5

History-Social Science Standard 5.8.4.

Student Workbook

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Nature and Newcomers

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

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:

Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Legislation, California Environmental Protection Agency
Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Education and Quality Programs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Leary, Executive Director, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Mindy Fox, Director, Office of Education and the Environment, California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Partners:

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Office of Education and the Environment
1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95812 • (916) 341-6769
http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/

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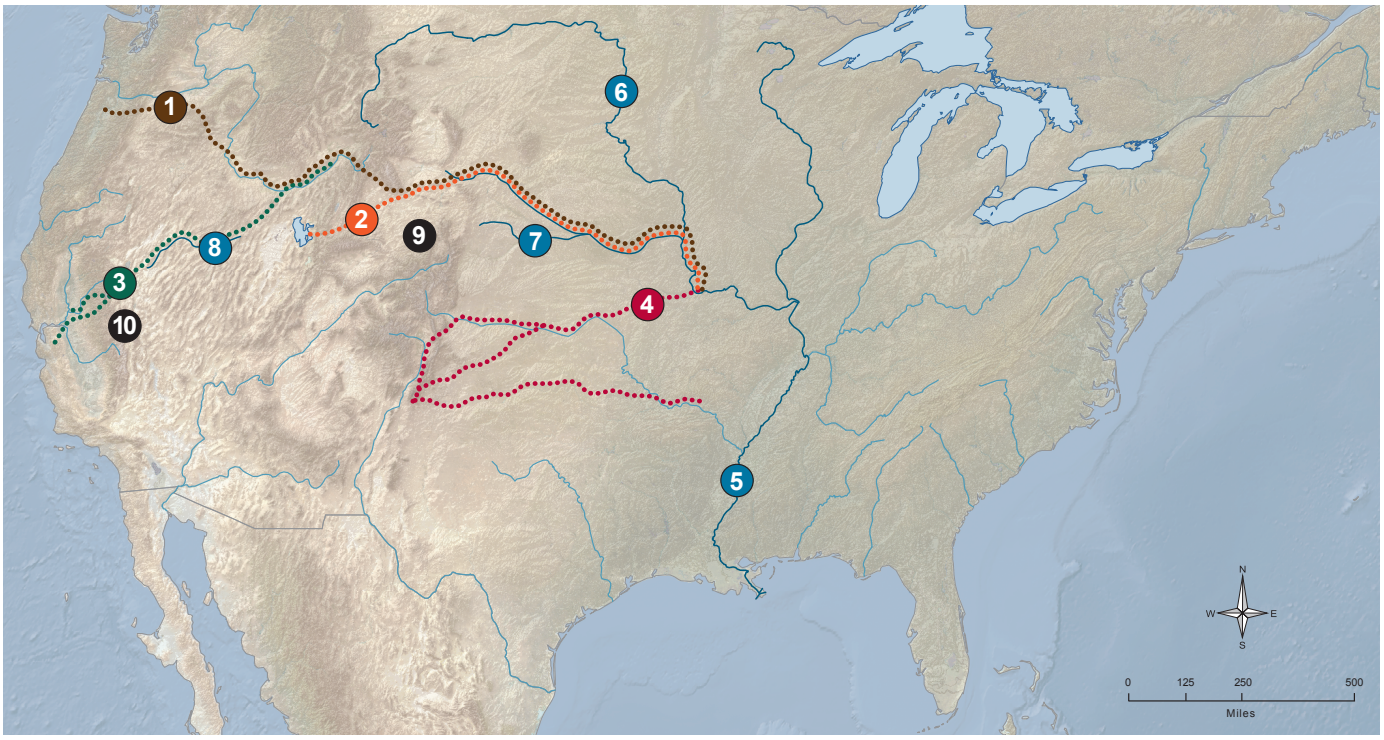
Name: _____

Instructions: Identify the following on the map below. (1 point each)

Trails: Santa Fe, Mormon, Oregon, and California
Rivers: Mississippi, Missouri, Platte, and Humboldt
Mountain Ranges: Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada



Trails	Rivers
1 _____	5 _____
2 _____	6 _____
3 _____	7 _____
4 _____	8 _____

Mountain Ranges	
9 _____	10 _____

Name: _____

Instructions: Use ***California Connections: A Route 66 Road Trip*** (Student Edition, pages 2–6) and **Overland Trails, Mountains, and Rivers** (page 2) to answer the following questions. (5 points each)

1. Compare travel on the overland trails with travel on a highway like Route 66. How would it be different? How would it be similar?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. How has the habitat and wildlife along the journey changed? Compare it from the time of the wagon trails to Route 66.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Read **Diary Excerpts—Set 2** (Student Edition, pages 10–11) or **Diary Excerpts—Set 3** (Student Edition, pages 12–13). Each excerpt describes at least one way that natural systems affected settlers as they traveled west on the overland trails. Some made the trip easier. Others made it more challenging. List each influence under one of the headings on this chart.

Terrain:
Vegetation:

Name: _____

Climate:

Water:

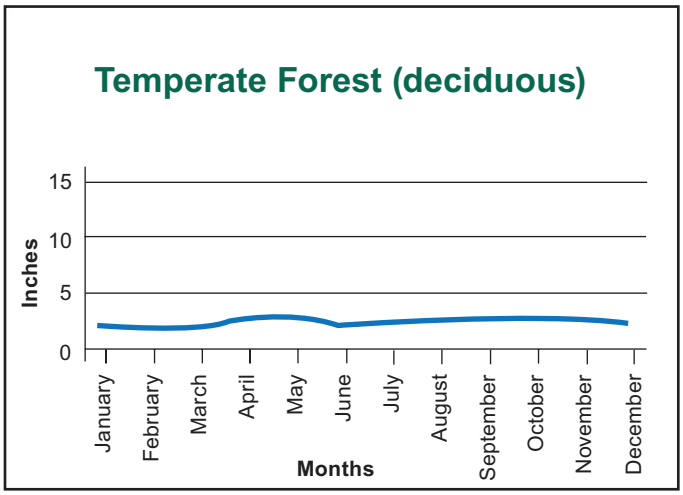
Name: _____

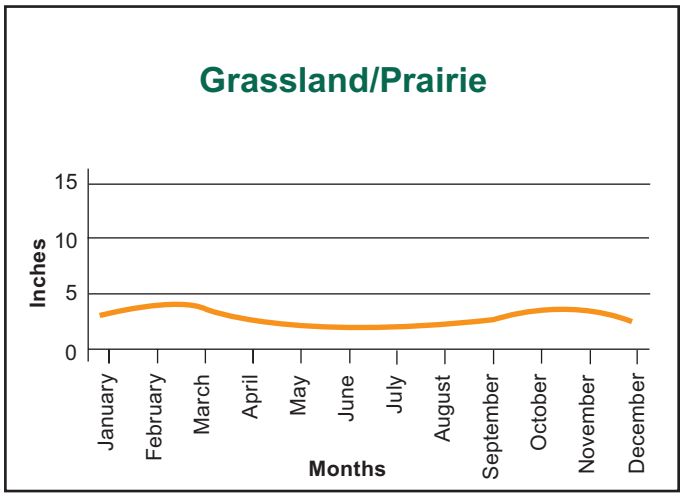
Instructions: Describe how natural systems affected people as they traveled on the overland trails. Include one example that helped the travelers. Include one example that challenged the travelers. Use all of these words in your response: terrain, vegetation, climate, rivers. Your answer should be one paragraph. (10 points)

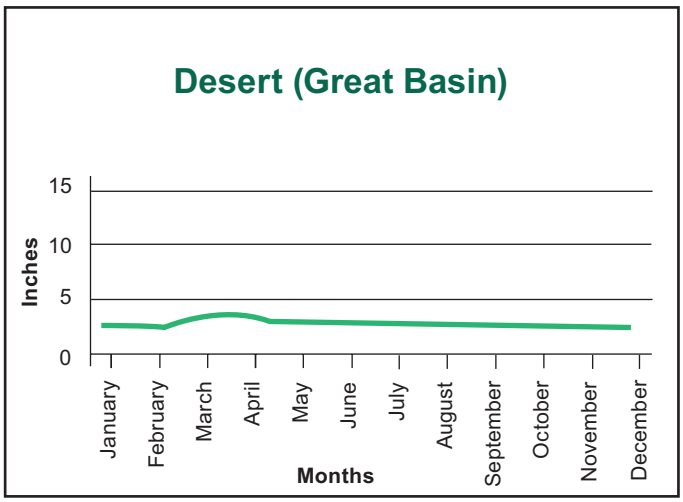
Name: _____

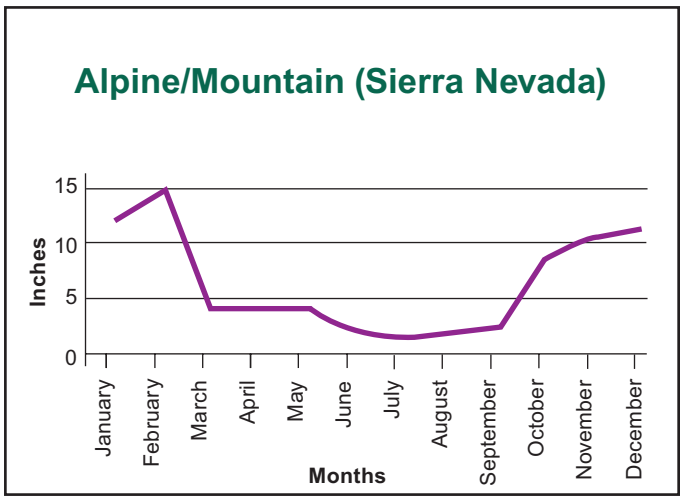
Annual Precipitation in Inches

Instructions: The graphs below show the monthly precipitation data for each of the natural regions settlers crossed on their journey to the West. Use the graphs to answer the questions on the next page.









Name: _____

Instructions: Use the graphs on page 1 to answer the following questions. (1 point each)

1. Thinking about precipitation, which region would be the most difficult for settlers to travel through?

_____

_____

2. What are some of the challenges of traveling in this region?

_____

_____

3. Which months would be the most difficult for travel in this region?

_____

_____

4. Which months might be the best to travel through this region?

_____

_____

5. In which region might a lack of water be the greatest problem?

_____

_____

6. Oxen, cattle, and horses all feed on the grasses in the prairie region. The grass grows shortly after the rains fall. Which months might provide the settlers with plenty of grass for grazing?

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Complete the following tasks. You may use the **Overland Trails, Mountains, and Rivers** (Student Edition, page 7) and **Annual Precipitation Graphs** (page 7) to help you. (3 points each)

1. List at least three ways that too much precipitation affected travelers on the overland trails.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. List at least three ways that drought affected travelers on the overland trails.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

3. Which of the overland trails do you think was the most difficult to travel? Explain your answer. (6 points)

4. Imagine you are a settler. You have been traveling for three-and-a-half months on the trails. You are planning to head to California where you have heard there is free farmland and plenty of gold. But the journey has been long, and now it is almost October. You have to make a choice. The trail to California is rocky and steep. The California Trail also passes through the mountains, and winter snows will start soon. You could head instead to Oregon. The trail to Oregon is flat and easier to travel. You have family members who have settled in Oregon and started farming, but you do not know much else about what awaits you there. Do you head to California or Oregon? Choose a trail and explain why you will take that trail. Write your answer in a paragraph. (8 points)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Winter:

Name: _____

Spring:

Name: _____

Summer:

Name: _____

Fall:

Name: _____

Instructions: Real travelers of the overland trails wrote these diary entries in 1842. Read each entry and then answer the questions below.

Diary of Charles Preuss
"Miserable Prairie Life"
June 19, 1842

"Had a remarkably (really) bad night. First came a thunderstorm with torrential (strong and heavy) rain, which drenched us thoroughly (completely) in our miserable tents. Then it became so warm that the mosquitoes were as if possessed (crazy)…and I actually could not sleep a minute…we moved on quietly in the roasting heat of the sun (94° F)."

Diary of John C. Frémont
"The Great Plains"
June 22, 1842

"At the Big Trees, where we had intended to noon, no water was to be found. The bed of the little creek was perfectly dry…We made here a short delay in search of water; and, after a hard day's march of twenty-eight miles, encamped (camped), at 5 o'clock, on the Little Blue…

"Elk were frequently (often) seen on the hills, and now and then an antelope… The road in the afternoon was over the upper prairies, several miles from the river, and we encamped at sunset on one of its small tributaries (streams). We had travelled thirty-one miles. A heavy bank of black clouds in the west came on us in a storm between nine and ten…The rain fell in such torrents (so rapidly) that it was difficult to breathe facing the wind."

1. Why was water important to the travelers? Give two reasons. (4 points)

_____

_____

Name: _____

2. Did Frémont change plans so his group could find water? Explain. (4 points)

3. How did the weather challenge Frémont and Preuss? Give two examples. (4 points)

Instructions: Use **Vegetation Along the Overland Trail** (pages 12–15) illustrations and **Annual Precipitation Graphs** (pages 7–8) to help you answer the following question. Write your answer in one paragraph.

4. During which season would most settlers want to travel across the prairies? Why? Explain how life cycles and the seasons affected travelers' choice of routes and the timing of when they traveled. (6 points)

Name: _____

Instructions: Read the text and answer the questions on the next page. (2 points each)

You are thinking of heading west. You hear there is plenty of land available, and that farming is easy. Still, it is a big decision. There are many risks to the journey. You receive these letters from your brother, Pierson Barton, which convince you to leave next spring:

October 19, 1844 letter from Pierson Barton

"Left camp about 9 o'clock and after about 6 hours…(of) traveling, crossed the American Fork of the Sacramento, and came in sight of…Sutter's Fort. (Sutter's Fort is a settlement) owned by Captain John Sutter. He…made us all welcome. Congratulated us on our safe arrival. (He) gave us such (exciting) information of this beautiful country (that)…most of our party (wanted) to abandon going any farther than…Sacramento."

November 10, 1844 letter from Pierson Barton

"After crossing the mountain range, we and our fellow settlers finally arrived in California. It has been a long journey from Independence, Missouri, and it is now late fall. The temperature is still warm, and the air seems clear and healthy. We met John Sutter. He established Sutter's Fort in 1840 as a trading post. The settlement is small, but growing. It is located near a source of fresh water where you can fish, and the soil is healthy and arable. In fact, Sutter told our group he plans to plant 2,000 fruit trees in this area in a couple of years. We talked about it and all agreed to stay and help settle the region."

March 14, 1848 letter from Pierson Barton

"We have helped to settle this region for more than three years. We have planted crops and built homes. There was less snow on the mountains this winter. It has been warmer than usual. The rivers are lower because there is less snow melting off the mountains. Because the water level is low, gold has been discovered in the American River. The rumors are true, settlers can grab nuggets with their bare hands! We are all planning to take part in the Gold Rush. California's farming communities have begun to boom overnight."

Name: _____

1. Why did you choose to settle in this place?

_____

_____

_____

2. Name and describe the natural region where your settlement is located.

_____

_____

_____

3. Name two examples of natural resources that are important to your settlement. Why are they important?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. How will people get food in your settlement? How will people make money in your settlement?

_____

_____

_____

5. Describe one way in which your settlement in the West differs from your home in the East.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Instructions: Create a guidebook for the town your group "settled" in class. The guidebook should make others want to settle in your town. (40 points possible, 25 points for written content, 15 points for drawings)

Follow these steps to complete your guidebook:

1. Fold your paper in half to create a booklet.
2. On the cover, draw an image of your new town. Include a title for your guidebook. A sample title might be "Sacramento: An Official Settler Guidebook."
3. On the inside pages, write a brief sales pitch. Describe the natural resources and other features that will attract people.
4. Illustrate the inside pages.

Use these resources to assist you:

- **Building a Western Community** (pages 18–19)
- **Primary Source Guidebooks** (Student Edition, pages 16–20)

Name: _____

Instructions: Think about how life in the East and life in the West was different for settlers in the 1800s. Fill in the chart below with your ideas.

The East	The West

Name: _____

Instructions: Pretend that you are a settler in California. Follow this outline to write a three-paragraph letter to a relative in the East. (5 points each paragraph)

- In paragraph 1, explain what attracted you to California.
- In paragraph 2, explain how your western community differs from the eastern community you left.
- In paragraph 3, write creatively about some of your western experiences and try to convince the rest of your family to move west, too.

Name: _____

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