

Letter to Parents

Social Studies Chapter 3

How and Why Communities Change Over Time

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our class is currently learning about the history of California and exploring the Essential Question, “How has life changed for people in my community over time?” Here are some of the topics we will be covering in this chapter.

- The Spanish were the first newcomers to settle the region of California, interacting with the California Indian groups already there.
- Over time, the original settlements in California turned into towns, and these towns turned into cities.
- From the gold rush to more recent waves of diverse immigrants, California has changed greatly over the past 150 years.
- Technologies, such as transportation and communication, have played an important role in shaping and expanding communities in California.

Thanks for your continued interest and involvement in your child’s schoolwork. I hope this letter helps you stay informed about what your child is currently studying. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Social Studies Teacher

Family Activity

Visit a local library with your child and explore how your community has changed over the past 50 years. First, search through old local newspapers or books for photos of your area about ten years ago. Then look for pictures from a decade earlier. Repeat this process until you have found photos of your community as it looked fifty years ago. Was the community larger or smaller at that time? Has its population changed? If so, in what ways has it changed? Discuss with your child how different it would have been to live in your area at that time.