

Performance Task Going West

Prompt:

The year is 1850. Your task is to write six journal entries which chronicle you and your family's journey west. You may write from the point of view of a pioneer, forty-niner, Chinese or other gold rush immigrant, or Native American. One hundred fifty years later your journal is uncovered and found by historians. Your journal should look like an authentic artifact, be creative and historically accurate. Each journal entry will be focused on a different part of your family's experience. Your journal must reflect the knowledge you have gained throughout the unit and be based on facts.

Journal format:

Entry 1: Where is your family from, why are you moving, where you are going, why you are going there, and what you have packed?

Entry 2: Daily life on the Trail: Typical schedule including your responsibilities, triumphs and hardships

Entry 3: Map: Include a map of the trail that you took, detailing water, forts, etc. and explain why you and your family decided on this route of travel. (This could be across land or ocean)

Entry 4: Encounter with someone from another culture. Your encounter could be with a: white settler, a Californio, a Forty-niner, or a Native American. Describe how the different groups felt about one another. This entry should express the difficulties between the different groups of people. Each side should be accurately portrayed.

Entry 5: Settling Down: Write about reaching your destination and starting your life there. Explain how you prepared, what resources of the west you used to fund your new life, and what your plans are for the winter.

Entry 6: Reflection: Was the journey worth it? Be sure to include all of the pros and cons