

Teacher Guide


# Pioneer History Museum



# Programs at a Glance

**We want to support teachers as well as students.**

We developed the museum tours and post-museum activities for use by teachers during field trips and for use in their classroom. The tours and activities connect with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade California Visual Arts Standards and History-Social Science Content Standards.

 Spots at the Museum

 Museum Tours

 Artifacts

 Post-Museum Activities



## Explore Home Life



**Diorama Rooms** on the main floor



**[Scavenger Hunt/Writing]** Find artifacts in the Pioneer's Room and write a short story



**[Drawing/Painting]** Draw/paint the life of early settlers in California incorporating the diorama room and artifacts



## Visit the Blacksmith Shop



**"Blacksmith Shop"** diorama in the basement



**[Artifacts Analysis]** Analyze the uses of tools by 19<sup>th</sup> century Californians in agricultural/industrial development



**[Letter Art Design/Printmaking]** Make a stamp with students' initials



Support for this guide has been provided by the California County Superintendents, Butte County Office of Education, California State University, Chico, and Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child: Butte County. For additional resources on California's K-12 Arts standards and framework, go to [www.calartsedframework.org](http://www.calartsedframework.org) or scan the QR code.



# Explore Home Life



## Diorama Rooms on the Main Floor

The Pioneer History Museum displays several diorama rooms that showcase the life and culture of California pioneers. Students can imagine how Californians lived in the pioneer's era through the artifacts in the diorama rooms.

Pioneer  
Kitchen



Pioneer  
Child's  
Room



Pioneer  
Library



Pioneer  
Sewing  
Room



## Museum Tour – Scavenger Hunt & Story Writing

The docent will briefly introduce the Pioneer History Museum and explain how today's museum field trip will go. Students will be **divided into four groups** to participate in a Scavenger Hunt. Each group will be assigned to one of the four diorama rooms (**Pioneer Kitchen, Pioneer Child's Room, Pioneer Library, and Pioneer Sewing Room**). After reading the description of each item, students will **find the artifacts** and **draw a brief sketch of each artifact** on the worksheet. When they finish finding the artifacts, students will **write a short story** about pioneer life and culture incorporating the room and artifacts that they drew. At last, each group will **present their story** and the docent will provide additional information about the lives of pioneers.

# Explore Home Life

## Pioneer Kitchen



Hand crank butter churns like this one were a common tool in Pioneer Kitchen.



Waffles were made on the cast iron stove that was heated with wood or coals.



This press could be used to make olive oil or orange juice.



Laundry was done using a washing board, soap and a wash basin.

Bread was homemade in the Pioneer Kitchen. Flour, water and yeast were all that was needed.



## Pioneer Sewing Room



Hair art, using human hair, was a popular art form in the pioneer era. Hair was braided into jewelry, looped to resemble flower petals, and made into wreaths.



The phonograph, invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison, played music from a cylinder that was amplified through the sound horn.



Crocheting was a popular pastime among women in the Victorian era.



A treadle sewing machine is powered mechanically by a foot pedal that is pushed back and forth by the operator's foot. Pioneers often sewed their own clothing.

Bustles were worn under the skirt just below the waist to add fullness to a skirt or to support the drapery at the back of women's dresses.



# Explore Home Life

## 🏠 Pioneer Child's Room



Wash basin and water pitcher were common before indoor plumbing in Pioneer days. Having a matching set was an indication of wealth.



Chamber pots, also known as a gazunder and a thunder pot, were portable toilets meant for use in the bedroom during the night before the advent of indoor plumbing.



Trunks could be used for storing linens, clothes, and toys in a child's bedroom.

Night caps were common in pioneer days for warmth in chilly bedrooms and to keep hair tangle free.



Playing with dolls was popular then, as now.

## 🏠 Pioneer Library



Stereopticons were a form of entertainment and a fun way to see photos in 3D.



Books were valuable assets in pioneer days where information about far off places could be found, songs could be learned, or imaginations could take flight!

Games were another common way to pass the time, like this table that could be used for chess or checkers.



Many homes had musical instruments to play for entertainment, like this harp.



# Pioneer History Museum

## Explore Home Life



In today's museum tour, you will participate in a **scavenger hunt**. **Reading** the **description** of the items, **draw what you find** in the room. After finishing the scavenger hunt, **write a short story** about pioneer life and culture.

### Room

### Pioneer Kitchen

#### Hand Crank Butter Churns



This was a common tool in the Pioneer Kitchen.

#### Waffle Stove



Waffles were made on the cast iron stove that was heated with wood or coals.

#### Press



This could be used to make olive oil or orange juice in the Pioneer Kitchen.

#### Laundry Washing Board



Laundry was done using a washing board, soap, and a wash basin.

#### Rolling Pins



Bread was homemade in the Pioneer Kitchen, using flour, water and yeast.

#### Write a Short Story

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# Pioneer History Museum

## Explore Home Life



In today's museum tour, you will participate in a **scavenger hunt**. **Reading the description of the items, draw what you find in the room.** After finishing the scavenger hunt, **write a short story** about pioneer life and culture.

### Room

## Pioneer Sewing Room

### Hair Art



As a popular art form in the pioneer era, human hair was used for artworks.

### Phonograph



This played music from a cylinder that was amplified through the sound horn.

### Crocheting



This was a popular pastime among women in the Victorian era.

### Treadle Sewing Machine



Mechanically powered by a foot pedal, pioneers often sewed their own clothing.

### Bustles



This was worn under the skirt to add fullness or support the drapery of the dress.

### Write a Short Story

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# Pioneer History Museum

## Explore Home Life



In today's museum tour, you will participate in a **scavenger hunt**. **Reading the description of the items, draw what you find in the room.** After finishing the scavenger hunt, **write a short story** about pioneer life and culture.

### Room

### Pioneer Child's Room

#### Wash Basin/Water Pitcher



As an indication of wealth, these were common before indoor plumbing.

#### Chamber Pots



These portable toilets were meant for use in the bedroom during the night.

#### Night Caps



These were common in the pioneer days for warmth in chilly bedrooms.

#### Dolls



Playing with dolls was popular then, as now.

#### Trunks



This could be used for storing linens, clothes, and toys in a child's bedroom.

#### Write a Short Story

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# Pioneer History Museum

## Explore Home Life



In today's museum tour, you will participate in a **scavenger hunt**. **Reading the description of the items, draw what you find in the room.** After finishing the scavenger hunt, **write a short story** about pioneer life and culture.

### Room

### Pioneer Library

#### Stereopticons



This was a form of entertainment and a fun way to see photos in 3D.

#### Harp



Like this harp, many pioneers had musical instruments in their home.

#### Books



Books were valuable assets in the pioneer days to learn new information.

#### Chess (Checkers)



Like chess or checkers, games were another common way to pass the time.

#### Write a Short Story

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# Explore Home Life

## California Visual Arts Standards

- 4.VA:Cr2.3** Document, describe, and represent regional constructed environments.
- 4.VA:Cn11** Through observation, infer information about time, place, and culture in which a work of art was created.

## California History–Social Science Standards

- 4.2.5.** Discuss the daily lives of the people, native and nonnative, who occupied the presidios, missions, ranchos, and pueblos.
- 4.3.3.** Analyze the effects of the Gold Rush on settlements, daily life, politics, and the physical environment (e.g., using biographies of John Sutter, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Louise Clapp).
- 4.4.2.** Explain how the Gold Rush transformed the economy of California, including the types of products produced and consumed, changes in towns (e.g., Sacramento, San Francisco), and economic conflicts between diverse groups of people.

## Post-Museum Activity – Drawing/Painting

### Materials

White construction paper, pencil, color pencils, markers, watercolor paint, palette, paint brushes, water cup, museum field trip worksheet

Using the artifacts students found during the scavenger hunt and the short story they wrote, students will **draw the pioneer's life** as if they were a pioneer in California. It could be an individual art making or collaborative art making within their group. Teachers will ask students to **compare their life with the pioneer's life**.



# • Visit the Blacksmith Shop



## “Blacksmith Shop” in the Basement



## Museum Tour

The docent will briefly introduce the Pioneer History Museum and bring students to the basement in which the Blacksmith Shop is located. The docent will **ask questions**, pointing out the **artifacts in the blacksmith shop**. Responding to the questions, students will **analyze** how these artifacts had been **used in the pioneer era** to support **agricultural/industrial development**. Students will be able to connect the knowledge they learned in history classes and this field trip.



## Artifacts in the Blacksmith Shop



Cattle branding iron used to connect cattle to a cattle rancher.



Blacksmiths made horseshoes for horses. This is a horse snowshoe which was used by a stagecoach that went from Oroville to Quincy in deep snow.



Blacksmith's forge



Blacksmith forged gold miner's axe.

# • Visit the Blacksmith Shop

## Artifacts in the Blacksmith Shop

Cattle brands were put onto the Blacksmith's wall to prevent duplication.



Blacksmith's anvil was used to shape heated metals into horse shoes, wheels, branding irons, and more.

Iron wheels used on pioneer covered wagons were made by blacksmiths. This one has a wood interior.



Forge bellows were the blacksmiths most important tool to keep their fires hot enough to heat iron to the point that it could be molded and manipulated. A bellows delivers a constant supply of oxygen to the fire.

Blacksmithing tongs used to move and hold hot metal during forging.



## California Visual Arts Standards

- 4.VA:Cr2.1** Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.
- 4.VA:Cr2.2** When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.
- 4.VA:Re7.2** Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages.
- 4.VA:Cn10** Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions .

## California History–Social Science Standards

- 4.4** Students explain how California became an agricultural and industrial power, tracing the transformation of the California economy and its political and cultural development since the 1850s.
- 4.2.6.** Discuss the role of the Franciscans in changing the economy of California from a hunter-gatherer economy to an agricultural economy.

# • Visit the Blacksmith Shop

## Post-Museum Activity – Letter Art Design/Printmaking

Just as the pioneers had their own cattle brands, students will **design unique marks using their own initials**. When they design the marks, teachers will ask students to think about the **symbols/patterns that are represented in the marks**. At last, students will **make their own prints/stamps** from their initial marks.

### 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Stencil Fingerprinting/ Stamping Materials

Paper for stencil, printmaking paper, pencil, black marker, scissors, fingers/objects, fingerprint ink/tempera paints, trays for ink/paint

- Trace the outline of the initial of the student's name.
- Using the scissors, cut it out to make a stencil.
- Place/tape the stencil onto the printmaking paper.
- Use fingers/objects to apply paint over the stencil, overlapping the edges.
- Carefully lift off the stencil to reveal the initial marks on the paper.
- Add a detailed expression with a black marker.

### 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Scratch-foam Printmaking Materials

Scratch-foam printing plate, pencil, water-based printing ink/tempera paints, trays for ink/paint, rubber brayers, paintbrushes, papers

- Use a pencil to incise the lines into the plate. The design should be left-right side reversed.
- Use a brush to get an even coat of paint onto the plate.
- Carefully lay a sheet of paper over the painted surface and rub all over.
- Slowly lift the paper from the plate by peeling away from one of the corners.
- After the print dries, record the number of edition and a signature at the bottom.

### 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Rubber Block Printmaking Materials

Rubber block (4x6 inches), linoleum cutters, water-based printing ink/tempera paints, trays for ink/paint, rubber brayers, roller, papers

- Transfer the left-right side reversed design to the rubber block.
- Using the linoleum cutters, carve the initial marks on the rubber block.
- Use a roller to get an even coat of paint onto the plate.
- Carefully lay a sheet of paper over the painted surface and rub all over.
- Slowly lift the paper.
- After the print dries, record the number of edition and a signature at the bottom.



# • Visit the Blacksmith Shop



During today's museum tour, you will look at several tools in the **Blacksmith Shop**. Choose your favorite tool and think about how the pioneers used this tool and how this affected the agricultural/industrial development of early California.

Room

## The Blacksmith Shop

Draw a sketch of your favorite tool.

What's the name of the tool?

How did the pioneers use this tool?

How did this tool affect agricultural/industrial development in early California?

# • Visit the Blacksmith Shop



During the museum tour, you saw the **cattle brands** on the wall of the Blacksmith Shop. Following the instruction, you will create a **design using your own initials**. Then, you will **print your initial marks** like the pioneer's cattle brands.

## Room

## The Blacksmith Shop

What are your initials?

Create a design with your initial marks.

How do you want to represent yourself in your initial marks?

Shapes/symbols

Colors

Patterns

Others

# Pioneer History Museum

2332 Montgomery Street, Oroville, CA 95965

**Museum Public Hours:** Fridays & Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm

**Group/classroom tours** available by prior arrangement.

Please contact via [museums@cityoforoville.org](mailto:museums@cityoforoville.org) or scan the QR code.



The Pioneer History Museum opened in 1932 and was the lifelong dream of Florence Danforth Boyle, the granddaughter of pioneers. Built as an oversized replica of a 49er's cabin, the original building has been enlarged to now hold 6,000 square feet of historic artifacts

collected from original Pioneer families to the area. The collection includes gold mining artifacts and items from Bidwell Bar as well as extensive diorama displays depicting pioneer lifeways including a pioneer kitchen, library, sewing room, child's room, pharmacy, blacksmiths' shop and more! Take a step back in time at the Pioneer museum and learn how early California settlers lived.

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