

THE 1870s

Volume 2

A Journey Through Time Special Edition

Frontier Town Grows

Have you noticed the changes in Los Angeles lately? The population has really grown. In the 1840s Los Angeles was a small **pueblo** of 2,000 people. Now it is a big town of 16,000 people. Why are people moving here?

Immigrants come here in search of a new life. Others choose Los Angeles to escape the cold weather in the Midwest and on the East Coast. Finally there is a lot of farmland available.

Thank goodness for all of these new **settlers**. Otherwise, Los Angeles would still be an isolated town on the West Coast.

Bad Days Over

Do you remember the terrible floods and **drought** back in the **decade** of the 1860s? It was a bad time for us all as we watched most of our cattle die. What would we do if we could not farm? California's **climate** is perfect for growing **agricultural** crops like wheat, grapes, and oranges. Los Angeles may have looked like a desert in the 1860s, but it does not anymore.

Census Report for 1870

LOS ANGELES COUNTY	
Horses	9,652
Sheep	247,503
Wheat	12,210 bushels
Indian corn	454,896 bushels
Wine	531,710 gal.
Factories	79
Steam Engines	6

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY	
Horses	611
Sheep	1
Wheat	0
Indian corn	0
Wine	0
Factories	1,223
Steam Engines	207



Workman

Remodels House

William Workman of Puente has just completed the remodeling of his home. Many Los Angeles residents like Workman are **constructing** stores and homes out of brick and wood, replacing the once-popular adobe. Workman has taken care to add a lot of decorations too. Many of these decorations were **manufactured** in factories thousands of miles away and then **transported** by train to California.

This grand house is an impressive addition to the San Gabriel Valley and Workman extends his hospitality to all who visit.



Train Arrives

Everyone is excited that we can now travel by train from Los Angeles to the rest of the **nation**. Traveling by train is much faster than by ship or wagon. A wagon coming overland from Boston took up to six months to reach California. The train takes only six days.

We are also excited because any modern **conveniences** we order through the catalogs from the East Coast will take only six days to arrive.

A Dull Place?

Many people think there is not much to do for fun in Los Angeles. How wrong they are! When visiting you can see a play at the Merced Theater, roller skate at the roller rink, see the monkeys and leopards at Washington Gardens, or enjoy ice cream at the ice cream parlor.

Everyday Los Angeles is changing and becoming a more exciting place to live. Just think what it will be like in another 50 years.

Advertisements

House to Rent

AND

FURNITURE FOR SALE
On Fort Street, between First and Second.

Apply to
RICHMOND,
Bella Union Hotel

Grand Ball!



There will be a Grand Ball at the LAFAYETTE HOTEL, Main Street, Los Angeles, on the Night of December 25. Excellent Music & a Splendid SUPPER will be furnished.

BARGAINS!
A Young Orange Grove,
On Pico street—cheap.

A Ranch at the San Gabriel Mission.

A Farm at Anaheim.

FOR SALE BY
WILEY & BARRY.

Workman & Temple
BANKERS,
Temple Block - Los Angeles
Legal Tender, Bullion, Gold
Dust, and Bonds

Bought and Sold.



Pioneer Hack Line,
Hacks, Carriages, and Coaches.
EXCURSION & PICNIC PARTIES
Safely and expeditiously conveyed to all parts of the City, Race Track, and Fair Ground by Careful Drivers.
Inquire at the Pico House.

THE 1870s LESSON PLAN

Objective:

1. To discover and explore the history of California in the 1870s

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

1. "The 1870s"

Directions:

- Review** the definition of "decade" with your students.
- Distribute** "The 1870s."
- Have students **read** "The 1870s" individually, in pairs, groups, or as a class. You may want to review the vocabulary words in bold.
- When finished, **point out the highlights** of the 1870s—the population of Los Angeles, what kind of work people did, what kind of houses people lived in, and how people traveled to and from places. Each of these highlights will be discussed with students when they visit the Homestead Museum.
- Compare** the highlights of the 1870s with the 1840s and 1920s after studying each of the decades.

Additional activities:

- Writing exercise:** Using the 1870s decade sheet as a reference, ask students to imagine that they just arrived to Los Angeles by train and are writing to a friend or family member elsewhere in the United States explaining what the trip was like and what their opinion is of California in the 1870s.
- Research:** History doesn't just happen, people make decisions that later we look back on and see how they affected society. Have students research the transcontinental railroad and how it transformed California. Have students provide their opinion about how California would have been different in the 1870s, if the the railroad **did not** connect California to the rest of the United States. Encourage students to include images, charts, and/or audio when they present their findings.

Links to standards

Social Studies: 4.3.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.3, 4.4.4

Language Arts: RI.4.1, RI.4.2, RI.4.4, RF.4.3, RF.4.4a&c, W.4.1a-d, W.4.3a-e, W.4.4, W.4.7, SL.4.1, SL.4.2, SL.4.3, SL.4.5

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