

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## To Go or Not to Go?

Would you have braved the risks and traveled to California in 1849 to take part in the Gold Rush? In the spaces below, list all the reasons you can think of for going and for staying home. Then write your decision and explain why you made that choice.

I am \_\_\_\_\_, age \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>Reasons to Join the Gold Rush</i>	<i>Reasons to Stay Home</i>

*I've decided to* \_\_\_\_\_ *because* \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# What a Trip!

Who traveled the farthest to get to the Gold Rush? Below are the names of some of the gold-seekers you have read about. List where each one came from. Then locate that place on a world map. With your finger, trace the route that person took to California. Then use the map scale to figure out about how many miles each person traveled. Who had the longest journey?

Name	Place of Origin	Method of Travel	Approximate Distance
Abraham Abrahamsohn			
Luzena Wilson			
Morris Schloss			
Mifflin Gibbs			
Vincente Perez Rosales			
Ah Goong			

**BONUS** Using all the clues you can find by reading, research, and math, figure out how long each journey took.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Yum!!**

People who traveled overland to California could not carry all the food they needed for the trip. They had to hunt and gather food along the trail. Here's a genuine trail recipe.

### Big Blue Beaver Tail Soup

Take two beaver tails and pour boiling water over them in a pan. The scales will come off. Wash well and put in a kettle and cook. They will dissolve into a thick broth. No bones much. Then add any vegetables you like or macaroni or beans; add seasoning to taste. This is a rich soup and an old trapper's stand by.

*from The Oregon Trail Cookbook, p. 59*

What other plants and animals could travelers find to eat on the California Trail? Do some research, then list what you find. Extra credit for making up a recipe using some or all of these ingredients!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What are your chances?

Mining is hard work. After a day spent looking for gold, everyone needed ways to relax and have fun. Chinese miners played a game of chance called Fan Tan. On a table, the dealer placed a pile of round brass coins with square holes. Using a rake with an ivory handle, the dealer then set aside two coins at a time. If there was only one coin left at the bottom of the pile, the player who chose *odd* was the winner. If there were two coins, the player who chose *even* would win. The dealer would use an unknown number of coins each time.

Try this game yourself, using beans for coins and a large spoon for a rake. You can play with three people, when one is the dealer. If you have more than three, divide into teams of *odd* and *even*. Keep track of the score. Do your chances for winning improve with the number of games you play? Why or why not?



This game has been adapted from Laurie Carlson, *Westward Ho! An Activity Guide to the Wild West*. Chicago, Chicago Review Press, 1996, p.48.