

# ☆ Let US Teach That For You!

## History Through Art

**Overview:** This activity uses art (painting) to challenge students to look closely at a work of art and make references to historical learning objectives.



Painting Title: **“Almost Home”**  
Painting Subject: **Cattle Drive or Ranch Round-Up**  
About the Artist: **Marie Tumlinson (1917-2007)**

Marie Pruett Tumlinson was born in 1917 in California, but she grew up in Texas. She married her childhood sweetheart, Sam Tumlinson while he was in the U. S. Army and traveled with him to many parts of the world. Sam’s family was one of the original 300 families who came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin. For many years she traveled between her native Texas and her studio in Tacoma, Washington and their home in Canada. Her travels gave her ample opportunity to observe people and out-of-doors scenes she loved to represent in her oils and pastels. Marie Tumlinson died in Abilene, Texas in 2007.

Since her childhood she has drawn and sketched, but did not have the opportunity for formal training until she was twenty-five years old and began classes at the University of Texas in Austin. This study has been supplemented by classes taught by distinguished artists from all over the world in places she has lived and worked.

Her work has been shown in galleries and collections in Texas, Virginia, Washington D.C., Oregon, Washington State, Canada and Texas. She has exhibited in local and national shows in the U.S. and Canada and her work has received numerous awards. She has held workshops, lectured and taught special art classes in both public and private schools. Currently, one of her cattle drive paintings is on display in the Abilene Civic Center.



## “Almost Home”

This painting is a prototype of a large painting that Marie Tumlinson did for the Abilene Civic Center in 1995. She was asked to create a cowboy scene that had a timeless quality so that every generation of Texans could identify with the picture. Before she began her large painting, she did this one in order to help her develop perspective, her predominate colors of yellow, orange, green and rust. She began with an under-painting of gold colors then drew the perspective of where she wanted the eye to focus. From there she added values of light and dark, creating patterns that let us know that it is almost sunset. The painting is done in oil.

## For Discussion: ART

1. How did she create a scene that cowboys from the past, present and perhaps future could identify with?
2. Look at the picture and name four things that a cowboy needs to do his job.
3. What are the predominate colors?
4. What kind of mood do these colors create?
5. How did doing this picture help her plan the large one on public display?
6. After you have been on a long trip and get close to home, how do you feel? Does the title of the piece, “Almost Home” help you know how these cowboys might be feeling?

## Additional Activities:

1. Read the biographical information about George Reynolds, listen to him as a Spirit Guide and write a brief description of his career as a cattleman.
2. Research the life of a legendary cowboys or cowgirls—Below are some suggestions: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles>
  - i. Oliver Loving
  - ii. Charles Goodnight
  - iii. Bill Pickett
  - iv. Helen Groves
  - v. Amon Carter

Or see: [www.texascowboyhalloffame.com](http://www.texascowboyhalloffame.com); or <http://www.cowgirl.net>