

Middle Grades



# PIONEERS & THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES



## VIRTUAL field trip



usa

# INTEGRATES READING

Short reading passages  
build background and  
introduce key vocabulary.

The Oregon Trail was the major route pioneers used when traveling to the western parts of the United States in the 1800s. The route began in Independence, Missouri. It ended in northern Oregon, near the Columbia River. The Oregon Trail was around 2,000 miles long. It cut through six different states. Those states included Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon. The terrain and the weather were often rough and dangerous. Riding in covered wagons pulled by horses, oxen, or mules didn't make the journey any easier. Getting the wagons over the steep trails of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains presented many challenges, as well.

The journey on the Oregon Trail took about 4-6 months to complete. The pioneers brought very little with them. Covered wagons were mostly filled with food. It took over 1,000 pounds of food to feed a family of four. Preserved foods such as hardtack, coffee, beans, bacon, rice, and flour were commonly taken. Pioneers also hunted for food along the trail. They packed a few basic tools for cooking such as skillets, buckets, and coffee pots. Other supplies included 2-3 sets of rugged clothing, candles, tents, shovels, and rifles. Pioneers were determined to make it to their destinations and start new lives.

### The Oregon Trail 1841 - 1866



## Pioneers Throughout History

It takes courage to be one of the first people to do something! Pioneers throughout history have shaped the United States with their willingness to try new things.

While the meaning of "pioneer" has always stayed the same, what it means to be a pioneer has changed over time.

This can be seen by exploring periods in history such as Westward Expansion and the Gilded Age.



# SOCIAL STUDIES

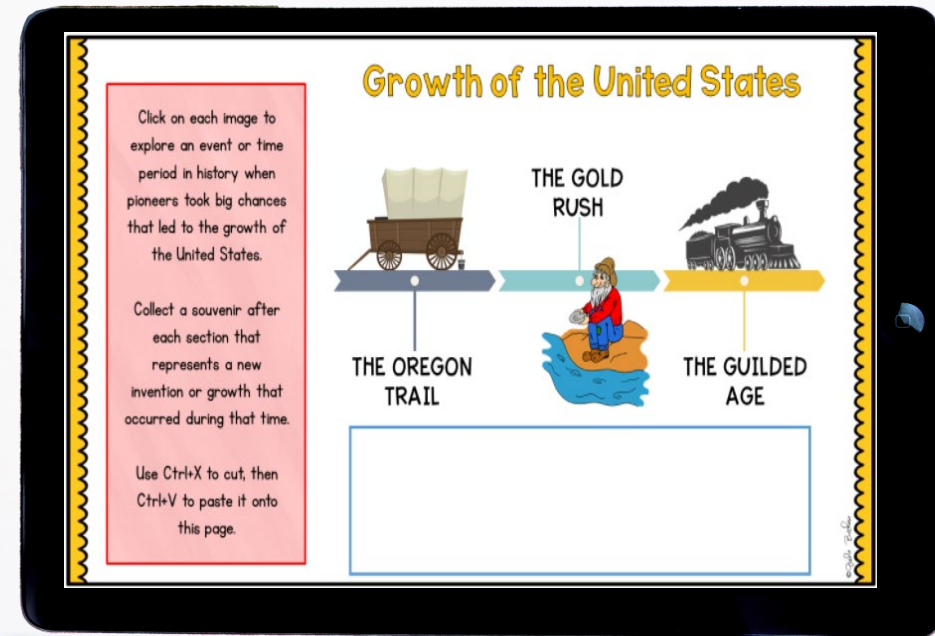
Develop a deeper understanding of the Pioneers throughout history of America.





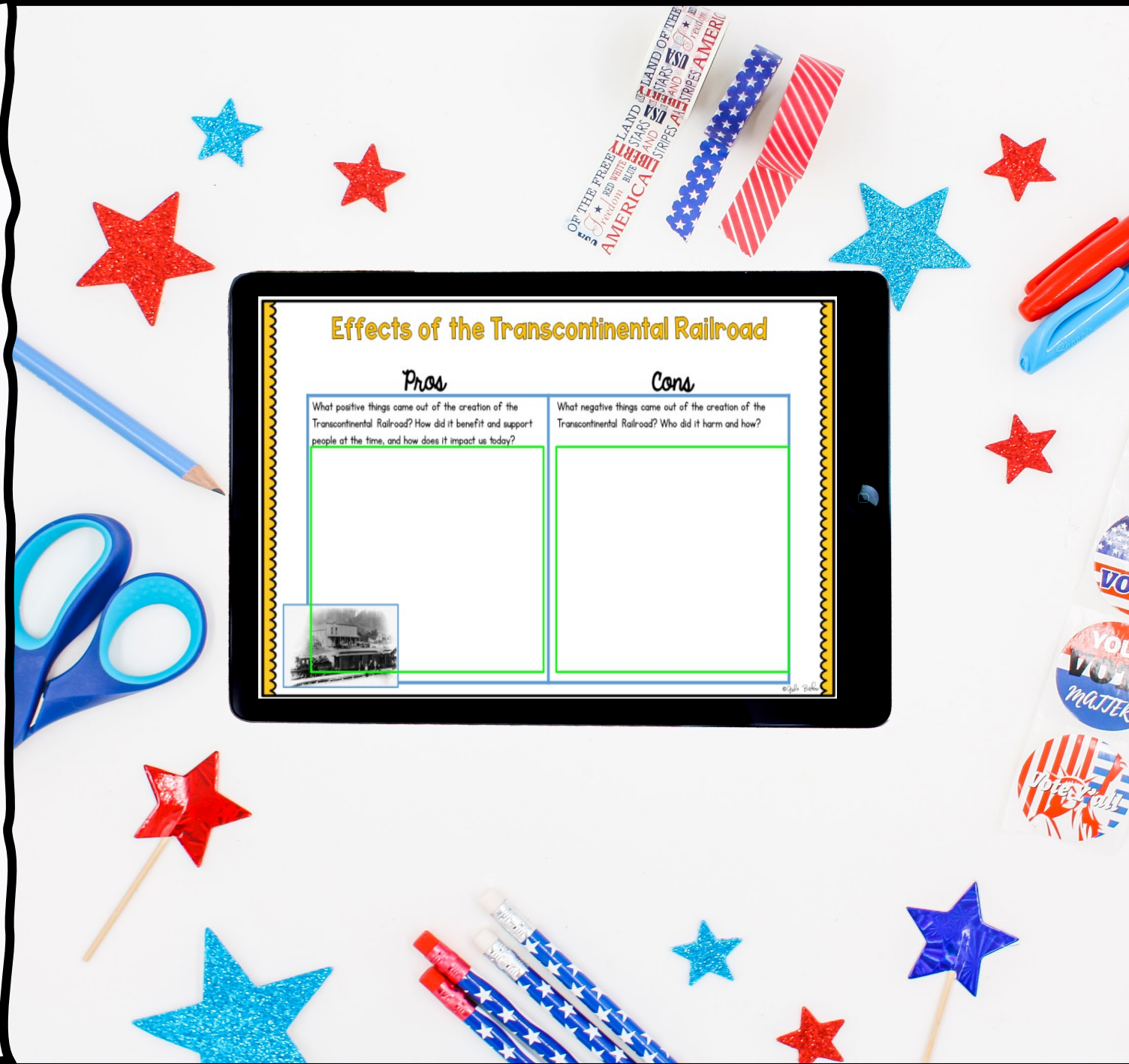
# INTERACTIVE TIMELINE

colorful, interactive movable  
pieces that students can drag  
and drop to solve problems,  
making learning more engaging  
and hands-on.



# CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Students dive deep into this engaging topic and learn to draw conclusions and make judgements.





# ENGAGING & EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

Engaging videos and  
multimedia make learning  
fun.

## Building California

Watch the video, then move the words below to complete the statements.



California

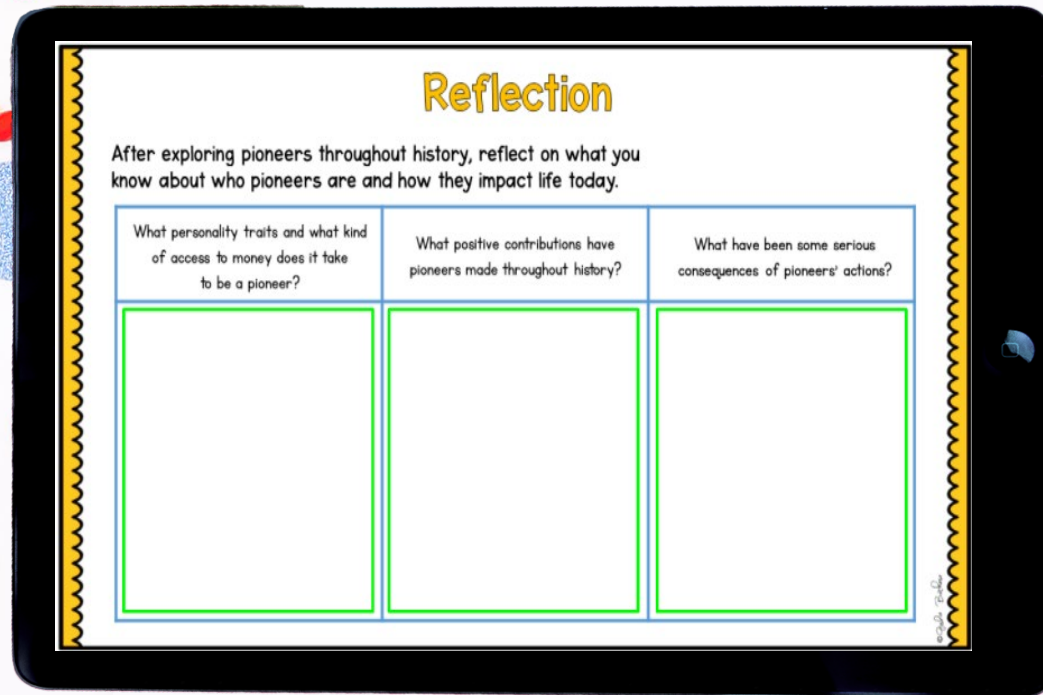
Gold Rush

forty-niners

31<sup>st</sup> state

1. Pioneers and "forty-niners" are largely responsible for the economic growth of .
2. The  is the largest mass movement of people in the history of the western hemisphere.
3. The increase in population and the economic boom during the Gold Rush made California the , without it becoming a territory first, which was very unusual.
4. Although most  didn't find the fortune they were searching for, and some didn't make it home, their presence in California brought about great change.





The image shows a tablet with a reflection worksheet. The worksheet has a title 'Reflection' in yellow. Below the title is a paragraph: 'After exploring pioneers throughout history, reflect on what you know about who pioneers are and how they impact life today.' Below this paragraph is a table with three columns. Each column has a question in the header and a large empty box for writing. The columns are: 1. 'What personality traits and what kind of access to money does it take to be a pioneer?', 2. 'What positive contributions have pioneers made throughout history?', and 3. 'What have been some serious consequences of pioneers' actions?'. The tablet is surrounded by various school supplies like pencils, pens, paper clips, and circular stickers on a white background.

What personality traits and what kind of access to money does it take to be a pioneer?	What positive contributions have pioneers made throughout history?	What have been some serious consequences of pioneers' actions?

# REFLECTION

Think critically about the topic.



## Suggested Uses

- Assign in Google Classroom or SeeSaw
- Whole Class Activity
- Small groups or center
- Early Finisher
- Incentive or Fun Friday

## Google Slides and SeeSaw





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