

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Choosing the best saddle for you

Imagine that you've just landed a great job working on a cattle ranch and need a new saddle.

The job provides you with \$1,400 to put toward your own gear and equipment, including a saddle. You want to figure out which brand offers the best deals on the features you need and want for a work saddle. Practicing comparison shopping can help you to make an informed buying decision.

Instructions

1. Record saddle features that are most important to you.
2. Research Western saddles from two recognized brands that meet your requirements (be sure to compare similar saddles) and record your findings in the "Comparison shopping tool" handout.
3. Analyze the information and choose the best saddle for your needs and wants.
4. Reflect on the process.

1. Features you want in a work saddle

Record the work saddle features that are most important to you. (Do you want a saddle made from quality leather? Are size and weight important? Is there a specific stirrup or type of cushioning you prefer?)

Work saddle features

2. Research and record your findings

Use the Internet to compare two saddles. Be sure to compare each saddle using the features you brainstormed above. Use the "Comparison shopping tool" handout to record your findings.

Which two saddles are you comparing?

3. Determine the best work saddle for you

Use the "Comparison shopping tool" handout to decide which saddle is best for you based on your needs and wants and on your research. Which saddle did you decide on? How much will it cost?

4. Reflection questions

How does comparison shopping help you make more informed buying choices?

How could you use comparison shopping in your own life?