

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ PERIOD: _____

*D*irections

Go to the following website and do the assignment listed below: Remember to express yourself fully, and carefully in your answers, using the skills you have learned in English class this year.

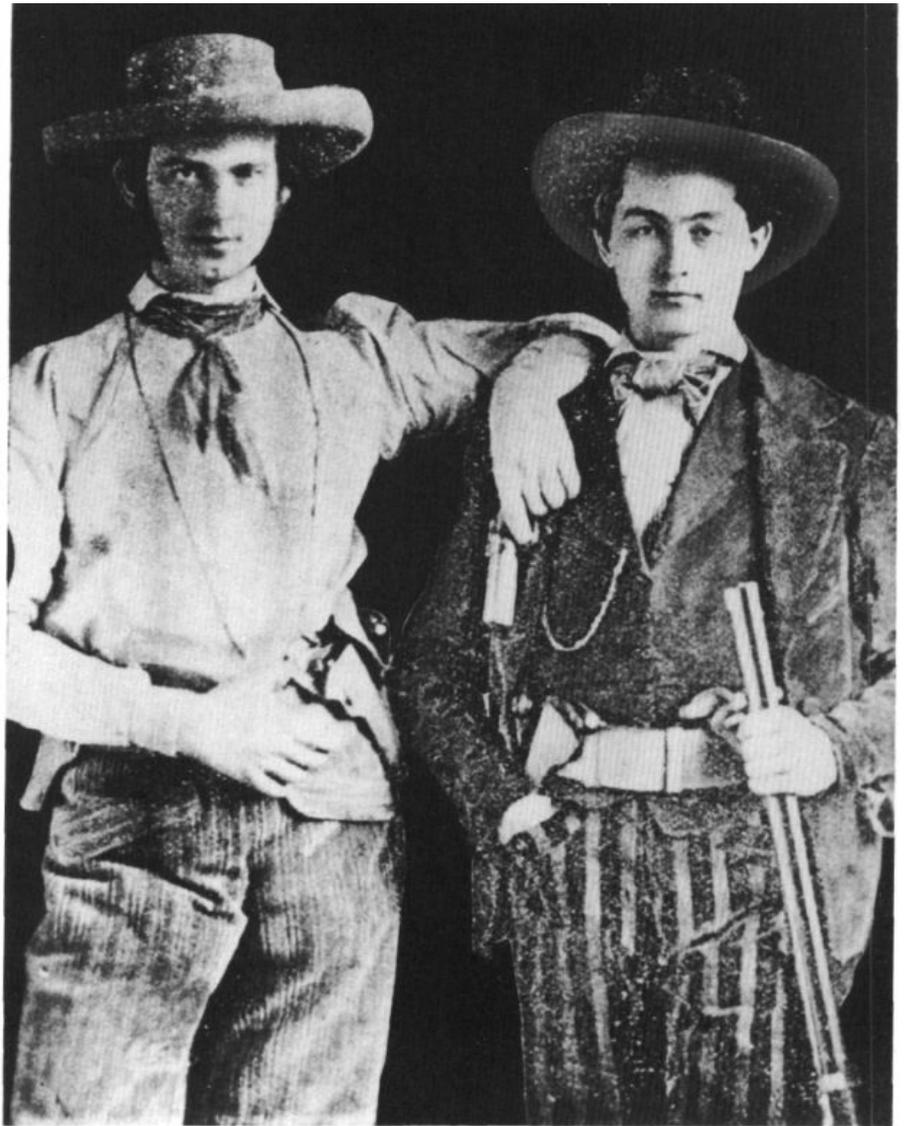
GOLD RUSH PHOTO STUDY

In this assignment, you will be asked to look closely at a series of photographs associated with the California Gold Rush era.

Go to the following web page:

<http://museumca.org/goldrush/index.html>

Click on the link with the title: "SILVER & GOLD".



W. C. Johnson, *Experiences of a Forty Niner*. 1892

- **You are about to take a virtual tour of a real exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California. You will be examining Cased Images (old photographs) from the California Gold Rush. You will answer a series of questions based on these old photos.**

Scroll down to the lower part of the page where you will see a list of images.

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following questions come from this series of over twenty images. They are not in any particular order, so you will have to "click" through the whole exhibit in order to find the answers.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.

PART I: SHORT ANSWER SECTION:

1. The native population of California was decimated by the Gold Rush. Their numbers would drop from 150,000 in 1845 down to less than 30,000 in 1870. What do experts say caused most of the decline in population?
2. White gold seekers also died while seeking to get rich in California. What led to the death of Philip A. Potter at the age of 21 years old?
3. Miners came from all over the world in order to get rich in California. How long (on average) would it take for a gold seeker from China to travel from China to California?
4. Most Chinese immigrants headed straight for the gold fields, but some stayed behind in San Francisco working at other occupations. Why did so many Chinese men end up starting laundry businesses?
5. Find the photograph of a Chinese man. What is he prominently displaying in this picture?
6. African - Americans also came to California to look for gold. What percentage of the population of California was black in 1852?
7. With all the different groups that came to California, one particular group was poorly represented. Find the picture of Fred Stocking and his partners in Toulumne County. What makes this photograph so rare and unique?
8. All of this influx in population is bound to have an impact on the landscape of California. Describe how the gold miners changed the environment around them:
9. San Francisco would become an important supply center for the California gold fields, and the largest city in California. Describe in detail the home that Judge Rix built for his family on Market St. in San Francisco:
10. Like Judge Rix, most San Franciscans lived in wooden homes. Fire danger was a constant worry. The San Francisco Fire Department was formed early on in order to stop the spread of fires. (Side note: Early Denver was so concerned about fires that they passed a law that buildings in Denver were to be made of brick in order to decrease the fire danger.) Describe in detail the clothing worn by Manhattan Engine Company No. 2:
11. William Shew made a living by taking photos known as “daguerreotypes” in California. Find the photo of Mr. Shew’s “Daguerrian Saloon” and explain how Mr. Shew managed to avoid the devastating fires that ravaged San Francisco.
12. The gold was not found in San Francisco. It was found miles away in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Which was a bigger gold mining town - Murphy’s Camp or Grizzly Flats? Explain in some detail how you know this:

13. Many gold seekers found that they could make more money selling supplies to the miners than looking for gold themselves. Find the picture of the Miners Tent Store. What kinds of things are for sale at this store? What was hanging in the tree?
14. Find the picture of the four miners reading a letter. Explain why letter writing and photographs were so important in nineteenth century America:
15. Look at the picture of the California Forty Niner. He evidently thinks someone is going to try and steal his gold. Which two weapons has he tucked away in his belt?
16. Find the miner with pick. Describe in detail what this man looks like and what he is wearing.
17. Find the miner with shovel. Describe in detail what this man looks like and what he is wearing.
18. Find the two miners with stick pins. Describe in detail what these men look like and what they are wearing.
19. Find the picture of George Bomford. What makes this photograph so unusual and historic?
20. Which of the men pictured in questions 15 through 19 do you find the most interesting? Explain why:

PART II: ESSAY SECTION:

When you are done with the short answer section, write a solidly composed fourteen-sentence essay on the following topic:

Describe what happened to California during the Gold Rush from the point of view of an American Indian who had been living there before the Gold Rush began:

STANDARDS FOR GRADING THIS WEB ASSIGNMENT:

GRADE C:

1. The requirements for a C are the same as for a B except that there are one or two errors or omissions that would prevent the student from getting a B.

GRADE B:

1. The report answers all of the short answer questions in complete sentences.
2. The short answer section shows only minor factual errors.
3. The essay question (or questions) are of proper length and written in complete sentences.
4. The essay question addresses the topic clearly.
5. Paper is neatly written and carefully proofread with no more than four typos or spelling errors.

GRADE A:

1. The report meets all the requirements for a “B”.
2. The essay question (or questions) show outstanding effort and analysis as well as a exceptional overall understanding of the topic.
3. The report is carefully proofread with no more than two typos or spelling errors.
4. The report is word processed.