

LESSON TWO

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST & PRESENT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK?

COGNITIVE GOALS:

Know important historical events and facts that have led up to make what Yosemite is today

AFFECTIVE GOALS:

Students will place themselves in the time period and see what they could have done to make positive or negative changes in Yosemite's history

FOCUSING ACTIVITY:

- "What is a line called that shows dates from the past, present, and maybe the future?" (a time line)
- Discuss what the dates and pictures on a time line symbolize and prove.
- Tell students that "with this time line we are going to look at important people and events that make up Yosemite National Park's history."

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE:

- 500 million years ago- mountains and valleys are below sea level
- A few 100 million years later, the water cooled and forms glaciers
- Recap on what a glacier was from last week's lesson about geology
- The glaciers eventually melt and form landmarks that we now call: Yosemite Valley, Ribbon Falls, El Capitan, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains
- Indians begin to visit the valley floor and were the first people to settle there
- Miwok Indians were not the only Indians who lived in the valley but they are the most talked about in Yosemite's history.

- Name some resources these Native Americans might have used and how the valley was useful to them (food and shelter, deer, trout, berries, greens, seeds, acorns)
- Seeds and acorns made up 60% of the Miwok's diet
- In the 1800's fur traders came to explore the valley and began to hunt and live there
- 1849- gold is discovered and thousands of miners come to the valley to seek their fortune
- At first Indians welcomed the "white men", or European Americans, but they quickly changed their mind when their homeland was being taken over by the new comers
- Conflict arose and started the Mariposa Indian War which ended in 1851 and forced the Native Americans to live on a reservation
- Discuss feelings that the students think the Indians might have experienced and if they believe the Indians were treated freely and fair
- James Hutchings organized the first tourist party. Hutchings along with other men began to build houses and hotels, which meant trees, would be cut down and non-native live stock would graze in the meadows. I.E. disruption of the natural peace of Yosemite, as a result the ecosystem suffered
- Discuss the skit from Squirrel and John Muir. Hutchings' life was the same time as Muir's exploration and dedication to Yosemite
- 1864 President Lincoln signed a bill to set the park aside by federal government
- About 20 years later, with the help of John Muir, the valley became Yosemite National Park
- Congress eventually declared that all national parks shouldn't be harmed by people on purpose so that the park is around for a long time and many more people are able to enjoy it.
- 1900's automobiles begin to enter the park for a fee of \$5.00. In the past people didn't know that cars were bad for the environment and so they probably didn't realize that by driving on the land that they were ruining it.
- By the 1970's the National Park attracted over 2 million visitors. The park set up public transportation, and established a one-way road traffic pattern to eliminate cars on various parts of the park
- 1990- Yosemite celebrates 100 years as a National Park
- Today, bills are being passed to help keep our national parks alive and clean. Currently, in 2009, Yosemite costs \$20.00 to enter and averages about 4.1

million visitors and is home to countless animals, giant sequoias along with other species of trees, and gorgeous land marks

CONCLUDE:

Conclude lesson by having students, cooperatively make an artifact (timeline) which demonstrates their understanding and learning of Yosemite's history.