

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Lando Hall of California History, Grade 4

Gallery Description: The Lando Hall of California History offers a historical view that spans the 1500's Southwestern United States to 1940's downtown Los Angeles. The hall explores twelve topics vital to the history of California, Los Angeles, and the United States including: Native Americans, New World Exploration, Spanish Outpost, International Competition, Mexican Territory, War with the United States, 31st State, Craftsman Style, Agriculture, Land, Sea and Air, Motion Pictures and the City of Los Angeles.

Social Science Activities

- Allow students to explore the hall. Before leaving the hall, ask students:

“What did you see, read or hear that impacted you the most? Why?” Have students share their responses with a partner.

As a whole group, discuss the following, “Which was the most meaningful object or display for you?” “How was this meaningful in California’s history?”

Language Arts Activities

- Gather students in section 7, in front of the 3 dioramas depicting: “Gold Mining,” “Vallacitos Stage Station,” and “Building the Central Pacific Railroad.”

Read the information about each diorama to the students and explain what is happening.

Have students independently explore and observe all three dioramas with the following compare and contrast prompts in mind:

“Look at the work people are doing in each diorama. What are the similarities and differences between the work being done?”

“Look at the environment in each diorama? What are the similarities and differences between the environments?”

Re-group the students and discuss the similarities and differences found. Ask students, “What similarities and differences between the work did you observe?” “What similarities and differences in the work goals did you observe?” “What similarities and differences between the environments did you observe?”

VAPA Activities

- Gather students in the Motion Pictures section (11). Before you read the information titled The Motion Picture Industry, ask your students:

“Based on what you know about California’s 4 regions, what attracted the motion picture industry to Los Angeles?”

Have students share their initial thinking with a partner.

Then read the rest of the information in The Motion Picture Industry to the students.

- Have students brainstorm movies, T.V. shows, cartoons or even books that could be filmed in one of California’s 4 regions. For example, “Holes” could have been filmed in the desert region of California.

These activities support the following 4th Grade California State Standards:

Social Science

4.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the physical and human geographic features that define places and regions in California.

4.2: Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.

4.3: Students explain the economic, social, and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood.

4.4: Students explain how California became an agricultural and industrial power, tracing the transformation of the California economy and its political and cultural development since the 1850s.

Language Arts

Reading Comprehension 2.5: Compare and contrast information on the same topic after reading several passages or articles.

VAPA – Theatre

3.2 Recognize key developments in the entertainment industry in California, such as the introduction of silent movies, animation, radio and television broadcasting, and interactive video.