

North American
GEO QUEST
A 13 part Hist-ography Series



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Presents

North American
GEO QUEST
Series



A 13 Part Hist-ography Series

THE
MOUNTAIN
WEST
REGION

Colorado • Idaho • Montana
Nevada • Utah • Wyoming

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to provide students with a stimulating overview of both the history and the geographical regions of the United States, the Provinces of Canada, and Mexico. Specifically developed to enhance the social studies curriculum, **North American GeoQuest is a 13-part Histo-graphy series.**

Filmed on location, these videos present *spectacular photography* along with *dynamic computer graphics*. Other features include; important historical figures, commerce, capital cities, significant points of interest and more! These videos also inform students of the relationships between the geologic, geographical and historical effects upon a region's past and present developments. Some geologic and geographical developments include the formation of mountains, lakes, volcanoes and glaciers and how these strongly influence a region's culture and history.

By understanding the profiles of these regions, students will acquire the knowledge that will define a *balance between the past and present*. Furthermore, as students study these videos, they will learn the geography of North America and about their own *heritage and those of others*.

As a complementary device with the video, this instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These exercises will reinforce and further develop a students level of comprehension. The instructional guide provides:

DVDs Allow:

- students to actively participate in the learning experience
- for greater flexibility and interactive learning
- for custom user interfaces
- for a level of control over learning
- for the learner to become more engaged
- for the enhancement of the learning process by combining media and text

Vocabulary!



Chronology!



Discussion Points/Activities!



GEOQUEST 13 Part Series

Pacific Region

Mountain West Region

Midwest Region

Southwest Region

Mississippi River Region

New England Region

Great Lakes Region

Mid-Atlantic Region

Southeast Region

Washington D.C.

Eastern Canadian Provinces

Western Canadian Provinces

Mexico

Available Fall 2002 - Central America Geoquest

- Belize • Costa Rica • El Salvador • Guatemala • Honduras • Nicaragua • Panama

Suggested Usage:

Geography, History, Social Studies,
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment

Intermediate, Jr. High, General
Approx. 22 minutes each video 1998

Permission granted to copy the following exercises provided in this guide for educational use ONLY.

On the dotted line, list the name of the State and its Capital City.



1 /

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6 /

⊗ = Location of Capital City

THE Mountain West REGION

Descendants of the Nomadic-Indians were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from Spain, began to explore this region during the mid 1500's. 500 million years ago this land was flat as the entire area was covered by an inland sea called the Sauk Sea. Eventually, this inland sea began to withdraw and ice glaciers entered the region. As these ice glaciers slowly began to recede, their forceful weight carved the formations known today as the Rocky Mountain range. The continental divide located at the crest of the Rocky Mountain range determines the course of the regions rivers. Rivers to the east of the crest drain into the Mississippi River on route to the Gulf of Mexico; while rivers to the west of the crest drain to the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean.

In the mid 1500's, Spanish explorers, like Francisco Corona, entered the Mountain West region, on horseback, after establishments in Mexico. While others, like pioneers from Missouri chose to follow the Oregon trail. Regardless of either intent or purpose these early settlers were experiencing rapid changes as the Union continued to expand from east to west. Known for its natural beauty, the Mountain West has become a haven for National Parks. In 1872, Yellowstone became the first national park in the U.S. as others soon followed.

Along with its rich history the Mountain West region also has geographical significance. From the high mountain peaks of the Rockies—to the geysers of Yellowstone National Park, the mountain west region offers an array of adventure. Each year, millions of travelers visit this region to capture its unique artistry .

As we study the mountain west region, we not only begin to witness the results of nature but also the birth of a nation. Embedded in rich tradition, this region cultivates the knowledge from the past, which re-examines the present, to further inform the future.

VOCABULARY of MOUNTAIN WEST Region

ANASAZI: Means “the Ancient Ones”, referring to the Ancient Indian cultures who lived in the mountain west region over 20,000 years ago. These cultures are believed to have built the famous cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde, Colorado and other locations.

BATTLE OF LITTLE BIGHORN: In 1876, gold was discovered near the Black Hills of Montana. An Indian tribe lead by Chief ‘Sitting Bull’, and his war leader ‘Crazy Horse’ refused to leave this area as demanded by the U.S government. Therefore, Col. George Custer, as commanded by the government, lead 265 U.S. soldiers against the tribe—whereby all 265 men died, in this battle otherwise known, as “Custer’s Last Stand”.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE: Described as the crest of the Rocky Mountains, this area determines the course or directions of the regions’ rivers. For example, those rivers to the east of the crest flow into the Mississippi River on their way to the Gulf of Mexico—while those west of the crest flow into the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean.

FRANCISCO CORONA: A Spaniard, who was the first European to explore the Colorado territory.

FOUR CORNERS: The only place in the United States where the border of four states come together. The four states are: Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

GOLD RUSH: Beginning in 1858, word about the discovery of gold in Colorado erupted—pioneers from many different parts of the Union, then rushed into Colorado to seek their fortunes. The discovery of Gold soon followed in parts of Montana, Nevada, and Idaho.

4. Most of the mountain west region was unsettled until the mid to late 1800’s, during which time many rapid changes were taking place, discuss some of those changes and how they impacted the region and the progress for the rest of the country. For example, the transcontinental railroad allowed travel and transportation of goods from coast to coast.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the mountain west region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Denver, Colorado; important events, i.e. Battle of Little Bighorn 1876 in Montana, or the names of early explorers, i.e. Francisco Corona etc..

6. The mountain west region is well known for its beautiful mountains. Like a science project, explain how these mountains were formed, by using maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, etc. Perhaps use a computer to illustrate your project.

7. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks etc. to stimulate your imagination to explore the rich history and geography of the mountain west region.

Discussion Points/Activities

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc. are used to enhance our modern day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ to those used during the time the Mountain West Region was being discovered. Use this information for the following study points/activities.

2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early explorer. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, issues on foreign policy with Mexico, Spain, France, etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Mountain West Region, and how it relates to our everyday lives? Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact or relate with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

LOUISIANA PURCHASE: In 1803, U.S. President Thomas Jefferson negotiated a land purchase agreement for 3 cents an acre with Napoleon, the emperor of France. The agreement included land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and south to New Orleans, Louisiana.

MOUNTAIN WEST Region: Term used to describe the west central part of the U.S. The states include; Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and Idaho..

NOMADIC INDIANS: *Nomadic meaning, "wondering from place to place", Hunters and gatherers* who migrated from Asia, and were the first known inhabitants to live in the mountain west region.

NORTH AMERICA: The third largest continent in the world consisting of Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

OREGON TRAIL: Beginning In 1843, many settlers arrived in the mountain west region by using the route known as the Oregon trail. This route started in Independence, Missouri and ended at Oregon City, just south of Portland.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS: The major mountain system of North America. These mountains stretch 3,000 miles from Alberta, Canada in the North, to southern New Mexico.

SAUK SEA: Existing 500 million years ago, this inland sea covered the mountain west region prior to the ice age. Today, the only remains of this sea, as part of the Mountain West region, is the Great Salt Lake located in Utah.

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD: In 1869, the two major railroads, the Union and Pacific lines were connected near Promontory Utah—allowing for the first time, travel and transport of goods from coast to coast.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: Located in Wyoming and Founded in 1872, Yellowstone became the first national park in the U.S. covering 3,500 square miles.

Chronology of MOUNTAIN WEST Region

- **500 Million years ago:** The entire mountain west region is covered by an inland sea called the Sauk Sea.
- **30,000-40,000 years ago:** Nomadic and the Anasazi Indians migrate from Asia into North America—by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.
- **10,000 years ago:** Glaciers from the last ice age begin forming the Rocky Mountain Range.
- **1541:** A Spaniard, Francisco Corona is the first European to explore the Colorado territory.
- **1806:** Montgomery Pike leads an expedition to survey headwaters of the Arkansas River, known today as part of the Colorado region.
- **1840:** Because of competition among different companies, the beaver population is depleted thus ending the fur trade in Idaho.
- **1844:** The founder of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith is murdered in Nauvoo, Illinois. To escape religious persecution, the new leader, Brigham Young begins to establish new Mormon settlements throughout the mountain west region.
- **1841:** The first settlement, Saint Mary's Mission was founded by Father Pierre Jean De Smet.

- **1848:** Mexican War begins.
- **1858:** The mountain west gold rushes begin.
- **1863:** One of three U.S. mints is founded in Denver, Colorado.
- **1864:** Nevada becomes the 36th state of the Union.
- **1866:** Livestock industry begins in Montana.
- **1869:** In Wyoming, women granted the right to vote.
- **1869:** Two major railroads, the Union and the Pacific, merge to create the Transcontinental Railroad—allowing travel and transport of goods from coast to coast.
- **1872:** Yellowstone National Park is founded as the first National Park in the U.S.
- **1876:** The Battle of the Little Bighorn near Montana.
- **1876:** Colorado becomes the 38th state of the Union.
- **1889:** Montana becomes the 41st state to join the Union.
- **1889:** Oil discovered in Wyoming.
- **1890:** Idaho becomes the 43rd state and Wyoming becomes the 44th state of the Union.
- **1896:** Utah becomes the 45th state to join the Union.