

cahier

Wild West

Cultural and fun practice-book

*Révissez votre **anglais**
en suivant la piste de l'Ouest !*



A2-B2

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À QUI S'ADRESSE CET OUVRAGE ?

J'entends souvent ma famille, mes amis ou mes étudiants me dire qu'ils souhaitent travailler leur anglais de façon ludique. Je leur propose donc de lire ! Des livres ? Trop longs. Des magazines ? Souvent trop techniques ou trop d'images. Des mots croisés ? Trop répétitifs. De surcroît, ils manquent de temps. Mais ils ont une réelle envie de pratiquer l'anglais.

Quelle forme faut-il ? Tout commence par une histoire afin de créer un contexte. Vient ensuite le vocabulaire essentiel, une leçon de grammaire simple et des exercices d'application. Ces exercices s'étalent sur 3 niveaux de difficulté. De cette façon, chacun peut aller aussi loin qu'il le souhaite.

Quel est le lien entre ces histoires ? Le **Far West Américain** ! Ce thème suscite toujours autant d'intérêt, il est intemporel, nous ouvre à des personnages mythiques, à des lieux légendaires, à des événements incontournables liés à la création des USA.

Le livre s'adresse à des lecteurs qui ont déjà un bagage en anglais et qui souhaitent pratiquer l'anglais tout en apprenant de nouvelles choses, ou se remémorer ce qu'ils ont vu dans un film ou dans une bande dessinée.

Je souhaite donc créer non pas un manuel ou un cahier d'exercice, mais plutôt un « Fun practice-book », pour des adultes non-débutants (A2-B2) afin de pratiquer la langue anglaise.

Enfin, je tiens à dédier cet ouvrage à mon père qui m'a montrée la voie du Far West...



COMMENT EST-IL ORGANISÉ ?

Chaque thème s'organise sur deux pages :

PAGE 1

- Histoire qui appartient au folklore du far West américain.
Certains mots ou expressions sont en caractère gras, ils feront l'objet d'une étude grammaticale en page 2.
- Petit exercice de compréhension.
- Lexicon : plusieurs exercices sur le vocabulaire de l'histoire.
Eg : trouver des synonymes, des opposés, relier des mots et leur explication ou définition, lettres dans le désordre, etc.

PAGE 2

- Technique : une leçon expliquée, illustrée par des exemples pris dans l'histoire (mots en gras).
- Exercices d'application de la technique en commençant par un exercice basique (★), suivi par un autre exercice un peu plus difficile (★★), pour finir par un exercice plus exigeant (★★★).
Eg : Réorganiser des phrases, choisir le mot qui convient, relier des début et fins de phrases, transformations de formes, traductions.

Tous les exercices sont corrigés en fin de manuel.

Le vocabulaire difficile dans les exercices est indiqué en fin de manuel.



QUELLES SONT CES HISTOIRES ?

Elles appartiennent au folklore américain.

Elles sont divisées en plusieurs thèmes :

- I. *The setting of the wild expansion*
- II. *Historical landmarks*
- III. *And the settlers arrived*
- IV. *Soon followed by outlaws*
- V. *Services and businesses appeared*
- VI. *What entertainment was all about*





ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WILD WEST



**SETTING OF
THE AMERICAN
EXPANSION**



THE WILD, WILD WEST...

The whole story dates back to the beginning of the 17th century in the Northern part of a large continent known as **America** since the end of the 16th century. The land was **large**, the vegetation was luxuriant, the **prairie** was **endless**, hosting millions of wild animals, native tribes were living in different parts of the territory but **basically** the place was quite empty and wild.

By the beginning of the 17th century, the European colonists (British, Spanish, French, Dutch...) arrived and settled on the East coast from Canada to Mexico, Little by little these colonists and many more (Italian, German, Polish,...) **moved** westward for **they** had to explore these wild areas and so the conquest was open.

Who were these explorers?

Among them, farmers wanted to have a family and live on a property. These properties became larger and larger and turned into huge ranches where cattle were raised, bought and sold so they had to be moved from one state to another, the cow-boys became part of the story. The Gold Rush pushed lots of gold-diggers westward too not to forget about the Natives who obviously were in the middle. The authorities set up **army forts** further west with militaries **trying** to keep peace.

Lots of myths started to appear such as the myth of the frontier. Truly, the unknown became a dream, the promise of a better future, something bigger. This frontier was pushed forward the Pacific Ocean was reached. **This was** achieved in 1912.

All these explorers created the myth of the Eldorado. Anybody **could** become rich and happy. The country turned out to be the land of opportunities, **where everything was possible**, the American Dream was created and inspired the entire planet.

GOT IT?

Circle the right answer (there may be more than one answer...).

- 1 The USA were first inhabited by ____ :
Pilgrims • Natives • Aborigines
- 2 The new explorers came from ____ :
Africa • China • Europe
- 3 The frontier was ____ :
a river • a mountain range • a fictitious border

LEXICON

Among these words: Beginning • large • luxuriant • prairie • huge • hosting • wild • empty • settle • further • frontier • colonist.

I Find the synonym in the text for:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Start _____ | 4 Meadow _____ |
| 2 Savage _____ | 5 Settler _____ |
| 3 Set up _____ | 6 Border _____ |

II Find the opposite in the text for:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 Bare _____ | 4 Tiny _____ |
| 2 Rejecting _____ | 5 Small _____ |
| 3 Full _____ | 6 Closer _____ |

III Match the words with their definition:

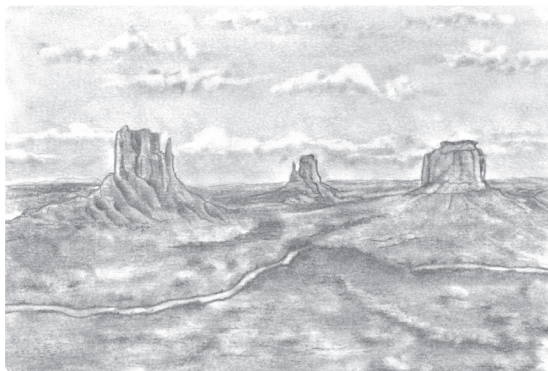
- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 Cow-boy | • | • People who looked for the precious metal. |
| 2 Cattle | • | • A military base. |
| 3 Gold-diggers | • | • The natural and unspoiled area. |
| 4 The American Dream | • | • The moment when the precious metal was run after. |
| 5 Natives | • | • A group of animals like cows, buffalo... |
| 6 A fort | • | • A job that offered the opportunity to travel on horse-back. |
| 7 Gold Rush | • | • The first people of a country. |
| 8 Wild West | • | • What inspired millions of people. |
| 9 Eldorado | • | • A mystical image of the American Dream. |

TECHNIQUE

Étudions en premier lieu la nature des mots et leur positionnement dans la phrase.

Trois catégories : le **groupe nominal**, le **groupe verbal** et la **syntaxe**.

- **Le nom** est l'élément central, dénombrable (que l'on peut compter) ou indénombrable (une quantité).
Il peut être propre ou commun → [America, story, prairie]
- **L'adjectif** qualifie un nom et peut prendre diverses formes → [large, endless]
- **L'article** donne le nombre au nom → [A, the, this]
- **Le pronom** personnel peut être sujet ou complément → [They]



- **Le verbe** est l'élément central, il peut être d'état ou d'action, régulier ou irrégulier. Il peut être en forme « base verbale », conjugué, en forme infinitive ou en ING → [moved, trying]
- **L'auxiliaire** peut être un opérateur ou un modal → [was, could]
- **L'adverbe** qualifie le verbe ou apporte une manière, une indication → [basically, since]
- Les **prépositions** suivent le verbe afin de lui apporter une direction, une signification → [to, in]



★ Alors, ne vous laissez plus aller à la traduction littérale !

PRACTISE

I Choose the correct word.



- 1 The Wild West represents __ unknown territories.
☐ the • ☐ my • ☐ a
- 2 The fauna and __ were amazing.
☐ animals • ☐ flora • ☐ and
- 3 The __ animals represented a real danger for the new-comers.
☐ wildly • ☐ wilderness • ☐ wild
- 4 This is another __ why the USA was a wild country.
☐ reasoning • ☐ reasonable • ☐ reason
- 5 The USA was a country in __ expansion.
☐ full • ☐ fully • ☐ fulfill
- 6 The different presidents decided to __ the country as far as possible.
☐ opened • ☐ opening • ☐ open

II Re-organize the sentences.



- 1 States/three/more/travelled/through/ During/the/than/centuries/the/settlers.
- 2 Free/farmers/wanted/They/were/or/ only/rich/gold-diggers/who/to/be/and.
- 3 Cartoons/famous/Movies/books/or/deal/ figures/with/of/lots.
- 4 were/They/or/villains/heroes.
- 5 Landscapes/West/Besides/sites/deserts/ canyons/like/are/part/or/of/the/Wild.
- 6 The/full/history/of/myths/USA/the/is/ of.

III Translate.



- 1 Le mythe de la frontière est très présent.
- 2 Il représente le besoin d'aller toujours plus loin.
- 3 Le Far West regorge de personnages emblématiques tels que des bandits par exemple.
- 4 Les premiers Américains ne pouvaient accepter cette arrivée.
- 5 Les autorités avaient du mal à conserver la paix dans ces nouveaux territoires.



Back in the Wild West era, **you** have to imagine a continent whose landscapes changed from one state to another one: forests, prairies, marshland, deserts, mountains, valleys... **all types** were present and bewilder the eye of the traveler.

Besides, thanks to the various water spots like the lakes, the rivers, the brooks, the waterfalls, this vegetation was rich and luxuriant and **met** the needs of all the wild animals **which were connected** to their natural habitats.

Some **were living** in herds like the buffalo, the most famous of all, while others lived **in families** like the mule-deer or the bears, brown or black without mentioning the iconic and solitary bald-eagle which still symbolizes the USA.

Because the country was inhabited by populations which depended on them and yet respected them. **Wandering** and flying freely was their life.

But as the nature is home to thousands of species, some were feared like the felines, bob-cats or pumas could be pretty aggressive. Among the reptiles you had to watch out for the silent and yet deadly rattle-snakes; without denying the little ones like the scorpions which could sneak into your pants... The water-spots were obviously full of living creatures like the salmon or the lobsters.

So all these fabulous creatures had a place in this world either part of the natural circle but also as THE means of survival for the inhabitants. **Where did** the new-comers stand there?

The sunsets are more beautiful than gold.

GOT IT?

Circle the right answer (there may be more than one answer...).

- 1 The landscapes were _____.
bare • diverse • bushy
- 2 The animals were _____.
invisible • nomads • hunted down
- 3 The relations between the animals and the Natives were _____.
tense • respectful • nonexistent

LEXICON

Among these words: Era • feared • landscape • watch out • means • bewilder • marshland • luxuriant • herd • brooks • deadly • sneak into.

I Find the synonym in the text for:

- 1 Epoch _____
- 2 Scenery _____
- 3 Amaze _____
- 4 Abundant _____
- 5 Lethal _____
- 6 Scary _____

II Find the corresponding word.

- 1 A humid area _____
- 2 A small river _____
- 3 Pay attention _____
- 4 Enter subtly _____
- 5 A group of animals _____
- 6 The reason for _____

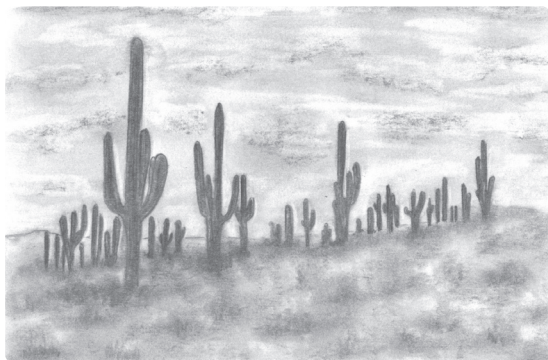
III Match the words with the definitions.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1 Buffalo | • | • A tasty sea-creature, living on crustaceans. |
| 2 Bobcat | • | • A quiet and silent creeping animal. |
| 3 Lobster | • | • A tall, hairy and very protective mammal. |
| 4 Mule-deer | • | • A ruminant mammal living in prairies. |
| 5 Bear | • | • A king of antelope with funny ears. |
| 6 Rattle-snake | • | • A typically American feline. |

TECHNIQUE

L'organisation de la phrase en anglais est relativement similaire à celle en français avec bien évidemment quelques différences.

- Le **sujet** se trouve en début de phrase dans la plupart des cas, sauf en forme interrogative ; il présente l'acteur, le lieu, l'objet dont il est question.
Il peut être un groupe nominal [*all types*], un pronom personnel [*you*], un gérondif [*wandering*].
- Le **verbe** présente une action, une attitude, ... et il peut porter les marques du temps [*met*], être associé à un auxiliaire [*were living*], lequel portera la négation.
- Les **Compléments** d'objet direct (COD) ou indirect (COI) donnent les informations plus précises sur l'action ou le sujet [*in families*].
- Les **subordonnées** sont des sous-phrases à l'intérieur d'une phrase, elles apportent des informations supplémentaires, sur le sujet, le verbe ou le complément [*which were connected*].



★ Les **pronoms WH** : ces mêmes pronoms seront utilisés en forme interrogative [*where did they stand?*].

PRACTISE



I Choose the correct word. ★

- 1 The American continent __ large and wild.
☐ it • ☐ never • ☐ was
- 2 __ was also unexploited.
☐ land • ☐ it • ☐ always
- 3 The vegetation was __.
☐ diverse • ☐ never • ☐ enormously
- 4 __ trees like sequoias grew there.
☐ always • ☐ some • ☐ not
- 5 Nature ruled __ by then.
☐ today • ☐ her • ☐ the land
- 6 __ were many mountain ranges.
☐ they • ☐ there • ☐ it

II Connect the beginning to its ending. ★★

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 The Wild West is... | • | • ... and represented great dangers. |
| 2 It took place in... | • | • ... acted out of instinct. |
| 3 All these stories took... | • | • ... a vast land between Mexico and Canada. |
| 4 The forests were dense... | • | • ... the animals they sometimes considered as gods. |
| 5 The wild animals only... | • | • ... connected to space and time. |
| 6 The Native populations respected... | • | • ... place between the 18 th and the 20 th centuries. |

III Reorganize the sentences. ★★★

- 1 hosted/The/fish/and/rivers/lot/brooks/a/of.
- 2 The/rules/followed/land/the/nature/of.
- 3 Species/Thousands/cohabited/of.
- 4 Eagle/bald/been/The/American/has/an/since/symbol/then.
- 5 Inhabited/buffalo/The/America/have/centuries/for.
- 6 Depended/They/Seasons/on/the.