

# 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 hardships did she face along the way?
4. Why would Sweet Betsy and other pioneers like her be willing to risk such hardship?
5. What kind of legacies do you think such pioneers might have left behind?

## READING NOTES

### Social Studies Vocabulary

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

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

### Section 1

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:*

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**Section 2**

1. To which of these groups of people—soldiers, settlers, or California Indians—did the Mexican government award large grants of land in California? Write your answers below, and explain why these groups were given land.

3. Name one hardship that Californios faced.

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

2. List two activities commonly found at a rancho.

**Section 3**

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.

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**Section 4**

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 5**

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:*

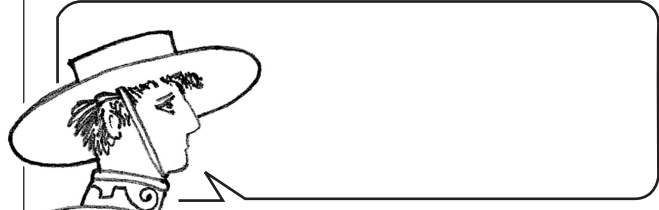
*Wyoming Territory:*


**Section 6**

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.
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**Section 7**

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.
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**California Indian**
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**Californio**
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**Forty-niner**

**Section 8**

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

**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.

READING FURTHER

**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.

Traveler	Push Factors	Pull Factors
Luzena Wilson		
Thomas Kerr		
Vicente Pérez Rosales		
Alvin Coffey		

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.

Score	Description
3	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.
2	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.
1	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.