

Lesson Plan Title “A Road Scene in California”

Written by Laura Smith

Course/Grade Level American History Grade 8

Overview of the Lesson (brief summary)

In 1848 gold was discovered in California and people started migrating west to strike it rich, find a better life, and adventure. The people who flocked west and worked in the gold mines were known as forty-niners. Many people moved out west. Some went across the continent while others traveled via boats. So many people went west that California became a state.

TEKS/TAKS 8.1A; 8.6B,C; 8.11A; 8.12A; 8.30; 8.31

Objectives: The learner will

- Analyze an image entitled “A road scene in California.”
- Use the image and the analysis information to create a short story.

Time Required

1 day

Materials Needed (primary source document plus...)

Copies of the Image entitled “A Road Scene in California”

Paper, pen or pencil

Procedure

▪ Introduction to set the stage

Ask students:

If they know what a primary source is? Introduce Primary sources, an original record from a historical event. Such as letters, journals, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, etc.

▪ Activity to use the document

- Ask students to write down what they think it was like to travel out west in 1848? Give time for students to share their responses. Discuss the possible ways people traveled west. Have students study the LOC document and answer the following questions:
 - 1. Title of document.
 - 2. Date of document.
 - 3. Type of document.
 - 4. Who created the document?
 - 5. For whom was this document created?
 - 6. What was the purpose for creating this document?
 - 7. What might the person who created it have been trying to express?
 - 8. What are two things you can learn about the time period from this primary source?
 - 9. What questions do you have about this source?

After a class discussion about the image allow the students time to write a short story about moving to the West. The story can be told from the man, woman and child's point of view, American, Spanish, Chinese, Native American. Invite them to share their stories with the class. Stories can be added to their writing folders for their English class. Another activity would be to have students create their own illustration of what it was like out west in 1848. Display their illustrations in the class.

- Assessment tools -both informal and a TAKS like test question.

TAKS-like question

With the discovery of gold in 1848, settlers migrated out west to which future state?

- A. California
- B. Oregon
- C. Texas
- D. Utah

Extension activity—Have students make list of supplies they might take on a journey west to California.

Students can make newspaper headlines about the discovery of gold. Be a reporter and write articles about gold-miners and the migration west. Then they can look on the Internet for stories about the gold rush and compare their story with actual stories.

Document Source [www.loc.gov/.....](http://www.loc.gov/)

SUMMARY

Includes image of **road** with group of Indian men, women, and children; Chinese laborers; prospectors/miners; and pioneers with covered wagon



Published at the Wide World, San Francisco.
A ROAD SCENE IN CALIFORNIA.

*Wm. M. Chandler
Portland, Me.*



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