

# Object-Based Teaching: Incorporating Social Science with English Language Arts



## Grade 3: Treasures Reader Content

- Dear Juno
  - Tom Shee Bin kit
    - Learn about the roles that immigration laws, family, and cultural traditions have played in the story of Chinese people.
    - Excellent kit to show how objects (things) can tell stories
- Boom Town
  - Dame Shirley kit
    - Experience the California gold rush through a series of personal letters written by Dame Shirley in 1850.

## Grade 4: Treasures Reader Content

- My Diary From Here to There
  - Kelly Roth kit
    - Lessons about immigration, citizenship, and Jewish traditions are drawn from the life of an entrepreneur in Los Angeles in the 1890s.
  - Tom Shee Bin kit
    - Learn about the roles that immigration laws, family, and cultural traditions have played in the story of Chinese people.
- My Brother Martin
  - Isabel Huizar kit
    - The colorful story of this *Tejano* family features a hero of the Alamo, vaqueros, and ranching.
    - This kit was researched by Isabel Huizar's niece. This can be incorporated into documenting family histories.
- The Gold Rush Game
  - Dame Shirley: The CA Gold Rush
    - Experience the California gold rush through a series of personal letters written by Dame Shirley in 1850.

## Grade 5: Treasures Reader Content

- When Esther Morris Headed West
  - Matthew Wheelwright: Overland Migration
    - Imagine the struggles and excitement of being a pioneer on the Mormon Trail!
- Goin' Someplace Special
  - Ellen Cook: African Americans in the West
    - Explore the opportunities and discrimination faced by African Americans through lessons about migration, education, oral history, and quilting.



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## Community Stories Outreach Kits

Community Stories Outreach Kits help bring history alive in your classroom by exploring the rich diversity of the American West. Each outreach kit in the series profiles a community in 1890 through the eyes of an actual person. Hands-on objects, photographs, videos, and other resource materials animate these carefully researched stories and actively engage students in learning. Lesson plans and activities encourage students to investigate their own family and community history.



### Dame Shirley: Gold Rush.

This kit explores the experience of women in the West through the story of Louise Amelia Knapp Smith Clappe, whose letters about California in 1850 under the pen name of Dame Shirley allow a unique and personal glimpse into the Gold Rush. Excerpts from twenty-three letters to her sister "in the States" provide a first-person account of life in the mining camps, including background about mining technology, cross-cultural contact between communities, and environmental issues.



### Ellen Cook: African-Americans in the West.

Students will discover what life after slavery was like for the African American community through the story of Ellen Cook, a midwife who sharecropped in Texas before moving to California. This kit explores the challenges, opportunities, and discrimination faced by African Americans through lessons about migration, education, oral history, and quilting.



### Isabel Esparza Huizar: Ranching and Cowboys

The rich heritage of this Tejano family provides material about the Mexican-American War, vaqueros, and ranching at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their history in Texas can be traced back to the battle of the Alamo, where an ancestor fought on the side of the United States. Students will identify heroes in their community



### Kelly Roth: Immigration & Community.

Students will use primary documents, photographs, and objects to learn the story of Kelly Roth, a Jewish immigrant to California from Hungary in 1892. Lessons about immigration, citizenship, and Jewish traditions are drawn from the life of an entrepreneur with a history in Los Angeles that included owning a cigar stand downtown.



### The Siva Family: California Indians.

The traditions and culture of the Cahuilla people of Southern California have been recorded and preserved through the work of Katherine and Alvino Siva, respected elders in the Native community. This kit investigates the rituals, language, and art of the Cahuilla.



### Tom Shee Bin: Chinese-Americans in the West.

This outreach kit focuses on the experience of the Chinese community in California by highlighting the story of an herbalist who immigrated to San Francisco and Los Angeles at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will learn about the roles that immigration laws, discrimination, family, and cultural traditions have played in the story of Chinese people in the West.



### Matthew Wheelwright: Overland Migration/ Pioneer.

This kit focuses on a Mormon trailblazer's experience of westward migration and life in the frontier. Students will be able to imagine the challenges and excitement of being a pioneer on the Mormon Trail through hands-on activities, and they will begin exploring their own family history.

Two-week rental is free to Title 1 schools and includes:

- Hands-on objects
- Primary-source replica materials
- Lesson plans and resources

Community Stories Outreach Kits conform to both the California State History-Social Science Framework and local standards.

## Reserve Your Kit Now!

Contact Cate Thurston at 323.495.4300 or email [cthurston@theautry.org](mailto:cthurston@theautry.org)