Life in the West

What were the motives, hardships, and legacies of the groups that moved west in the 1800s?

PREVIEW

Listen to the song “Sweet Betsy from Pike.” Then, answer these questions on another sheet of paper:

1. What is the mood of the song’s melody?
2. Where is Sweet Betsy going?
3. What reasons or motives might she have for making this journey?
4. What hardships did she face along the way?
5. Why would Sweet Betsy—and pioneers like those in the painting at the beginning of the lesson—be willing to risk such hardships?
6. What kind of legacies do you think such pioneers might have left behind?

READING NOTES

Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

- Lewis and Clark expedition
- rancho
- Mormons
- legacy
- Oregon Trail
- forty-niners

Section 2

1. List three motives, or reasons, for why the Lewis and Clark expedition explored the West.
2. Describe one hardship that the Lewis and Clark expedition faced.
3. What was the legacy of the Lewis and Clark expedition? Name at least two accomplishments.

4. What was the legacy of each of these explorers?

   Zebulon Pike:

   John C. Frémont:

Section 3

1. To which of these groups of people did the Mexican government award large grants of land in California? Circle your answers, and explain why these groups were given land.

   soldiers  settlers  California Indians

2. List two activities commonly found at a rancho.

3. Name one hardship that Californios faced.

4. Draw and label a sketch showing what you think is the Californios’ most important legacy.
Section 4

1. Why did Manuel Lisa follow the route of Lewis and Clark west?

2. List three hardships that mountain men faced.

3. Would you have liked to have been a mountain man? Use details from the reading to explain why or why not.

4. Draw and label a sketch showing what you think is the mountain men’s most important legacy.

Section 5

1. Why did missionaries like Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and Henry and Eliza Spalding move west?
2. Create a sketch showing the Whitmans’ greatest success. Include Marcus Whitman in your sketch with a speech bubble explaining his motives for his work.

3. Describe one legacy of missionaries in the West.

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Section 6

1. Many women moved west with their families. Why did single women pioneers move to the West?

2. List three hardships that women faced along the trail.

3. Explain how each of the following is an example of the great legacy of pioneer women.

   - **Biddy Mason:**

   - **Annie Bidwell:**

   - **Wyoming Territory:**
Section 7

1. Why did Mormons move to the West?

2. Name two hardships that Mormons in the West faced.

3. Draw and label a sketch showing what you think is the Mormons’ most important legacy.

Section 8

1. Why did many people move to California after 1848?

2. List three hardships that forty-niners faced.

3. Fill in the speech bubbles to describe the legacy of the forty-niners from the perspective of each group.

   - California Indian
   - Californio
   - Forty-niner
### Section 9

1. What motivated many poor Chinese peasants to travel to California in the 1800s?

2. What hardship faced by the Chinese caused them to leave the mines? How did some Chinese respond to this hardship?

4. Draw and label a sketch showing what you think is the most important legacy of the Chinese.

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### Processing

Create a folk song that details the experiences of people who moved west.

1. Choose a tune you know well for the melody. You might use “Sweet Betsy from Pike” or another folk song you know, such as “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad.”

2. On another piece of paper, write four stanzas of four lines each. Each stanza should be about a different group of settlers.

3. Within the four lines of each stanza, include
   - at least one motive for this group to move to the West.
   - at least one hardship this group faced.
   - at least one legacy this group left behind.

4. Give your song a title, and tell what melody it is sung to.
Preparing to Write: Making Comparisons

Historians estimate that more than 300,000 people came to California during the gold rush. All of them had their own reasons for leaving home and for traveling to California. These are sometimes called *push factors* and *pull factors*. In other words, some factors pushed people to leave their homes, while other factors pulled them to California.

List the push and pull factors for four people you read about.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traveler</th>
<th>Push Factors</th>
<th>Pull Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luzena Wilson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Kerr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicente Pérez Rosales</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin Coffey</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How were the push factors the same or different for these four people?

How were the pull factors the same or different for these four people?
Writing a Human-Interest Article

Suppose you were a newspaper journalist in 1850. Your assignment is to write a short human interest article. A human-interest article focuses on the people involved in an event or situation. Your subject is people who were part of the gold rush.

For your article, “interview” one or more of the people described in the reading. Be sure to give background information on the gold rush as well as “quotations” from the people you interview.

Use this rubric to evaluate your article. Make changes in your article if you need to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The article clearly focuses on human-interest stories about the gold rush. It includes background information and “quotations” that help the reader to understand the event. There are no spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The article focuses on human-interest stories about the gold rush. It includes some background information and “quotations.” There are few spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The article does not focus on human-interest stories about the gold rush. It includes very little background information or “quotations.” There are many spelling or grammar errors.</td>
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