

Name _____

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Write a letter to a family member in back at home about your experiences in California as part of the “gold rush.”

CONTEXT: When gold was discovered in California in 1848, some 300,000 people flocked west, hoping to get rich. From the prospectors themselves to the people who sold them supplies, everyone wanted a piece of the action.

BEFORE YOU START YOUR RESEARCH: What questions do you have about the gold rush?

YOUR PERSPECTIVE: One of the goals of your research should be to determine who you want to “be” as you write your letter. How old are you? Are you male or female? Do you have a family or are you single? Are you originally from California or did you travel to get there? If you travelled, did you travel alone? Have you found any gold? What did you do with it? What problems did you encounter? Do some general research about the gold rush. Below, list half a dozen perspectives that you could take when you write your letter.

SOURCES: Lists at least three credible sources that you used to conduct this initial research.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Name _____

DIGGING DEEPER: Choose one of the perspectives that you identified above, and conduct further research particular to understanding that perspective on the gold rush. Did your research bring to mind any new questions, or point you in a direction that you had not originally anticipated? Your letter should include the following information:

- What the scene looks like; where do you live? what kind of building do you live in? Who do you live with?
- What your daily life has been like (food, shelter, clothing, who you are with, what you have seen, whether or not you have found any gold, how you have gone about looking for it, what you did with it if you found it, etc.)
- What you have been doing with your time
- What problems you have had
- Anything else of interest

SOURCES: Lists at least three credible sources that you used to conduct this deeper research.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

FORMAT: Use a friendly letter format. Be sure to include a date, a heading, an edited body, and a closing signed by your letter-writer.