

Steven Wassmuth
Frontiers
Summer Seminar Assignment 2010

Topic: Effects of the Discovery of Gold in Washington Territory

Grade level / subject: Fourth grade, Social Studies / Idaho History

Duration of lesson: Five days of forty-minute lessons (includes the time it will take to read the chapter about the discovery of gold in Washington Territory).

Idaho State Standards:

Goal 1.1: Build an understanding of the cultural and social development of the United States.

4.SS.1.1.1 Describe ways that cultural groups influenced and impacted each other.

Goal 1.2: Trace the role of migration and immigration of people in the development of the United States.

4.SS.1.2.1 Identify the major groups and significant individuals and their motives in the western expansion and settlement in Idaho.

4.SS.1.2.2 Describe the role of the discovery of gold and other minerals in the settlement of Idaho.

4.SS.1.2.4 Analyze and describe how the westward expansion impacted the American Indians in Idaho.

Teaching Strategy: Economic, Social, and Political (ESP)

Essential Question: What effects did the discovery of gold in "Washington Territory" by prospectors in 1860 have on what is now the state of Idaho?

Discussion: A great number of students will be able to tell you about the gold rush in California in 1849 due to their knowledge of history or their knowledge of why San Francisco's National League Football team is called "The Forty-niners." Far less students will be able to tell you when and where gold was discovered in what is now know as the state of Idaho.

Learning activity: The students will be assigned to read the chapter about the discovery of gold in Orofino Creek in Washington Territory in their Idaho History book. To have a better understanding of the significance of this discovery, we, as a class, would then discuss the economic, social, and political issues that were a result of this discovery.

Economic: The value of the first discovery of gold in what is now the state of Idaho amounted to three cents. Since then, gold has been responsible for injecting millions and millions of dollars into the economy of the state of Idaho.

Social: Gold in Washington Territory was first discovered on the Nez Perce Indian reservation. This event on Orofino Creek by Wilbur Bassett would forever change the culture of the local Native Americans. Not only did the discovery of gold bring in people from other parts of the United States, it also brought in different ethnic groups from other continents such as the Chinese from Asia.

Political: Since gold was discovered on the Nez Perce reservation, it meant the gold belonged to the Nez Perce Indians. In order to make access possible for the prospectors, the government reduced the size of the reservation. With more and more people coming into Washington Territory as the result of the discovery of gold, by 1863 Idaho asked to have its own territory and then was granted statehood on July 3, 1890.

Assessment: In teams of three, the students will write the ESP ramifications that the discovery of gold in Orofino Creek had on what is now the state of Idaho.