

Name: _____

Gold Rush Activities

Choose 1 activity from the list below. This will be worked on in class. Some research may need to be completed at home and brought to class.

_____ Pretend you are part of a pioneer family making the westward journey to settle in California. Write a daily diary of your experiences for a two week time period (14 journal entries). Describe what you do and see, what you eat, and what problems you encounter along the way. Make the journal look authentic, as if it came from the 1800s.

_____ Find out what kind of games pioneer children played. Make a game book of 3 games you thought looked fun. Write the instructions on how to play and sketch a picture of the games. Choose one to teach the class.

_____ Research and write a booklet about what pioneers ate as they were on their westward journey. What types of food did they take with them? How did they keep the food from spoiling? How did they cook? Find 2 recipes that were commonly used along the trail.

_____ Draw an outline map of California on a large piece of construction paper or poster board. Research the settlements and forts that existed in the region during the mid 1800s, such as Sutter's Fort and Fort Ross. Label them on the map. Create fact cards that briefly describe each settlement. Attach the cards to the map.

_____ Take on the role of a gold miner. Write diary entries about the time you entered California in search of your riches, and the adventures you had while searching for gold. Describe where you are panning and what the nearest town is like. Describe what your days are like, and your successes and failures. Make the diary look authentic for that time period.

_____ Assume the role of the leader of a group of pioneers traveling West to California. Write a diary of your travels. Discuss who was in your party, the supplies you took, the route taken, problems encountered, length of time it took to make the journey, and where you ended up. Make an authentic looking diary of your journey.