

# Eleanor's Cattle Brand



Happy Eleanor's  
Ranch



# Role of Cattle in the California Missions

- Spanish explorers brought 200 Spanish longhorn cattle to the California missions
- The cattle were important to the missions because...
  - Food: beef and dairy products
  - Tallow (cow fat): soap and candles
  - Selling/Trading hides
  - Leather: saddles, lassos, ropes, and clothing



# Branding Cattle

- Calves are branded in the spring and fall.
- Several people have to hold the calves down.
- The vaqueros heat the iron in a fire and place it on the left side of the calves' bums.
- Each mission had its own brand.
- Today, we pierce calves' ears and place a plastic tag on them.



Cowhide branded with San Juan Capistrano's cattle brand



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*I sawed a metal tube into three pieces.*



*I drilled holes into the metal tubes.*



*I filed the edges of the tubes because they were jagged from the saw.*



*I polished some sides of the tubes to make the E and H letters.*



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*I screwed bolts into the tubes to attach them together.*



*I hammered the wooden handle into the tube!*



*I filed the wooden piece so it could fit into the tube for a handle.*



*I was fanning the fire so it would flame.*



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*I heated my brand.*



*I branded the wood.*



*Happy Eleanor's Ranch*