TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: The California Gold Rush

CREATED BY: Alissa Jean

LENGTH OF LESSON: 1 Class period

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

OBJECTIVES: To help the students develop an understanding of the effects of the California Gold Rush

MATERIALS:
Map of California:

Census report:
http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/history/hgpop.htm
Pictures of the California Gold Rush

Image 1:
http://www.history-for-kids.com/images/picture-gold-rush.gif

Image 2:
http://www.legendsofamerica.com/photos-california/CaliforniaGoldMiners.jpg

http://silverheelsriffle.wetpaint.com/page/Forty-Niners

PROCEDURE:
Preview Assignment -
Introduce the lesson by doing a KWL chart on what the students know about the California Gold Rush. Explain that the Gold Rush of 1849 had such a profound effect that the San Francisco 49er’s is named after the event. Go over the fact that the rush of people into town resulted in Boomtown’s springing up all over California.

Preview Assignment:
Partner students and have them go through a map of California and pick out any towns with really interesting names and have them list the names and the reasons they believe the town got that name. Discuss the names as a class.

Hand students out the Census of San Francisco or project the Census and ask the following questions:
What stands out about this census?
If we know that gold was found in January of 1848, what conclusions can we come to about the Census?
How long did it take for word about the gold to travel?
Why do you think it took so long for the people to get there?
How are ways people would get to California?

Project Image 1 and ask the following guided questions:
What do you see in this image?
What is happening?
What do you think will happen next?
What clues does this picture give you about the California Gold Rush?

Project Image 2 and ask the following questions:
What do you see in this image?
What is happening?
What do you think will happen next?
What clues does this picture give you about the California Gold Rush?
How does this picture make you feel?

Students will be asked to WRAP (Whisper Read Alternating Paragraphs) about the Gold Rush in their 16.8 pages 224 and 225

Processing Assignment:
Writing For Understanding:
Write the following names on the board:
Mr. Sutter
John Marshall
Willard Warner
George Washington Thissel
Captain McCaddon

Tell the students these are the names of real people who participated in the California Gold Rush. They are to write their stories. Paragraph one they will define the character. They are to imagine that these individuals are in the picture and they are to create the person’s identification. The first paragraph should have a visual description, character traits, a reason why the individual has come to California to find gold and how they got to California (land or sea). After they finish their first paragraphs the pairs will switch papers. Tell the students that they have just been given a description of someone who participated in the gold rush. Using the knowledge they have gained, write the second paragraph about how the gold rush affected the individual they were given. Did they strike it rich or return home empty handed? Finish the activity by reading the story of some of the miners that follows.

EVALUATION: Character sketches

EXTENSION (if any): Actual accounts of involved in the Gold Rush

TAH GRANT REFERENCES: TCI trainings

References:
http://silverheelsrifle.wetpaint.com/page/Forty-Niners

STANDARDS:
Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onis Treaty, Missouri Compromise, SS.8.A.4.1 Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

Habits of the Mind:
Shared Humanity
Change and Consequence
The Unintended and Unexpected
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rank [1]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798 [1a]</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844 [2]</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846 [2]</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1848 [2]</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 1849 [2]</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1849 [3]</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850 [3a]</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852 [3b]</td>
<td>36,151</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860 [4]</td>
<td>56,802</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870 [4]</td>
<td>149,473</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>233,959</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>298,997</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>342,782</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>416,912</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>506,676</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>634,394</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>634,536</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>775,357</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>740,316</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>678,974</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants in the Gold Rush

Forty-Niners

G. W. Thissell born April 25, 1829, in Morgan county, Ohio, where he was educated, and learned the trade of carriage-making, which he followed until he left his native State, March, 1849, when he started for California. He
stopped in Mashaska county, Iowa, with his brother Ezra, until March, 1850, when he set out on his long trip across
the plains with an ox-team, and landed at a town known at that time as Hangtown, and is now known as Placerville,
October 16, 1850, where he followed mining until May, 1851, when he established a hotel, and in July was one of
the parties who formed a company and commenced the second tunnel that was ever run in the State, after which he
found very rich diggings, taking out as high as $125 to the pan. Followed mining, in connection with the hotel, until
6th of January, 1852, when he returned to native State, and from there to Iowa, when he married Miss Asberrene
Chambers, May 8, 1851, who was born February 5, 1831, in Bartholomew county, Indiana. In March, 1853, again
emigrated to this State, re-crossing the plains with ox-teams, and again settled in Hangtown, and followed same
business as in 1850-1 until July, 1855, when he came to this county and settled in Suisun valley, and followed
farming. In July, 1857, took up his abode in Pleasants’ valley, settling upon the present tract of land upon which he
now resides, comprising 165 acres, adapted to fruit-growing. Has 6,000 fruit trees, most of which are apricots; also
10,000 grape vines, all foreign varieties.

March 16, 1849, in company with Jerry Sheppard, Henry Seamon, William and Ambrose Palmer, I went on board
the steamer Zanesville, at McConnelsville, Ohio, bound for California. The steamer’s destination was St. Louis,
Missouri. The hand-shaking, the parting words, “Write often,” God bless you,” and we were off for California. The
steamer was crowded with men wild with excitement. The gold fever ran high..

Many forty-niners came from Zanesville as well. Following is a portion of their story:

In the spring of 1849 the great Gold Rush started and Zanesville seethed with excitement. Coach makers worked on
covered wagons. Merchants sold large orders of sugar, flour, coffee, and other foods. Men practiced shooting with
rifles and pistols at imaginary Indians. They made and polished sturdy mule harness. Life-insurance salesmen were
busy. The forty-niners were getting ready to start for California “where people dig gold by the shovelful.”

“The new and staunch steamer Enterprise,” lay at the Fifth Street landing. She advertised April 4 as the date for
starting to Independence, Missouri, the point of departure by land for the gold fields. Cabin passage was $20 and
deck passage only $10. William McCaddon was president of the Zanesville party of thirteen men. Their equipment
consisted of four wagons, twenty mules, and two horses. They carried weapons for defense against Indians and wild
animals. The 150 passengers on the boat included parties from Newark and Cambridge. Crowds along the canal
bank cheered as the Enterprise puffed down the river.

Another group went to Cincinnati and took a steamboat for Panama. There two thousand people waited for passage
to San Francisco. Willard Warner of Zanesville wrote to friends that there was nothing to do but wait for three
months and nurse a sick friend who seemed to be dying of typhus. Ten men from West Main Street organized the
South Zanesville Company and drove their wagons to Cincinnati to board a steamboat for Independence.

The first letter that reached Zanesville from the Enterprise party contained sad news. Captain McCaddon returned to
camp from a hunting trip at five o’clock one afternoon and by two o’clock next morning he was dead of cholera. An
epidemic of that disease swept the nation.