In the days before fences separated a ranch from the next, the prairie was wide-open to everyone. Ranchers simply moved their cattle loose and let them run as they wished. During the year, cattle wandered off in all directions, grazing by ones or twos, sometimes in groups of three or fours, sometimes in bunches. As they roamed miles from their owned range, they mixed and mingled with cattle from other ranches, unmindful of who owned them. Twice a year, in the spring and again in the fall, roundups were held throughout the ranching country to gather these widely scattered long horns and run them out.

“The busiest time on a ranch is the preparation for the spring roundups,” said a Texas cowhand. “There is saddles to mend, hobbles to make, wagons to overhaul and horses to get into shape, shoeing and up, quilts to make, rope reminding trimming seem to up, and planning till you can’t .”

In many ways a roundup resembled a military campaign. Cowboys from neighboring ranches together to hunt down all the in a particular district. A really big spring roundup might cover hundreds of miles, last for several weeks, and round the square. Three or four hundred cowboys from a dozen different ranches involved recruit a or a and

A few days a roundup was to start, chuck drawn by teams of wagons. Mules began arrive at a chosen meeting place. Were followed by a group of coming from all directions, driving herds saddle ponies. While waiting

at the __________ for everyone to show up, the __________ had a chance to wander from
campgrounds windows resemble cups cowboys open

______________ to wagon.
wagon go fork