

Life in the West Mini-Project

- Pick one of the following groups of people who lived in the West (topics) and complete one of the activities below.
- Look in the “Life in the West” in the History Alive! textbook to gather information about your group of people. Make sure to include information that
 - describes the people in your selected group
 - explains why they moved to the West
 - describes the challenges that they faced in the West
 - explains how they impacted the history of the West

Topic Groups, Pick One:

- a. Explorers
- b. Californios
- c. Mountain Men
- d. Missionaries
- e. Pioneer Women
- f. Mormons
- g. Forty-Niners
- h. Chinese

Activities, Pick One:

1. Create a Comic Strip. Explain your topic in a color comic strip (think Garfield or Peanuts), complete with illustrations and dialogue bubbles/captions. Your comic strip needs to have at least 8 cells (boxes).

2. Monument. Design a monument that commemorates the impact that your group of people had on the West. (Investigate real life monuments in Washington, DC for inspiration.) Sketch the structure that you would build and write a description of your design. Write a dedication plaque that describes the highlights of your group’s impact on the West

3. Poster. Create a poster that describes your group and their role on the settlement of the West. Include text and illustrations.

4. Poetry. Write poetry that captures the content and feelings expressed by the people associated with your topic. An “Inside/Outside Poem” format would be ideal for this activity. Get the directions page from the teacher if you pick this option. Or write another style of poetry that is appropriate to describe your group.

5. Song. Write the lyrics (words) to a song that describes your group and their role on the settlement of the West. Then set the lyrics to the melody (music) of a well-known song. (Star Spangled Banner, any Disney song, etc.)

6. Digital Presentation. Create a digital presentation (prezi, powerpoint, etc.) that describes your group and their role on the settlement of the West. Include text and illustrations.

(1)

Inside/Outside Poem

(recommended for advanced students)

In a poem, tell what exists outside a thing and inside the same thing. A very simple example is "Outside me is blue pants/ inside me is red blood."

BOSTON MASSACRE

Outside me I see a crowd gathering on King Street of Boston.

Inside me I am curious about what is happening-- yet I feel safe because I'm watching from the warmth of my home.

Outside me I hear townspeople shouting insults and throwing snowballs at the British soldiers.

Inside me I am astounded and somewhat angry at the remarks of the people of Boston because I am afraid of what the soldiers might do.

Outside me I see the soldiers becoming angry, and weapons are starting to be drawn.

Inside me I am horrified at the thought of the soldiers firing into the crowded square.

Outside me I hear the word, "Fire!". I hear the shots from their muskets, and the crowd scatters.

Inside me I feel sickened. I did not expect the soldiers to actually turn their weapons on the crowd.

Outside me I see Crispus Attucks, Samuel Maverick, Patrick Carr, and two other men laying dead in the street.

Inside me I am outraged, but I am not really surprised. Something like this was about to happen sooner or later; things have been very tense lately.