

## Modular Teacher's Guide for *Coyote School News*

**Part 1** The Mexican Cession and Gadsden Purchase (the area background)

**Part 2** *Coyote School News* (chapter by chapter)

**Part 3** The *Little Cowpuncher* Website (the inspiration for the book)

**Grade level:** 3 to 5 (Ideal for Arizona fourth graders)

### **Materials and Resources:**

- ***Coyote School News*** (ISBN 0-8050-6558-X) written and illustrated by Joan Sandin
- Attached maps showing the Mexican Cession and The Gadsden Purchase
- *Little Cowpuncher* Website at <http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher>

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

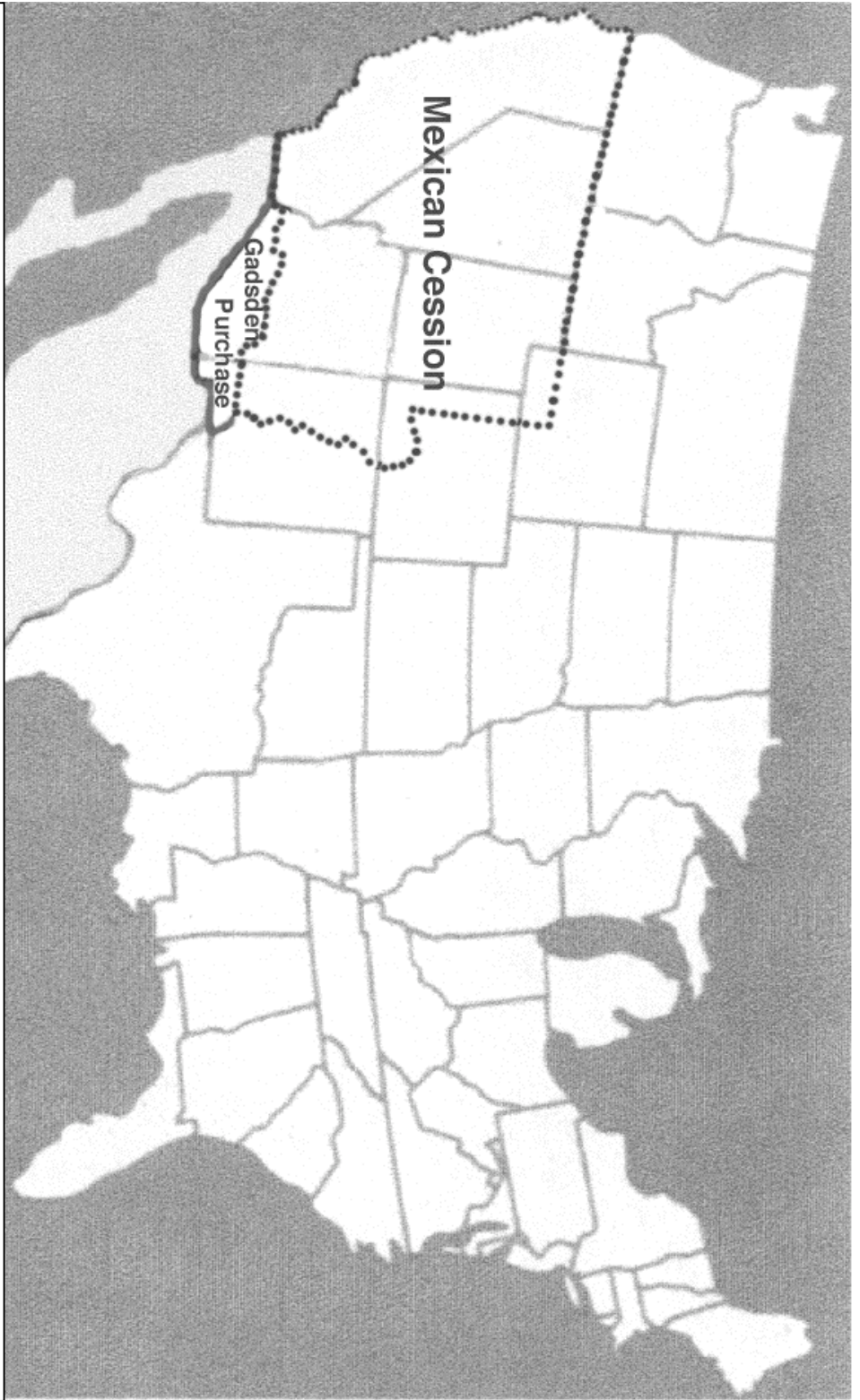
- Locate the Mexican Cession and Gadsden Purchase on a map.
- Comprehend the changes these acquisitions have made to the U.S. and to Arizona.
- Better understand the historic relationship between the United States and Mexico.
- Understand the background of Spanish language usage in Arizona.
- Learn some Spanish words, and use the book's pronouncing glossary.
- Learn about Mexican holidays, customs, and traditions in Southern Arizona.
- Learn what Arizona ranch life was like for boys and girls in 1938/39.
- Experience the everyday activities of students in a one-room school.
- Access a website to see actual ranch school newspapers from over 60 years ago.
- Perform extra activities directly related to what they have learned.

**Historical background:** The Mexican Cession is the name for that part of the present day Southwest, ceded to the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War (1846 –1848) under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago. Most of what is now Arizona became part of the United States at that time, with the international border set to run along the Gila River. What is now Southern Arizona, however, was still part of Mexico. It wasn't until the Gadsden Purchase (1854) that it too became part of U.S. Territory. Almost all the farms and ranches of the new Arizona Territory were located in the southernmost part. Most were owned by Mexican pioneer families, who suddenly became American citizens. Monchi Ramírez, the fictional main character of *Coyote School News*, is a direct descendent of such a family.

***Coyote School News***, a richly illustrated historical fiction, tells the story of Monchi Ramírez, who lives on a ranch built by his great-grandfather when Arizona was still part of Mexico. The story is set during the school year of 1938/39. Students will read about events on Monchi's ranch (chile harvesting, roundup, a piñata party), and in his one-room school (the school newspaper, a baseball game, Halloween and Christmas parties, the rodeo parade.)

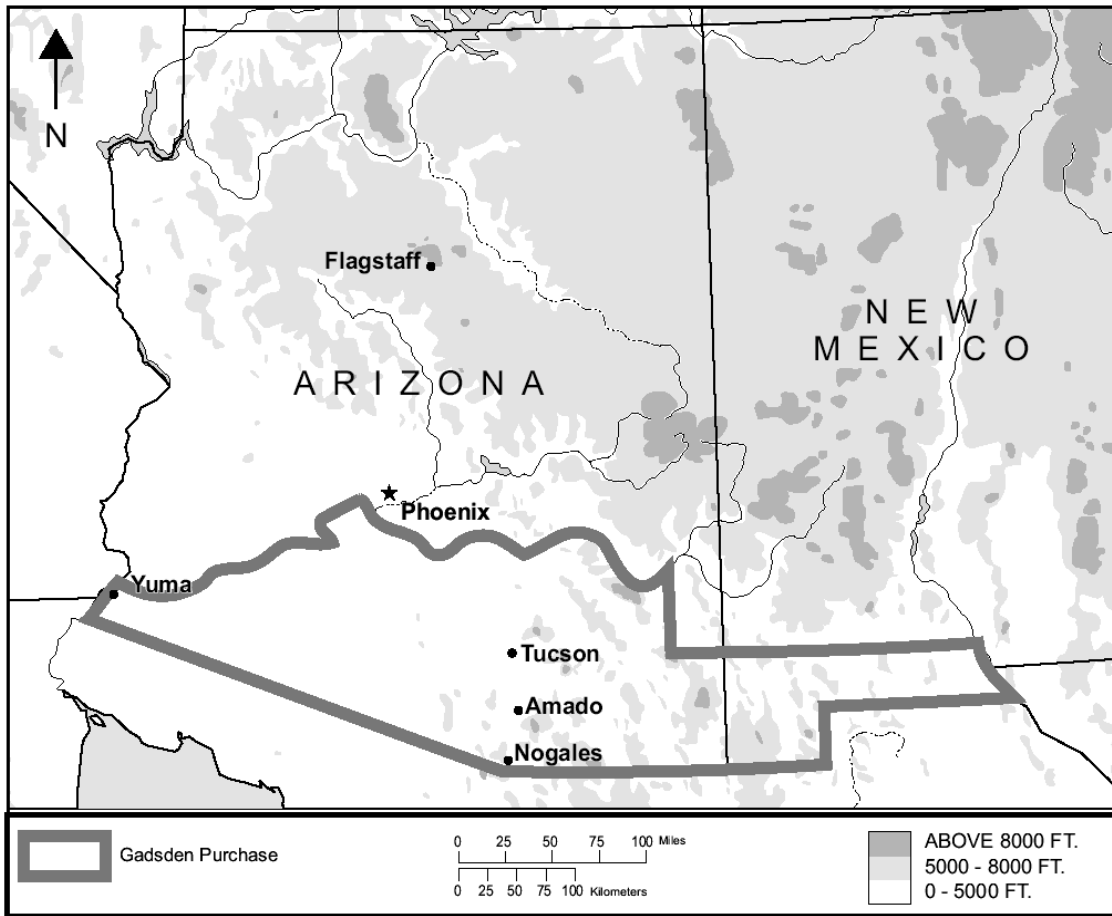
While enjoying the eventful story, students will be able to experience and better understand the rich Mexican heritage and ranch traditions of Southern Arizona.

## Part 1 - The MEXICAN CESSION and the GADSDEN PURCHASE



***Using this map:***

1. Write **Mexico**, the **United States**, and **Arizona** where they belong on the map.
1. Locate the **Mexican Cession** and the **Gadsden Purchase**.
  - 1a. Color them different colors.
  - 1b. Cut them out to see how it changes the shape of the US map.



Courtesy: Arizona Geographic Alliance  
Department of Geography, Arizona State University  
Chelsea Gratrix  
coyote\_schoolnews.PDF04

**Using the above map:**

Find the **Gadsden Purchase, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Yuma, Tucson, Amado, and Nogales.**

1. Which places are part of the original Mexican Cession?

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2. Which ones are part of the Gadsden Purchase?

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Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.

**Look at the map on page 8 of Coyote School News.**

**Find Monchi's ranch.**

1. What language is the word *Rancho*? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the first paragraph on page 8.**

2. How old is *Rancho San Isidro*? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Was it built before or after the Gadsden Purchase? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What country was it in then? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think Monchi means when he says "the line"? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the joke Monchi's father tells about moving the line in 1854? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Without the Gadsden Purchase would people in Tucson be U.S. citizens? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. What language would they speak? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Without the Gadsden Purchase would people in Phoenix be U.S. citizens? \_\_\_\_\_

7a. What language would they speak? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Without the Gadsden Purchase would you and your family be speaking a different language? \_\_\_\_\_

List all the English words you can think of that come from Spanish.

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\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2 – COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS, Chapter by Chapter

### THE FRONT END PAPERS (pages 2 and 3)

1. Who is in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think the picture isn't in color? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is there a date above the picture? \_\_\_\_\_

### THE COPYRIGHT AND TITLE PAGES (pages 4 and 5)

1. What is the title of this book? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who wrote this book? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who did the pictures? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the artist do the pictures? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What year was this book published? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is this book dedicated to someone? \_\_\_\_\_

### THE AUTHOR'S NOTE (page 6)

1. Where did the idea for this book come from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who do you think the people in the picture are? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. How old do you think they are? \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTENTS (page 7)

1. How many chapters are in this book? \_\_\_\_\_

**RANCHO SAN ISIDRO (Pages 8 - 9)**

1. Who lives on Monchi's ranch? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is *Tio* Chaco? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does Monchi say *tio* in Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you guess what *tia* might mean? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you don't know what a word means, how can you find out? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5a. Where is the glossary in this book? \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of four Spanish words you already know.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you know what a *vaquero* is? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. How did you find out? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Monchi think is the most exciting time of the year? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What doesn't he like about his ranch? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What do you think you would like about living on a ranch? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What would you not like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pretend you live on a ranch. Write about what you do on the ranch.

**Look at the picture on page 9.**

11. Who do you think the people in the picture are? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What are they doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What does the sign on the car say? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Why is someone under the car? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Who is president of the U.S. at the time of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does Monchi wish the president would do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Find the windmill. Why do you think Monchi's ranch would have a windmill? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain how a windmill works.

On the T chart write down all the animals you see in the picture.

Write the name in Spanish if you know it.

<u>animals in the picture (English)</u>	<u>animals in the picture (Spanish)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**THE LONG AND BUMPY ROAD TO SCHOOL (pages 10 - 11)**

***Look on the map on page 10.***

1. Find the river near Monchi's ranch.

1a. What is the name of the river? \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Have you ever seen that river? \_\_\_\_\_

1c. Does the river always have water in it? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the roads like from Monchi's ranch to his school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where does Billy live? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In 1938 what did the word dude mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4a. Does it have a different meaning now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is it Natalia thinks is so funny? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who is Gilbert Pérez? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. Why does everybody call him Gilbert *Perezoso*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who is Edelia? \_\_\_\_\_

7a. How old is she? \_\_\_\_\_

7b. Why is she still in the first grade? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**COYOTE SCHOOL (pages 12 - 13)**

***Look at the picture on pages 12/13***

1. How many kids are in the "school bus"? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are there any animals in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Whose are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is Chipito? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think this looks like a modern school? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the small building behind the school? \_\_\_\_\_

5a. Does your school have one of those? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Does Coyote School have a playground? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why doesn't it have a parking lot? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Where does Rosie live? \_\_\_\_\_

8a. Does Monchi like Rosie? \_\_\_\_\_

Make a valentine for Rosie from Monchi

9. How do Lalo and Frankie come to school? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who is Miss Byers? \_\_\_\_\_

10a. Where does she live? \_\_\_\_\_

10b. Do the kids like her? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What are Miss Byers' "swell" ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What do you think "swell" means? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell why you think the author would use such an old-fashioned word as "swell."

**COYOTE NEWS (page14)**

**Look at the picture on page 14.**

1. What are the kids doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1a. What did they look at before they started? \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Which one did they like best? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are those the names of real newspapers? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you ever read a newspaper? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. If so, what is the name of that paper? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is Loli? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. Can she speak English? \_\_\_\_\_

4b. What other language do you think she speaks? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you speak any other languages? \_\_\_\_\_ Why, or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Does Loli know how to write? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. Who helps her? \_\_\_\_\_

6b. How does he help her? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who is Victor? \_\_\_\_\_

7a. What doesn't Monchi like about him? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What does *chismoso* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

8a. Have you ever been a *chismoso*? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does Miss Byers say about speaking Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

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Write a paragraph about whether you agree or disagree with her.

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**COYOTE NEWS** issue number 1 (page 15)

1. What is *Coyote News*? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. Who writes the stories and draws the pictures? \_\_\_\_\_

1b. What do you know about Coyote School from the stories? \_\_\_\_\_

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1c. What is the award Miss Byers will give out? \_\_\_\_\_

**Go back and look at the picture on page 5 (the title page.)**

2. Is there a story in *Coyote News* about this? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE CHILES (pages 16 - 17)**

**Look at the picture on page 16.**

1. Who is in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are they doing? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Have you ever done that? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have jobs at home? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. If so, are they easier or harder than Monchi's? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens to Monchi? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why doesn't he tell his father? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who takes Monchi to Tucson? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who takes Monchi to the doctor? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you think there is no doctor near the ranch? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What does the doctor tell Monchi and his aunt? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Where does Monchi stay in Tucson? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What are some of the things he does in Tucson? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What does Monchi see that he would like to have? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BAD NEWS (page18)**

1. Why is Monchi a hero? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the bad news? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Who tells him about it? \_\_\_\_\_

2b. How does it make Monchi feel? \_\_\_\_\_

2c. Who tries to cheer him up? \_\_\_\_\_

Who cheers you up when you've had some bad news?.

\_\_\_\_\_

**COYOTE NEWS issue number 2 (page 19)**

1. Who drew the picture at the top? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. What is happening in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you know about the Lopez brothers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is Vaquita? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who still has perfect attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is chúcata? \_\_\_\_\_

5a. What do you think it would taste like? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the "Big News"? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. Who is invited? \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you have a party at your school, is your whole family invited? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE HALLOWEEN PARTY (page 20 - 21)**

1. How many black cats do you see? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you know who made the decorations? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is the party during the day or at night? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is on Miss Byers' desk? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens at the party? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Does the party end early or late? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Have you ever been to a party like this one? \_\_\_\_\_

Pretend you go to Coyote School. Tell what you liked best about the party.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**COYOTE NEWS issue number 3 (page 22)**

1. What does Victor say about the party? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is *Día de los Muertos*? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think is going on with the turkey at Monchi's ranch? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who still has the perfect attendance? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who likes rain? \_\_\_\_\_ Who doesn't? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you like rain? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell why you think rain would be important for ranchers.

**THE RAIN AND THE NURSE (page 23)**

1. What does the River look like after the rain? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What did it look like before? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Who is Mrs. Payne \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3a. Is she always at the school? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What do you think the "Food Program" is? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What are some things Mrs. Payne does? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**COYOTE NEWS issue number 4 (page 24)**

1. What happens to the turkey at Victor's ranch? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do they eat for Thanksgiving dinner? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. What are the kids planning for Christmas vacation? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does Frankie think the name Santa Claus is funny? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Look at the Christmas Wish List.**

6. Would you like to have any of those things? \_\_\_\_\_

Write your own wish list.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think the kids at Coyote School would like to have any of those things? \_\_\_\_\_

7a. Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

**CHRISTMAS (page 25)**

1. Who is the surprise visitor at the party? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. What does he have with him? \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Who do you think he really is? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Monchi do in Tucson? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is a permanent wave? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Monchi think of Natalia's hair? \_\_\_\_\_

**NOCHEBUENA pages 26/27**

1. What does *Nochebuena* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Monchi's family do to get ready for *Nochebuena*?

2a. The men \_\_\_\_\_

2b. The women \_\_\_\_\_

2c. The kids \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you ever eaten *menudo* or *tamales*? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, did you like them? \_\_\_\_\_

List any special foods your family eats at holidays.

NAME OF HOLIDAY	SPECIAL FOOD



4. How do Monchi and the other kids make a piñata? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Have you ever made a piñata? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you put in a piñata? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What would NOT be a good idea to put in a piñata? \_\_\_\_\_

8. How do you break a piñata? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Who breaks the piñata at Monchi's party? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is inside? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you ever been to a piñata party? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the best way to break a piñata.

12. What happens at midnight? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What do they do when they get home? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Who comes with presents? \_\_\_\_\_

14a. What are the presents? \_\_\_\_\_

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14b. Why does Monchi like his the best? \_\_\_\_\_

Write about the best present you ever got, or something you wished for, but never got.

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**COYOTE NEWS** issue number 5 (page 28)

1. What date was the paper printed? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. Why is it a different year from the last issue? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Miss Byers get for Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does Coyote School have electricity? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. How can Miss Byers use her present? \_\_\_\_\_

Write about what your school would be like without electricity.

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4. What do the kids listen to on Miss Byer's radio? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is the president of the United States in 1939? \_\_\_\_\_

Write some things about that president: (Students can look this up on the internet)

6. Was anyone you know alive in 1939? \_\_\_\_\_

Ask someone who was alive in 1939 what they remember about that year.

7. Why do some of the dudes talk like the president? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Who still has the perfect attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does Miss Byers tell the kids? \_\_\_\_\_

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**LA FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS (pages 29 –31)**

1. What is *La Fiesta de los Vaqueros*? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. What does it mean in Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever been to a rodeo? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have, write about what you saw there.

3. What does Monchi want to do in the parade? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. Why do you think Miss Byers doesn't like his idea? \_\_\_\_\_

Write about what might have happened if they had done what Monchi had wanted.

4. Who makes the kids' fancy parade shirts? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you see in the picture on page 29? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What is the name of the float? \_\_\_\_\_

6a. What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Pretend you are watching the parade; Write about what you see.

7. What do the kids on the Coyote School float sing? \_\_\_\_\_

Entertain your classmates by singing a *ranchera*!

8. Why can't the people watching the parade hear the kids' songs? \_\_\_\_\_

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Demonstrate how you make tortillas by hand!

9. What happens to Victor? \_\_\_\_\_

Pretend you are Victor and tell what happened in the Parade.

**Look at the little picture on page 31.**

10. What does it show? \_\_\_\_\_

10a. Some people think rodeos are cruel to animals. What you think? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What does Monchi think of the rodeo? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Why you think Monchi would like watching a rodeo. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What does *Tio* Chaco tell the kids? \_\_\_\_\_

**COYOTE NEWS** issue number 6 on page 32.

1. What is the big picture at the top? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who won the prize? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Why do you think they won? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PICTURES AND THE LETTERS** (page 33)

1. Why do you think there are flies in the school room? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Read the letters on page 33.**

2. Who are the "Coyotes"? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Why are they writing a letter? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which letter is a thank you note? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Monchi writes a letter to someone famous. Who it it? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. What does he ask him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE BASEBALL GAME (page 34)**

***Look at the picture on page 33.***

1. What are the kids doing? \_\_\_\_\_

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1a. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Does your school have a ball field? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell how it is different from Coyote School's field.

**Coyote News issue number seven (page 35)**

1. Why does Victor think the Wildcats were bad sports? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a spelling bee? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Why can't Coyote School go to the State Spelling Bee? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is Loli's big surprise? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens to Vaquita? \_\_\_\_\_

**Coyote News issue number eight (page 36)**

1. Why does Miss Byers hate roundup? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the kids love about roundup? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who still has the perfect attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why has Edelia gone up in weight? \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.

**WAITING FOR ROUNDUP (page 37)**

1. What are some things Monchi and his family do before roundup? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who are the *vaqueros*? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. How does Monchi know when they have arrived? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROUNDUP! (pages 38 – 41)**

1. Who is in the picture on page 38? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1a. What are they doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the boys get to do that night? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Monchi's father ask him to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Has Monchi done that before? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. What does Monchi answer? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe how you think Monchi made his decision.

Describe how to brand a calf.

4. Do the women and girls help with the roundup? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do the *vaqueros* do on Sunday morning? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how to cook a cow's head.

6. When do they have the *fiesta*? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do they do at the *fiesta*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who wins the race? \_\_\_\_\_

Coyote News issue number 9 ( page 41)

1. What is special about this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is graduating? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. Will they both go to high school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pretend you are Natalia or Lalo. Write what you will be doing next year.

3. What will Billy do during the summer? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. What do you think the other kids might do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is the only one with perfect attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What happens to Miss Byers? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is Rosie going to do with her issues of *Coyote News*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** (pages 42 and 43)

1. Why is Coyote School having a party? \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of all the things they are doing at the party.

2. What happens to Edelia? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What award does Victor receive? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. Is Monchi happy for him? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is Miss Byers' surprise? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. Who wins that? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you like the way this book ends? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE END PAPERS** (pages 2 /3 and pages 46 / 47)

**Look at the end papers of *Coyote School News*.**

1. Are the front and back end papers the same? \_\_\_\_\_

1a. If not, tell how they are different. \_\_\_\_\_

**SPANISH WORDS IN THE STORY** (pages 44 and 45)

List all the Spanish words in the glossary that you already know .

Try to learn at least five more Spanish words.



## Part 3 – THE LITTLE COWPUNCHER WEBSITE

Visit <http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher>

**Look at the photo on the homepage.**

1. Who are the kids in the photo? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When was the photo taken? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the kids doing? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does this photo remind you of anything you saw in *Coyote School News*? \_\_\_\_\_

4a. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

**Click on “The Newspapers”**

5. Select some issues of the *Little Cowpuncher*.

Find a story or drawing that reminds you of one in *Coyote News*.

**Click on “The Schools”**

6. Look at the *Little Cowpuncher* schools on the map.

6a. Are any of them in the same area as Coyote School? \_\_\_\_\_

6b. What are their names? \_\_\_\_\_

6c. Have you seen any of these names before? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the descriptions of the *Little Cowpuncher* schools.

Pick one of the schools. Tell how it compares to Coyote School.

**Click on “Area History”**

4. Read about Arizona history and the history of the area where the *Little Cowpuncher* schools were located.

## **Teacher's Guide *KEY* for *COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS***

### **Part 1 - The MEXICAN CESSION and the GADSDEN PURCHASE**

1. Flagstaff and Phoenix were part of the original Mexican Cession.
2. Tucson, Amado, Nogales, and Yuma were included in the Gadsden Purchase.  
the map on page 8 of COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS
1. *Rancho* is a Spanish word.

Throughout COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS Spanish words are written in *italics*.  
Show your students the Spanish pronouncing glossary on pages 44/45

2. *Rancho San Isidro* is at least 151 years old.
  - 2a. It was built by Monchi's grandfather before the Gadsden Purchase (1854.)
3. The ranch was originally part of Mexico.
4. "The line" refers to the US – Mexico border
5. Monchi's grandfather "didn't cross the line; the line crossed him."
6. No, they would be Mexican citizens.
  - 6a. They would speak Spanish.
7. Yes, they were already American citizens because of the Mexican Cession.
  - 7a. They would speak English.
8. Get your students thinking about this one. (There is no right answers of course.)

Some English words that come from Spanish are:

patio, rodeo, barrio, fiesta, chile, tamales, arroyo, taco, tortilla, calle, cholla, ranch

Continue using the book, COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS, to get your students reading, writing, thinking, comparing and talking about community, family, and school traditions and customs of today with those in their great-grandparents' day.

Explain to your students that COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS is historical fiction, but it was inspired by real Arizona ranch children, who wrote stories and drew pictures in a school newspaper called "Little Cowpuncher" over 60 years ago. Tell them that you will be looking at those newspapers online.

Then start by having your class read one or several chapters of the book, together or individually. They could also choose a particular student at Coyote School, and read all of the stories in *Coyote News* (the school newspaper) by that student.

Next, select from the many questions (answers are found in this key) and additional (underlined) student activities suggested for each chapter in this modular guide.

Finally, you and your students can look at the "Little Cowpuncher" website at <http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher>

## Part 2 - COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS, Chapter by Chapter

This page of the teacher's guide is about the so-called front matter of the book. It could be useful as a general introduction to the front matter of almost any book.

### THE FRONT END PAPERS (pages 2 and 3)

1. The picture shows the teacher, Miss Byers, and all 12 students of Coyote School: Gilbert, Billy, Lalo, Rosie, Frankie, Monchi, Natalia, Loli, Cynthia, Joey, Edelia, and Victor. Chipito, the teacher's dog is in the picture as well.
2. The picture isn't in color because the artist wanted it to look like an old photograph.
3. This is the date the "photograph" was taken: September 1938. The look of this picture and date help to set the time of the story.

### THE COPYRIGHT AND TITLE PAGES (pages 4 and 5)

1. The title of this book is *Coyote School News*.
2. Joan Sandin wrote this book.
3. Joan Sandin did the pictures. (you can tell because there are pictures, and no other illustrator's name is given.)
4. The artist used pencil, pen, and watercolor. (See bottom line, page 4)
5. It was published in 2003. (You can find it in the copyright information, page 4)
6. Yes. It is dedicated to the author's friend, María Amado, and to the kids who created the *Little Cowpuncher* newspapers at Redington, Baboquíviri, Sasco, San Fernando, and Sópори schools.

### THE AUTHOR'S NOTE (page 6)

1. The book was inspired by the author's friend, María Amado, and by the *Little Cowpuncher* newspapers.
2. They are María Amado (at the wheel) and Joan Sandin.
  - 2a. They are 14 or 15 years old in the picture. (They are both much older now!)

### CONTENTS (page 7)

1. *Coyote School News* has 16 chapters plus a Spanish-English glossary.

The following pages of the guide will follow the story line chapter by chapter, and the school newspaper issue by issue. Pages can be used in their entirety or by selection.

### RANCHO SAN ISIDRO (Pages 8 - 9)

1. Monchi, his parents, brothers, sisters, and uncle live on the ranch.
2. He is Monchi's uncle (his father's brother.)
3. His family speak Spanish at home.
4. *Tia* means aunt.

Spanish words that end in o or a:  
Most Spanish words that end in "o" are masculine; most that end in "a" are feminine.  
Examples: *Tio* – uncle and *Tia* – aunt

5. You can look it up (dictionary, glossary, internet) or ask someone who speaks that language.
  - 5a. The glossary is on pages 44-45.
- 6 A *vaquero* is a cowboy.
  - 6a. Dictionary, glossary, asking someone, already knew the word.
7. He thinks roundup is the most exciting.
8. He doesn't like getting wood for the fire and the long ride to school.
11. The people in the picture are Monchi (foreground on horse) and his family.
12. They are doing laundry, chasing a calf, and fixing something under the car.
13. It's says "school bus."
14. *Tio* Chaco is under the car probably fixing something.
15. Franklin D. Roosevelt is president in 1938/39 when the story takes place.
16. Monchi wishes the president would do something about the bad roads.
17. Monchi's ranch doesn't have electricity.

#### Explain how a windmill works.

The wind turns the blades and generates power, in this case to run the water pump.

#### animals in the picture (in English and Spanish)

chickens	<i>pollos</i>
cows	<i>vacas</i>
horses	<i>caballos</i>
donkey	<i>burro</i>

### THE LONG AND BUMPY ROAD TO SCHOOL (pages 10 - 11)

- 1a. The Santa Cruz River
- 1c. No. The Santa Cruz River only has water during the rainy season.
2. The roads are rough, mostly unpaved.
3. Billy Lives at Rancho del Sol, a "Dude Ranch" (guest ranch.)
4. "Dude" meant an Easterner, or city person.
  - 4a. Yes. Have your students define the modern meaning of the word.

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.

When Natalia sees the dudes “riding English” she says “Qué funny!” a combination of Spanish and English words. This is common usage in the border states. You may want to talk to your students about this. Maybe some of them are familiar with it.

5. She laughs at the dudes riding horseback, because they “ride English.”
6. Gilbert is Monchi’s cousin.
  - 6a. His last name, Pérez, sounds like perezoso, the Spanish word for lazy, (and Gilbert doesn’t like to get up in the morning.)
7. Edelia is one of the students.
  - 7a. She is eight years old.
  - 7b. She is still in first grade because she is poor and sickly, and isn’t able to attend school enough to ever learn to read.

#### COYOTE SCHOOL (pages 12 - 13)

1. There are eight kids in the bus.
2. Yes. There are cows, horses and a dog.
  - 2a. The cows belong to Coyote Ranch, the horses belong to Lalo and Frankie, and the dog belongs to Miss Byers.
3. Chipito is the teacher’s dog.
4. No.
5. You can see an outhouse behind the school.
  - 5a. Probably not! Hopefully, you have indoor plumbing.
6. No.
7. The only cars are the teacher’s car and the school bus.
8. Rosie lives at Coyote Ranch, across the road from the school.
  - 8a. Yes.
9. Lalo and Frankie ride their horses to school.
10. Miss Byers is the teacher.
  - 10a. She lives 100 miles away, in Rattlesnake Canyon on the weekends; in the back of Coyote School during the week.
  - 10b. The kids like her.
11. Her swell ideas are: baseball, the Perfect Attendance Award, and *Coyote News*.
12. Swell is slang for cool or fun.

Tell why you think the author would use such an old-fashioned word.

Discuss with your students the way an author or illustrator sets the period for a story by using words and expressions, clothing, means of transportation, tools, machines... Think of other examples in other books.

**COYOTE NEWS (page14)**

1. The kids are writing stories for *Coyote News*.
  - 1a. They looked at other newspapers.
  - 1b. They liked *Little Cowpuncher* best, because all the stories and pictures are written and illustrated by kids like themselves.

*Little Cowpuncher* was a real school newspaper that came out at five different rural schools in Southern Arizona from 1932 to 1943. You can tell your students that you will be visiting the online exhibition of the actual *Little Cowpuncher* newspapers at:  
<http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher>

2. Yes.
4. Loli is Monchi's little sister, who is in the first grade.
  - 4a. Yes, but not perfectly. They speak Spanish at home.
  - 4b. Spanish
6. Not very well.
  - 6a. Monchi helps her.
  - 6b. He helps by writing out words for her that she can copy.
7. Victor is Monchi's brother in the second grade.
  - 7a. Monchi thinks Victor is a tattletale.
8. *Chismoso* means tattletale.
9. Miss Byers says that Spanish is a beautiful language that has been spoken in Southern Arizona for hundreds of years, and that the kids should be proud that they can speak it.

**COYOTE NEWS issue number 1 (page 15)**

The nine issues of *Coyote News* are inspired by the look and content of the real *Little Cowpuncher* newspapers, which were cut onto a waxy stencil with a typewriter. Drawings were then cut onto the stencil with a stylus. The stencil was inked and printed on newsprint with a hand-cranked mimeograph machine – a messy operation.

1. *Coyote News* is Coyote School's own newspaper.
  - 1a. The students.
  - 1b. There are 12 students, and no 5th grade. The big kids help the little kids.
  - 1c. The Perfect attendance Award

Explain to your students why school attendance was so important:  
Rural schools had to have at least 10 students attending regularly to get adequate state funding.

2. Yes. Gilbert has written a story about the bus running over a rattlesnake at the bottom of *Coyote News* (page 15.)

### THE CHILES (pages 16 - 17)

1. Monchi and his family are in the picture.
2. They are picking chiles and stringing them to make *sartas*.
4. The bags of chilies fall on him.
5. His father had told him not to ride in the back of the truck, so Monchi is afraid his father will be angry.
6. His uncle, *Tio* Chaco, drives him to Tucson.
7. His aunt, *Tia* Lena, takes him to the doctor
8. The ranch is far from any sizable town.
9. The doctor tells them that Monchi's wrist is broken, and that he needs to set it and put in a cast.
10. Monchi stays with his aunt, *Tia* Lena.
11. He listens to the radio, eats his favorite foods, goes to a Tarzan movie, gets an ice cream, and goes window shopping with his aunt.
12. He sees a silver dollar belt buckle!

### THE BAD NEWS (page18)

1. He's been to the city and he has a cast on his arm.
2. Monchi has missed roundup at his ranch.
  - 2a. Victor tells him.
  - 2b. Monchi feels bad.
  - 2c. Billy tries to cheer him up.

### COYOTE NEWS issue number 2 (page 19)

1. Lalo drew the picture.
  - 1b. It shows the roundup at Rancho del Cerro.
2. Frankie and Lalo Lopez live at Rancho del Cerro. They ride their horses to school. They stay home from school to help with roundup.
3. Vaquita is Natalia's pet cow.
4. Monchi, Victor, Natalia, Joey and Billy have perfect attendance.
5. *Chucata* is mesquite sap. The kids chew it like gum.
6. Coyote School gets to have a Halloween party.
  - 6a. The kids and their families are all invited.

The one-room schools in ranch country served as more than just schools; they were also community centers, party venues, and polling places for elections.

### THE HALLOWEEN PARTY (page 20 - 21)

1. There are seven black cats.
2. The kids made the decorations.
3. The party is at night.
4. There are six cakes, some cupcakes and a jack-o'-lantern on Miss Byers' desk.
5. There are contests, games, refreshments, dancing and a bonfire.
6. The party ends very late.

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.

### COYOTE NEWS issue number 3 (page 22)

1. He complains about there being too many black cats.
2. *Dia de los Muertos* is the Day of the Dead, also called All Soul's Day.
3. The turkey is being given extra food to fatten it up for Thanksgiving.
4. Natalia, Billy, Joey and Monchi have perfect attendance.
5. Ranchers like rain. Dudes don't like rain.

Tell why you think rain would be important for ranchers.

Rain makes the weeds and grass grow, which feed the cattle.

### THE RAIN AND THE NURSE (page 23)

1. The river is full of fast-moving water.
2. It was a dry riverbed.
3. Mrs. Payne is the county nurse.
  - 3a. No. She travels around to the different county schools.
4. The Food program was a state supported food supplement program for underweight kids.
5. Mrs. Payne teaches dental hygiene, gives the students inoculations, and records their height and weight.

### COYOTE NEWS issue number 4 (page 24)

1. Loli let the turkey go free.
2. They ate beans, tortillas, and pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving dinner.
3. They are planning holiday treats, parties, presents, and visitors.
4. Santa is the feminine form of the word "saint" in Spanish.

Spanish words that end in o or a:

Most Spanish words that end in "o" are masculine. Most that end in "a" are feminine.

Examples: Santo – a male saint    Santa – a female saint    Tio – uncle    Tia – aunt

### CHRISTMAS (page 25)

1. Santa Claus is the surprise visitor.
  - 1a. He has a sack of goodies.
  - 1b. He is probably Tio Chaco. (He is wearing Chaco's boots.)
2. Monchi gets his cast cut off, runs errands with *Tio* Chaco.
3. It is an old-fashioned way of curling hair using chemicals and heat.
4. Monchi thinks it stinks. (It would have.)

### NOCHEBUENA pages 26/27

1. Literally, it means "Good Night"; *Nochebuena* is Christmas Eve.
  - 2a. The men prepare *carne seca*.
  - 2b. The women make *tamales* and *menudo*.
  - 2c. The kids make a piñata.
4. They cut paper strips and paste them on a big clay pot called an "olla."
6. You can put in goodies, fruit and nuts, and/or small toys.

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.



7. Heavy things, sharp things, breakable things...
8. You hit it with a stick while blindfolded.
9. Loli breaks it a little bit, and Natalia really breaks it open.
10. Inside are nuts, candy, gum, and fruit.
12. They all go to Mass (Catholic service) at Amado, the nearest town – an actual place (students can find it on the map on page 10.)
13. They had a party with traditional holiday food, music and dancing.
14. Santa came with presents (or students may have other ideas about who it was.)
  - 14a. Junior -spurs; Victor- a big red top; Loli – a toy dog; Monchi – a silver dollar belt buckle (without the silver dollar.)
  - 14b. Monchi plans to put his Perfect Attendance Award silver dollar in it.

#### COYOTE NEWS issue number 5 (page 28)

1. It was printed January 12, 1939. (upper right)
  - 1a. It's the new year.
2. She got a radio.
3. No.
  - 3a. Her radio runs on a big battery.

Write about what your school would be like without electricity

This may be a good place to have students compare their own school with Coyote School. They might come up with things that are better or worse, different or similar.

4. They listen to the president's speech to the congress.
5. Franklin D. Roosevelt
7. They are also from the eastern part of the U.S.
8. Natalia, Victor, Billy and Monchi still have perfect attendance.
9. Miss Byers tells them that they get to be in the rodeo parade in Tucson.

#### LA FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS (pages 29 –31)

1. It's the name of the annual Tucson Rodeo.
  - 1a. It means "The Party/Celebration of the Cowboys."
3. Monchi wants everybody to ride their horses and do roping tricks.
  - 3a. Probably because it would be hard to control!
4. The Mothers make them.
5. See the picture on page 29.
6. "*La Comida de los Vaqueros*"
  - 6a. It means "The Dinner of the Cowboys."
7. They sing *rancheras*, which are Mexican popular songs.
8. The band behind them drowns them out.
9. Victor falls in the *frijoles* (beans.)
10. The picture shows the calf roping event at the Tucson Rodeo.
11. Monchi thinks it's exciting.
12. Monchi is familiar with the kind of ranch work demonstrated in the rodeo.
13. He tells them their picture is in the paper!

**COYOTE NEWS** issue number 6 on page 32.

1. It's a drawing of the Rodeo parade trophy.
2. Coyote School won the prize for best county school.

**THE PICTURES AND THE LETTERS** (page 33)

1. The windows were open, and cattle are grazing nearby. Also the flies were attracted to the paint.
2. The "Coyotes" is the name of Coyote school's baseball team.
  - 2a. They are inviting the "Wildcats" at Las Moras School to play baseball.
3. The letter to the Rodeo Parade Committee is a thank you note.
4. Monchi writes to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
  - 4a. He asks him to improve the roads in southern Arizona.

**THE BASEBALL GAME** (page 34)

1. They are standing on a gate being dragged by the teacher's car.
  - 1a. They are dragging away the weeds and stickers to make a ball field.

**Coyote News** issue number seven (page 35)

1. The Wildcats said bad words in Spanish.
2. A spelling Bee is a spelling contest.
  - 2a. Coyote School has no fifth grade.
3. Loli taught herself to read.
4. Vaquita was hit by a train.

**Coyote News** issue number eight (page 36)

1. She thinks it disrupts the kids' school work.
2. They love everything: the horses running, the *vaqueros* swearing, the calves bawling; they even like the dust
3. Only Monchi and Victor still have perfect attendance.
4. Edelia has gained weight because of the cocoa and sandwiches provided by the state's Supplemental Food Program.

**WAITING FOR ROUNDUP** (page 37)

1. They fix the fences, take care of sick or underweight cows, braid horsehair ropes.
2. The *vaqueros* are the cowboys who come to help with the roundup.
  - 2a. Monchi sees a cloud of dust, and hears all the noise (*todo el burullo.*)

### ROUNDUP! (pages 38 – 41)

1. Monchi, his father, his brothers and sisters, his uncle Chaco, and the *vaqueros*
  - 1a. See picture.
2. The boys got to eat with the *vaqueros*, and stay up late.
3. Monchi's father asks him to help with the branding.
4. No. His father thought he was too young.
  - 4a. Monchi tells him he has school. He doesn't want to stay home from school and lose the Perfect Attendance Award.
5. No, not directly.
6. They cook a cow's head.
7. They have a *fiesta* after the work of the roundup is over.
7. The kids have a race; There is a barbeque and dance.
8. Junior wins the race.

### Coyote News issue number 9 ( page 41)

1. It's the final issue for the school year.
2. Natalia and Eduardo (Lalo) are graduating.
  - 2a. No. Lalo will work full-time as a *vaquero*; Natalia's family will send her to high school.
3. Billy will travel with his family to Boston.
  - 3a. Some might visit friends and relatives in Arizona and Mexico.
4. Only Victor has perfect attendance.
5. Miss Byers is kicked by a calf.
6. Rosie is saving all her *Coyote News* so that she can someday show her children all the swell and exciting things she did at Coyote School.

### THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (pages 42 and 43)

1. They are having a party to celebrate the end of the school year.
2. Edelia is promoted to the second grade.
3. Victor receives the Perfect Attendance Award (a silver dollar.)
  - 3a. No.
4. Miss Byers surprise is The *Coyote News* Writing Award (also a silver dollar.)
  - 4a. Monchi wins that award.

### THE END PAPERS (pages 2 /3 and pages 46 / 47)

1. No.
  - 1a. The "photographs" are taken nine months apart. Have the students find all the things that have changed from Septmber to May.

## Part 3 – THE LITTLE COWPUNCHER WEBSITE

Here you will find the *Little Cowpuncher* website with facimiles of the original *Little Cowpuncher* newspapers, maps, photos, background information on the area, schools and Eulalia “Sister” Bourne, the teacher.

### the photo on the homepage

1. The kids in the photo are the students of Bobaquívari School and their teacher.
2. It was taken in February, 1936.
3. The kids are riding in the Tucson Rodeo Parade, making tortillas as they go.
4. Yes.
  - 4a. This photo inspired the chapter in *Coyote School News* about the Rodeo Parade. Look at pages 30/31.

### “The Newspapers”

There are many stories and drawings in *Coyote School News* that were inspired by those in the *Little Cowpuncher*. For example compare the story about the rattlesnake <http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher/newspaper/087/> with the picture on the title page and Gilbert’s story about Señor Grandote on page 15, or look at: <http://digital.library.arizona.edu/cowpuncher/newspaper/091/> and compare it to The Baseball Game on page 34 in *Coyote School News*.

### “The Schools”

- 6a. Yes, most of them are.
- 6b. The names of the schools are: Redington, Baboquívari, Sasco, San Fernando, and Sópори.
- 6c. Yes. These are the schools named in the dedication on page 4 of *Coyote School News*.

There is a linking *Little Cowpuncher* website that has interviews (streaming video) with some of the former *Little Cowpuncher* students. You might want to look at these yourself before having your students look at them. Some of the language may be inappropriate and/or hard to understand for young students.

<http://parentseyes.arizona.edu/LC2/index.html>

I hope you and your students have enjoyed reading *Coyote School News*, and that this guide was useful to you. If you would like to leave any feedback, please write to me at: [joansandin@cox.net](mailto:joansandin@cox.net) Thank you!

And I hope you will visit my website at <http://members.authorsguild.net/joansandin/>

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.

36 Modular Teacher's Guide for COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS (story and pictures by Joan Sandin)  
*This guide was created by the author. Teachers are free to use all or any part of it in their teaching.*

Suggestions for student activities are underlined. Teacher answer key is at the end of the guide.