

PRE-TRIP ACTIVITIES

Get ready to witness the amazing impact that outdoor education can have on your students! We've put together some ideas (with the help of our sourdough teachers) that will enhance your students' experience here in Coloma. Whether you're attending CODS at the beginning of your school year or towards the end, here are some pre-trip activities to stimulate learning.

- ⊗ **Thought Museum:** Gather a collection of Gold Rush images including the journey west, life in a mining camp, the cultures of California, etc. Post each image on a piece of butcher paper and scatter around the classroom. Have students wander up to each station and write a comment on the paper that explains how he/she interprets the image. Re-group, pair and share!
- ⊗ **Name that Town:** Students will be divided into Gold Rush "towns" upon arrival to CODS. If you would like to know the town names that will be assigned to your students, let us know at least two weeks prior to your arrival. Have students research the actual story behind their town, create a fictitious story, or design an advertisement that will lure newcomers. Our favorite resource is *Tales and Treasures of the California Gold Rush* by Randall A. Reinstedt.
- ⊗ **KQL:** If you have already been studying the Gold Rush, challenge students to come to Coloma seeking more knowledge! Have them chart out what they Know, what they Question, and what they want to Learn.
- ⊗ **Wanted Poster:** Many teachers have their students research individuals that played a role in early California. Have each student create a *wanted poster* for their character and include information gathered about personal life.
- ⊗ **Prepare Costumes:** Dressing the role doesn't have to cost a fortune! Investigate the variety of immigrant clothing through books, video, and/or the internet. Search your local thrift store and grandma's attic to find some treasures. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to have a parent volunteer as a seamstress...
- ⊗ **Team Building:** Very few forty-niners survived *alone*. Your students might benefit from some activities that specifically target working as a community. Some resources include: www.gamesforgroups.com and www.usscouts.org/games.
- ⊗ **Respect** is our guiding principle at CODS. On a piece of butcher paper, design an acrostic for the word respect. Have students brainstorm how they might show respect in certain circumstances. For example, in the bunkhouses, on the trail, towards a guest presenter, etc. How about at home? On the playground at school?
- ⊗ **Physical Conditioning:** The Monroe Ridge hike is a great excuse to get your students in shape! Integrate walking, jogging, or even square dancing to prepare greenhorns for their journey.
- ⊗ **Packing 101:** As you know, this may be the first trip away from home for some 4th graders. Because of this, we have found that a little pre-trip packing experience might be helpful. Demonstrate how to pack a suitcase in the classroom, making sure to stress "weather appropriate" clothing.
- ⊗ **Sing!** Music was a significant part of the mining town environment. A great resource is *Days of Gold: Songs of the California Gold Rush* published by the Calicanto Associates. Or... change the lyrics to a familiar tune and write your own.
- ⊗ **Read!** Many teachers turn to children's literature as an introduction to California history. Some favorites include:
 - Fleischman, Sid. *By the Great Horn Spoon*.
 - Largaad, Rachel Kelly. *Patty Reed's Doll*.
 - Reinstedt, Randall A. *One-Eyed Charley, The California Whip*