

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
PACIFIC
REGION

Alaska • California • Hawaii
Oregon • Washington

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! ✓

13 videos
in the
GEOQUEST 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

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 educa-
tional use ONLY.**

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



THE
PACIFIC
Region



- 1 /
- 2 /
- 3 /
- 4 /
- 5 /

⊙ = Location of Capital City

THE PACIFIC REGION

Descendants of the Paleo-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.

On horseback and on ships, Spanish explorers, like Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, entered the Pacific region after establishments in Mexico. While others, like Pioneers from Missouri chose to follow the Oregon trail. Spanish missionaries also occupied the area to establish mission houses along the Pacific Coast. Regardless of either intent or purpose these early settlers were experiencing rapid changes while the Union continued to expand from east to west. Later, the discovery of gold in 1848 brought more settlers into the region as gold rush fever exploded. While taking a year for word to spread east, these migrating gold seekers were known as 49ers, since the year was 1849.

Along with its rich history the Pacific region also has geographical significance. Both the lowest and highest land elevations in the U.S. are found in this region. Death Valley, California at 282 feet below sea level is the lowest, while Mount McKinley, Alaska at 20,320 feet above sea level is the highest. In addition to the fluctuations in land elevation, volcanoes and earthquakes also originate throughout the area. From the pounding surf on the beaches of Hawaii—to the highest peak of Mount McKinley, Alaska—the Pacific region offers an array of adventure. Each year, millions of travelers visit this region to capture its unique artistry.

As we study the Pacific 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 PACIFIC Region

CABRILLO, JUAN RODRIGUEZ: First European settler from Spain to claim California in 1542.

COOK, JAMES: First European to arrive on the Hawaiian Islands in 1778.

DEATH VALLEY: Located in California, this area is the lowest point in the U.S. at 282 feet below sea level. Also, Death Valley holds the hottest temperature ever recorded in the U.S. at 134 degrees Fahrenheit.

EARTHQUAKES: The result of pressure building up below the surface of the earth where massive sections of land called “plates” come together to form fault lines. Eventually, the shifting of these plates causes the earth’s surface to shake which may result in mass destruction.

GOLD RUSH: In 1849, word about the discovery of gold in California erupted—pioneers from many different parts of the Union, then rushed into California to seek their fortunes. Because the year was 1849, these gold seeking pioneers were known as 49ers.

GRAY, ROBERT: First American visitor to land on the Oregon coast in 1788.

KAMEHAMEHA: An Indian chief, who was the first to unify all the Hawaiian Islands in the late 1700’s.

LEWIS & CLARK: First explorers to map and survey the newly acquired land, agreed upon in the Louisiana Purchase. These land holdings included the Pacific region as well as other territorial boundaries.

4. The Pacific region provides many different resources—have the students discuss or bring to school one or more of the resources and explain the relationship it has to the Pacific region and other regions throughout the country and the world. For example, Oil is a resource produced on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, depending on how it is refined, it can be used for machine lubrication, gasoline, cosmetic material etc. This resource helps to stimulate both local and global economies etc. etc.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Pacific region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Salem, Oregon; important events, i.e. The Gold Rush of 1849 in California, or the names of early explorers, i.e. Captain James Cook for the Hawaiian Islands etc..

6. The Pacific region is well known for its volcanoes and earthquakes. Like a science project, explain how these natural phenomena happen, by using maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, pieces of volcanic rock 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 Pacific 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 Pacific 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 Pacific 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.

MOUNT MCKINLEY: Located in Alaska, this mountain has the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet.

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 pacific 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.

PALEO - INDIANS: *Nomadic Hunters and gatherers* who migrated from Asia, and were the first known inhabitants to live in the Pacific region.

PEARL HARBOR: Located on the Island of Oahu, this port was home to the U.S. pacific naval fleet during the early 1940's. On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor became the surprise target of a Japanese attack, which prompted the U.S. to enter into World War II.

RING OF FIRE: Located along the western coast of North and South America, and continuing down the east coast of Asia from Siberia to New Zealand, this area is described by scientists as having more than 75% of the world's active volcanoes.

VOLCANOES: Created when cracks in the earth's crust allow molten rock from the planet's super hot core to escape—causing the molten rock known as magna or lava to cover the land.

Chronology of PACIFIC Region

30,000-40,000 years ago: Paleo-Indians migrate from Asia into North America—by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.

1542: A Spaniard, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo is the first European to claim California.

1769 to 1823: 21 Spanish missions are established along the coast of California. Directed by Father Junipero Serra, these missions served as a home for the Franciscan friars and also were overnight havens for visitors who traveled throughout the Pacific region.

1778: Captain James Cook is the first European to visit the Hawaiian Islands.

1788: Captain Robert Gray is the first American to visit the Oregon Coast.

Late 1700's: Indian Chief Kamehameha is the first to unify all the Hawaiian Islands.

1804-06: Lewis and Clark lead an expedition to map and survey the newly acquired lands of the Louisiana Purchase.

1843: Large numbers of settlers begin to arrive in the Pacific Region by way of the Oregon Trail.

1848: Mexican War begins.

1848: Gold is first discovered in California at a place called Sutter's Mill.

1849: The Gold Rush begins, as gold seekers known as the 49ers arrive in California.

1850: California becomes the 31st state to join the Union.

1859: Oregon becomes the 33rd state of the Union.

1867: Alaska is purchased from Russia for less than 2 cents an acre.

1889: Washington becomes the 42nd state of the Union.

1889: Gold is discovered in Alaska.

1941: Pearl Harbor, located on the Island of Oahu, is the target of a Japanese air attack—prompting the U.S. to enter World War II.

1957: Oil is discovered on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska .

1959: Alaska becomes the 49th state to join the Union.

1959: Hawaii becomes the 50th state of the Union.