

## **Teaching Trunks**

### ***California's Gold Rush***

What was it like to live during the California Gold Rush? This Teaching Trunk provides the answers as it gives students the opportunity to handle artifacts from the time period. Students can learn how miners would pan for gold with actual tools and gold pans, as well as experience daily life with objects used by miners and their families. Newspaper advertisements, letters, and diary entries of the day are great primary sources and are an excellent way to engage students in critical thinking. This Teaching Trunk gives a true feel for the conditions and hardships of the Gold Rush, a crucial era of California's history and the beginning of a massive wave of settlement.

## **Kit Contents**

### **Educator's Notebook**

- With background information, CD-ROM, artifact descriptions, and related articles

### **Books**

- *The Wells Fargo Book of the Gold Rush* by Margaret Rau
- *Gold Fever: An American Icon, Close-up Guide* by Oakland Museum of California
- *Gold Fever! Tales from the California Gold Rush* by Rosalyn Schanzer
- *Gold Fever* by Verla Kay
- *Seeds of Hope* by Kristiana Gregory (Dear America Series)
- *California Gold Rush Cooking* by Lisa Golden Shroeder

### **Historic Photo Posters**

- *Chinese Labor* Auburn, CA, 1851
- *The Miner's Ten Commandments*, 1853
- *Placer Mining* near Spanish Flat, CA, 1852
- *Woman at Mining Site* Auburn, CA, 1852

### **Videotapes**

- *The Gold Rush* narrated by John Lithgow (1 hour)
- *Life in A Gold-Mining Camp 1850* (18 minutes)

### **Primary Source Materials**

- Letters
- Diary Entries
- General Store Advertisement
- Real Estate Advertisements
- Photos
- Illustrations
- Maps

### **Costumes**

- Man's Pants
- Man's Scarf
- Man's Shirt
- Man's Suspenders
- Woman's Apron
- Woman's Blouse
- Woman's Camisole
- Woman's Camp Skirt
- Pantaloon Bloomers
- Woman's Accessories

## **Artifacts**

- Enamelware Cup
- Flat Iron
- Gold Miner's Pan
- Graniteware Wash Pan
- Haversack (bag)
- Lye Soap
- Mucket (cooking pot)
- Powder Horn
- Tin Plate
- Wash Board
- "Fool's Gold" - iron pyrite
- Miner's Knife and Fork
- Possible Bag, Placer Gold and Sinew Thread