



Name _____ Date _____

COLONIAL GARDENS

Do you like to garden? It's fun to watch plants and flowers grow. Family gardens were once necessary. In the early Colonial days, every family grew their own food.

Wealthy families grew large gardens. They needed many workers. Some had fancy gardens with paths down the middle. Some formed shapes of squares, diamonds, and circles. These Colonists paid gardeners to cut the shrubs and bushes. In warm weather, they invited friends over to sit in their gardens. The gardens were beautiful and peaceful.

Most families tended their own gardens. The gardens were used to grow food to feed the family. Apple and peach trees were grown for fruit. Cabbage, turnips, carrots, pumpkins, and beans were vegetables they grew.

Herbs were grown in the gardens to be used for medicine. Herbs could also be added to food to give it a better flavor.

Extra fruits and vegetables were grown in the summer. The extras were then saved and dried. They were stored for the winter months when fruits and vegetables were scarce.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Colonists feed their families fruits and vegetables?
 - a. They bought them at the market.
 - b. They ordered their groceries online.
 - c. They bought them from friends.
 - d. They raised all their own fruits and vegetables.
2. Why did the Colonists grow extra fruits and vegetables in the summer?
 - a. They had to save them for the winter months.
 - b. They had to save them for a big party at the end of the summer.
 - c. They liked to make pies with all the extra fruit.
 - d. None of the above.
3. The author's purpose for this passage is . . .
 - a. to provide information on Colonial gardens.
 - b. to persuade the reader to eat vegetables.
 - c. to entertain the reader with veggie jokes.
 - d. none of the above.
4. How were the gardens of the wealthy different from those who were not wealthy?
 - a. They weren't different. They were all the same.
 - b. They were bigger, and they had other people help with gardening.
 - c. Wealthy people's gardens were green. The other gardens were brown.
 - d. All of the above.



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DIARIES

Did you know that diaries are historical documents? Diaries from the past tell stories of days gone by. The people who wrote them took the time to write things as they saw them. They give details about events and people they knew. Each writer comes alive in the words they wrote on the paper. Diaries help us to learn about how people lived and what was important to them.

Diaries of the pioneers on the Oregon Trail help us to understand the hard times those people faced. They tell how they came looking for land to build homes. Diaries tell stories about traveling in covered wagons. They describe how children walked alongside the wagons and often wore no shoes on the path. They tell of snakes and wild animals and crossing wild river waters. Diaries describe attacks, how many travelers got sick, and how it felt to reach their goals.

Many diaries of the Oregon Trail have been made into books. These diaries, or records, help us understand how people lived on the Oregon Trail. They help us understand what went right and what went wrong. These diaries help us learn from their mistakes. They show us how to enjoy the simple things in life.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the hardships listed above that pioneers had to face?
 - a. sickness, snow, and no electricity
 - b. ants, wasps, and other poisonous bugs
 - c. sickness, snakes, and attacks
 - d. no water
2. Which of the following diary entries was most likely written by a pioneer?
 - a. One of the wheels broke on the wagon today.
 - b. Lots of traffic on the freeway today.
 - c. Finished making our cement house today.
 - d. Bought the kids their first computer today.
3. In this passage, the author states that diaries from the past are helpful us because . . .
 - a. they are pretty to look at.
 - b. they tell us how the writer felt and what he or she saw and heard.
 - c. they show us handwriting from the past.
 - d. none of the above.
4. If there were no diaries of the past, we would . . .
 - a. have too much information.
 - b. not have any information about Mount Everest.
 - c. not know much of what happened in past time periods.
 - d. not understand how to play board games.



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RACING TO THE GOLD

“There’s gold in them thar hills!” James Marshall started a gold rush when he found the first piece of gold in California in 1849. People raced to northern California, hoping to make their fortune.

There were many ways to get to the gold sites. Miners traveled over land on foot or with a team of oxen. This trip could take as long four months. The trail was long and dusty.

Travelers could sail on the ocean. It could take from four months to a year to arrive. Sailing cost a lot of money. Many sailing travelers never got to the mining sites at all.

Another way to travel was by air. A new machine that looked like a balloon flew miners to California. More than 200 people wanted to take a ride in the balloon. They paid money and signed up for the trip, but the balloons never got off the ground.

Wind wagons were another way some miners used to travel. A wind wagon looked like a wagon, but it had sails like a ship. It moved faster than a wagon by using the wind to move it along. However, they were dangerous and hard to drive. Many miners did not know how to steer it, so they often crashed.

Would-be miners made great efforts to cash in on the gold craze. Some were big winners. Others never found gold.

The San Francisco professional football team, the 49ers, is a tribute to the spirit of the brave people who took a chance.

STORY QUESTIONS

- When did the great gold rush of California begin?
 - 1776
 - 1849
 - 1944
 - None of the above.
- Another title for this passage could be . . .
 - “Miners of the Gold Rush.”
 - “Mines of California.”
 - “Getting to the Gold Rush.”
 - “Leaving the Gold Rush.”
- The balloons could never reach California because . . .
 - they couldn’t get them to fly in the air.
 - they cost too much.
 - they were ugly.
 - All of the above.
- The San Francisco 49ers are a . . .
 - basketball team.
 - sewing group.
 - boy band.
 - football team.