

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Buffalo Bill Cody

William Cody was born in 1846 in Iowa Territory - before Iowa became a state. His father died when Bill was eleven years old, forcing him to look for work so that he could earn a wage. At around the age of 14, Bill headed west to look for gold in California. On his way he signed up as a rider for the Pony Express.

Bill Cody wrote an autobiography in which he recounted his adventures as a Pony Express rider. He recalled encounters with Indians and wild animals, dangerous terrain, hazardous riding conditions and harsh weather.

In his adult life, Bill was an Army scout, an Indian fighter and a buffalo hunter. It is said that to help feed railroad workers, Cody killed over 4,200 buffalo in an 18 month period, earning him the name Buffalo Bill Cody.

Buffalo Bill became quite a character - literally. A writer named Ned Buntine used the stories and anecdotes of Bill Cody's life to create a bigger - than-life folk hero. These "dime novels" became an instant success and thrust Buffalo Bill into the status of celebrity. Bill Cody spent 30 years of his life producing, touring and starring in his own "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" show. Cashing in on his reputation and name, Buffalo Bill toured the United States as a showman. His show also featured other well-known western personalities such as Annie Oakley and the well-known Sioux Chief Sitting Bill.

