Introduction to The Call of the Wild

WebQuest Description: As we begin Jack London's The Call of the Wild, it is important for you to have an understanding of how the setting affects the story. This Webquest will provide you with an opportunity to research life during the Gold Rush in the Klondike and better understand the context of the story before we begin. Take your time and have fun!

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Introduction

You are about to embark on a wild Alaskan adventure! Go back in time to the Alaskan Gold Rush to gain background information on Jack London's novel, The Call of the Wild. You will learn about the trials and triumphs of those who sought to strike it rich! After gold was discovered in the late 19th century, the Alaskan Gold Rush was a frenzy of gold rush immigration and gold prospecting in the Klondike near Dawson City in the Yukon Territory. Make sure you "buckle up" as this adventure can get pretty wild at times!

Tasks

Who is Jack London? What was life really like in the Klondike? Why did the Gold Rush create such a frenzy? Your task is to work together with your group to learn all you can about Jack London, the Yukon Territory, the Klondike Gold Rush, and the sled dogs, too. You will demonstrate what you have learned through your research as you complete each of the steps. Remember to put your thinking cap on, work together, and have fun!

Process

TASK 1: Author
First, you are going to be learning more about the author of Call of the Wild. Use the link below and the Jack London PDF attachment to answer the questions as completely as you can.
http://www.arcticwebsite.com/LondonJackKlond.html
1. Where and when was Jack London born?
2. How did Jack London end up in Canada during the 1890s?
3. How did London both fail and "profit" from his trip to the goldfields?
4. How did London train himself as a writer?
5. How old was London when he died, and what is the most likely cause of his death?
6. State two other interesting pieces of information that you found about Jack London.

TASK 2: Setting
The Call of the Wild primarily takes place in the Yukon Territory. Explore this region and gather five interesting facts about the state.
1. Draw a picture of the state of Alaska and include the Yukon Territory - it doesn't have to be perfect, but make it visually appealing!
2. Label the major rivers and mountain ranges in the area.
3. List 3-5 important facts about the Yukon Territory.

TASK 3: Sled Dogs
Click on the link below for a brief introduction to sled dogs. Next, do a little research to learn more about these fascinating animals.
1. What is a musher? What is a handler?
2. What is the essential equipment needed for dog sledding?
3. What are traits of the best sled dogs?
4. How many calories a day would a sled dog consume compared to a normal mutt?
5. Is it difficult to get a sled dog to pull? Why or why not?

LIST five commands that mushers give their dog teams. Tell what each means.

TASK 4: Alaskan Gold Rush
Click on the link below for a brief introduction to the Klondike Gold Rush.
1. What was the Klondike Gold Rush (also known as the Yukon Gold Rush, the Alaska Gold Rush, and the Last Great Gold Rush)?
2. When was gold discovered in the Klondike region of the Yukon?
3. How many managed to "arrive" after traveling through rough terrain while carrying heavy loads? Of those who arrived, how many managed to strike gold?
4. What were some of the hardships encountered on the way to the Klondike?
5. Why did many prospectors leave the Klondike in 1899?

Evaluation

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## Conclusion

## Teacher Page

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