

# WESTWARD EXPANSION JOURNAL OF A PIONEER



Imagine what your life would be like if you lived during the 1800's when Westward Expansion was taking place. Your next assignment will have you do just that!! You will be responsible for writing a diary from the perspective of:

- Someone in California during the Gold Rush
- An adult traveling one of the trails west
- A Native American
- A child traveling one of the trails west

**Your journal must include the following:**

**Writing – 5 entries**

- Each entry will be ½ to 1 page in length. The entry should be written in paragraph form with each paragraph being about 8-10 sentences in length.
- The entries should include specific facts and information from the time period, using research materials (text book, websites, etc.)
- The entries should have a personal touch. You will be able to do this only if you place yourself in the “shoes” of the person you choose. You will need to express feelings, emotion, and reactions in each of your entries.
- You will use pronouns like I, me and my.

**Publishing**

- You will need an authentic cover. Some ideas might include using fur, material, staining, wallpaper, etc.
- I would recommend including pictures, maps, captions, sketches, and any other personalized details that make the journal authentic.

Due Dates and Deadlines are as follows:

Task	Due Date	Conference with Teacher	Completed
Entry #1 rough copy written and you've conferences with teacher			
Entry #2 rough copy written and you've conferences with teacher			
Entry #3 rough copy written and you've conferences with teacher			
Entry #4 rough copy written and you've conferences with teacher			
Entry #5 rough copy written and you've conferences with teacher			
Final Project completed and turned in (Cover and Journal Entries)			

# Character

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## Entry #1

- What is your name?
- How old are you?
- Where are you originally from?
- How long have you lived there?
- Are you educated?
- What is your job?
- Who is in your family?

This story should be told in story format and set up your plot and character background for the rest of your entries.

## Entry #2

- Describe where you live.
- What does that landscape look like? (trees, forests, coasts, fields, etc.)
- What kind of buildings are there?
- What do they look like?
- What is the climate like where you live?
- Where do other people live, in relation to you?
- What does your house look like?

This entry should be told in story format. You should use information and details that support what geographical location you live in. Include landforms, such as mountains, valleys, deserts, oceans, rivers, etc.

## Entry #3

- Describe your daily life.
- What chores do you have?
- What do you do for fun?
- Where and by whom were you educated?
- What do adults do for entertainment?
- What do children do for entertainment?

This story should be told in story format. The entry should paint a clear picture of your character's daily life and routine.

## Entry #4

- Describe your job.
- What do you do? (Give specific details and facts.)
- Where do you work, and do you travel far?
- How did you learn your job or trade?

This story should be told in story format. The entry should describe what your character's role is in their community.

## Entry #5

- How do you feel about Westward Expansion?
- How has your family been involved in this movement?
- Have they been involved in any battles or conflicts?
- What dangers have our family encountered during their move West?

This story should be told in story format. You should use information and details that support the reasons your family moved and specific danger they encountered.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## Westward Expansion Journal Project

Authentic Cover \_\_\_\_\_/10

### **Entry #1**

Written in first person sharing feelings, emotions, and reactions. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Share the appropriate information. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Conventions \_\_\_\_\_/5

### **Entry #2**

Written in first person sharing feelings, emotions, and reactions. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Share the appropriate information. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Conventions \_\_\_\_\_/5

### **Entry #3**

Written in first person sharing feelings, emotions, and reactions. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Share the appropriate information. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Conventions \_\_\_\_\_/5

### **Entry #4**

Written in first person sharing feelings, emotions, and reactions. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Share the appropriate information. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Conventions \_\_\_\_\_/5

### **Entry #5**

Written in first person sharing feelings, emotions, and reactions. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Share the appropriate information. \_\_\_\_\_/5

Conventions \_\_\_\_\_/5

Pictures/Sketches \_\_\_\_\_/5

Neatness/Evidence of Effort \_\_\_\_\_/10

Comments:

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_