

8SS Newsletter – 9.4.19

Hello 8th Grade Parents,

The students have begun studying Chapter 18, The Western Frontier. Many Native American nations lived on the Great Plains, along with the buffalo herds that were their primary source of food. Then, beginning in 1869, transcontinental railroad lines opened the West for white settlers, forever changing the Native American way of life. Settlement of the Great Plains came along with the development of machines for plowing, planting, and harvesting. This combination still makes the Midwest a leader in supplying meat and grain to the world.

Students will begin by exploring the opening of the West and the impact that mining had on the westward movement. Students will work with maps to understand how the geography of the land affected the new settlement. We will then discuss the effect of the railroad on the nation and discuss the growth of the railroad industry between 1860 and 1900. Students will then discover what life was like for the ranchers and farmers.

We will end the chapter analyzing the struggles of the Native Americans. Students will discuss the many conflicts that arose as the white settlers began to take over more and more of the Western land. Through song and film, students will gain an understanding of the many issues. In conjunction with Language Arts class, students will be writing a research paper about the Native American struggles. More information about this will be sent out at a later date.

The students have also begun their Media Literacy Unit. We will use The News Literacy Project's program "Checkology" to become more media literate so students can sort through the massive amounts of information they see, hear, and read on a daily basis. The goal is for them to be able to distinguish real information from fake news, opinion, entertainment, and propaganda. They will learn more about and discuss political, economic, and social events in the U.S. and around the world and their repercussions.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great week!

--

Mrs. Esquivel