel: a light reddish brown horse, often with a light-colored mane and tail

spread: a ranch, or farm

square shooter: a fair and honest person

squatters: people who settle on land without a legal right

tumbleweed wagon: wagons for transporting prisoners. Tumbleweeds are dried weeds that tumble across the prairie as the wind blows. People thought that a tumbleweed wagon seemed to wander across the prairie in one direction and then another, like a tumbleweed.

vittles: food

warrant: a written document issued by a court directing an officer of the law to arrest someone or to search or seize someone's property