

5

History-Social
Science Standard
5.8.4.



Nature and Newcomers

California Education and the Environment Initiative

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The Education and the Environment Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the Secretary of Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Leadership for the Education and Environment Initiative:

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Key Partners:

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Office of Education and the Environment

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Lesson 1 “Ho! For California!”—From Wagon Trails to Highways

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 2 Natural Systems Along the Trails

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 3 Seasons and Reasons

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 4 Life Cycles on the Prairie

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 5 Choosing a Place to Call Home

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 6 East to West: A Different Life

None required for this lesson.

Assessments

Nature and Newcomers—Traditional Unit Assessment Master	2
Westward Bound: The Diary of _____ —Alternative Unit Assessment Master.	6

Name: _____

Part 1

Instructions: Choose terms from the Word Bank to fill in the sentences below.
(1 point each)

Word Bank

arable	climate	natural regions	fresh water	migration
natural resources	precipitation	terrain	vegetation	water cycle

1. Settlers had to cross through four different _____ as they traveled the overland trails to the West.
2. Abundant _____ drew settlers to the West.
3. Settlers had to time their trip so that enough _____ was available to their oxen and cattle.
4. Because of its importance to preventing dehydration, overland trails and new settlements were often located near _____.
5. While farmland in the West was _____, much of the soil in the East was overused and no longer healthy.

Part 2

Instructions: Select the best answer and circle the correct letter. (1 point each)

6. Which of the following could make the trip across the overland trails easier?
 - a. steep terrain
 - b. long stretches of flat land with sagebrush
 - c. tall prairie grasses
 - d. a year with a drought

Name: _____

- 7. Which of the following was not a reason settlers moved west?
 - a. overcrowded conditions in the East
 - b. plenty of land in the East
 - c. the discovery of gold in the West
 - d. clean western air

- 8. Starting an overland trip in spring could mean which of the following?
 - a. growing grasses for oxen and cattle
 - b. settlers could hunt bison for food
 - c. rivers were high and hard to cross
 - d. All of the above.

- 9. Which of the following attracted settlers to the West?
 - a. farmland with rich soils
 - b. a warm climate
 - c. free land that was good for farming
 - d. All of the above.

- 10. Which of the following helped migrants choose a place to start a settlement?
 - a. wanting to avoid winter in the Sierra Nevada
 - b. having relatives and friends in a town
 - c. being located near a river
 - d. All of the above.

Part 3

Instructions: Read and answer the following questions in full sentences in the spaces provided. (4 points each)

- 11. Overland-trail travelers traveled through four natural regions: temperate forest (deciduous), grassland/prairie, desert, and alpine/mountain. Choose one of these natural regions. Describe one way it helped settlers and one way it made their trip difficult.

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12. Give two examples of conditions in the East that prompted settlers to head west. Then, give two examples of conditions in the West that drew settlers across the country.

13. Name one natural cycle that affected settlers on the overland trails. Give two examples of how it affected the settlers.

Congratulations! You have traveled for many months. You now arrive in California. Write one last time in your diary. Compare and contrast the West and the East. How is life different in the West from the East? (10 points)

10 horizontal lines for writing a diary entry.



Westward Bound: The Diary of _____

Name: _____

Fold



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