



Worksheet 2. Reading: *No Home on the Range*

Cowboy poets often write beautiful words about their land, but some don't. This modern poet remembers what her world used to be like, and how it has changed. She has put her thoughts into words.

Read the poem. See a picture of LaVonne, and answer the questions on the next page.

No Home on the Range by LaVonne Houlton

Well, I spent the whole day Sunday
Out a-lookin' for the **range**,
But I couldn't seem to find it,
For there's been a lot of change.

Where we used to **pen the cattle**
There's a **string** of new motels,
And just a bit **beyond** them
Stands a forest of **oil wells**.

Where I used to ride through sagebrush
From lunch time up to dark,
Now there's fenced-off land with signposts
Saying "Recreation Park."

There's a **freeway** near the river
Where the cattle used to **graze**,
And the blue sky of the **prairie**
Has been **dimmed** by **smog** and **haze**.

And I couldn't help but **marvel**
At this thing we call "progress,"
That can change a land of beauty
To a populated **mess**!

Definitions

<i>a-lookin'</i>	- a country way of saying <i>looking</i> .
<i>beyond</i>	- further away, past
<i>dimmed</i>	- became less bright
<i>for</i>	- a poetic way to say <i>because</i>
<i>freeway</i>	- large highways
<i>graze</i>	- eat grass as it is growing, used to talk about animals
<i>haze</i>	- a vapor, like fog
<i>marvel</i>	- be amazed by something
<i>pen the cattle</i>	- use a fence to keep the animals in one place
<i>sagebrush</i>	- a low plant that grows in the West
<i>signposts</i>	- posts along roads that have signs on them

