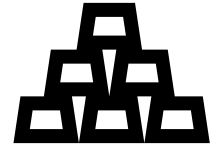


Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

California Gold Rush



INTRODUCTION: IN THE EARLY 1840S, CALIFORNIA WAS A DISTANT OUTPOST THAT ONLY A HANDFUL OF AMERICANS HAD SEEN. DUE TO JOHN MARSHALL DISCOVERING GOLD AT SUTTER'S MILL CREATING THE "GOLD FEVER" FOR EVERYONE AROUND THE WORLD. THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH WAS THE LARGEST MASS MIGRATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE IT BROUGHT ABOUT 300,000 PEOPLE TO CALIFORNIA.

A.) IN THE MIDST OF THE UNITED STATES FULFILLING ITS MANIFEST DESTINY, HOW DOES CALIFORNIA BECOME PART OF THE UNITED STATES?

B.) WHY WERE PEOPLE MOVING OUT WEST TO BEGIN WITH?

DIRECTIONS: IN YOUR SMALL GROUPS, YOU WILL BE MOVING TO EACH STATION AROUND THE ROOM. AT EACH STATION YOU MUST READ THE DOCUMENT PROVIDED. AFTER COMPLETING THAT, YOU MUST ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW IN COMPLETE SENTENCES AND WITH AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE. AT EACH STATION YOU WILL BE LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE GOLD RUSH AND HOW IT AFFECTED THE UNITED STATES AND ITS CITIZENS.

STATION ONE: CATCHING THE FEVER

1. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, EXPLAIN WHAT PRESIDENT POLK IS SAYING.

2. WHAT DOES THE LAST QUOTE TELL YOU ABOUT THE SACRIFICE AND RISK OF WHAT PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO GIVE?

3. DUE TO THE ENTHUSIASM OF THIS LAST QUOTE AND THE ADVERTISEMENTS FOUND IN NEWSPAPERS, WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK THESE HAD ON PEOPLE LIVING IN THE EAST?

STATION TWO:

TRAVELING TO THE GOLD COUNTRY

1. IN A BRIEF SUMMARY, WHAT THREE WAYS DID ADVENTURERS HOPE TO REACH CALIFORNIA?

2. WHAT DIFFICULTIES OR RISKS DID EACH ROUTE FACE? WHICH ROUTE HAD THE MOST ADVANTAGES TO IT AND WHY?

3. IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE ROUTE, WHICH WOULD IT BE AND WHY? GIVE EXAMPLES AND BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE!

STATION THREE: LIFE IN THE GOLD COUNTRY

1. IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH, THE AUTHOR SUGGESTS THAT CALIFORNIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOLD RUSH IS UNIQUE FOR TWO REASONS. WHAT ARE THEY?

2. HOW WERE THE LIVES OF WOMEN DIFFERENT IN CALIFORNIA THAN BACK IN THE EAST?

3. THE AUTHOR STATES THAT THE "CLASS SOCIETY OF THE EAST WAS GONE" AND IT WAS "ENTIRELT FREE MARKET AND OPPORTUNITY WAS EVERYWHERE". WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THIS?

S T A T I O N F O U R :

T O O L A T E ? T O O B A D !

1. IN WHAT WAYS HAD THE ENVIRONMENT IN CALIFORNIA CHANGED BY MID-1849?

2. IMAGINE YOU ARE A PIONEER WHO ARRIVED IN CALIFORNIA IN 1850. MOST OF THE GOLD HAS BEEN TAKEN AND YOU ARE HAVING NO LUCK ACCOMPLISHING YOUR DREAM. MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS ARE HEADING BACK, BUT YOU DECIDE TO STAY. WRITE A LETTER BACK HOME EXPLAINING WHY YOU ARE STAYING IN CALIFORNIA. INCLUDE YOUR HOPE, OPTIMISM, AND SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT THAT SUPPORTS YOUR ANSWER.

STATION FIVE:

AN EQUAL RUSH FOR ALL?

1. OTHER THAN AMERICANS, WHAT OTHER CULTURES PARTICIPATED IN THE GOLD RUSH? WHY DID AMERICANS BEGIN TO RESENT THEM?

2. WHAT ETHNIC GROUP DID NOT THRIVE SO WELL AS A RESULT OF THE GOLD RUSH? WHAT HAPPENED?

3. EXPLAIN WHY MINERS FELT THAT USING SLAVES TO HELP MINE FOR GOLD WAS CHEATING.

STATION SIX:

SAN FRANCISCO AND CALIFORNIA POPULATION GROWTH:

1. WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN YOU DRAW REGARDING POPULATION NUMBERS BEFORE 1850?

2. DUE TO THE GOLD RUSH, HOW DID THE POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA CHANGE FROM 1850-1880?

3. WHAT CONCLUSION CAN YOU DRAW ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SAN FRANCISCO TO CALIFORNIA HISTORY?

Closure Activity:

NOW THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED WHAT THE GOLD RUSH ENTAILED, EXPLAIN THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVES OF IT. GIVE EXAMPLES FROM WHAT YOU LEARNED TODAY.

