Giovanni Serrano and Xammy Nguyenla

Period 5

5-20-11

**Process Paper**

 For our History Day theme, we chose the impacts of the California Gold Rush had on immigration. We chose this topic for many reasons. First of all, we wanted to find an event that we already learned about previously and well-known. Having a well-known topic would make researching easier and more accurate. Secondly, we were interested in how the California Gold Rush has impacted California and helped shape our state today. An example of these impacts includes how California holds such a diverse mix of culture from all over America and other foreign countries. Lastly, the California Gold Rush is a thick topic, which allowed us to research in depth. We already knew a small amount of information about the California Gold Rush, which began sparking the interest to learn more about it in detail.

 At first, it was hard to imagine how much this event may have impacted the history of the entire United States. After researching more, however, we were able to get a better grip on the importance of this event. From the local library, we checked out many basic books on the California Gold Rush. These sources were useful in gathering basic, yet important, information on the California Gold Rush. These books included varied information on types of people during the Gold Rush, information on goods prices, impacts of the Gold Rush, etc. While reading through other sources, we learned that there were many different perspectives on this gold rush, some optimistic while others were pessimistic. Turning to internet sources, we found five good sources to use. Two of these internet sources are online diaries from people during the California Gold Rush. These online diaries were used as primary sources and helped us further our research into migration and daily life during the time of the California Gold Rush.

 Our topic, the California Gold Rush, is being presented in website format for many reasons. We enjoy working with websites and have had past experience with creating them for project purposes. We also believe that a website format would allow the project to be more organized and easier to comprehend. We would also be able to work on our website from anywhere with this format. Presenting the California Gold Rush as a website will improve our topic in many ways.

 The California Gold Rush has caused one of the largest migrations in history. Forty-niners (people that traveled to California in 1849) came from all over the United States and even foreign countries. In the process of moving to California, the forty-niners spread ideas and culture around on their trail. After hearing the ideas of the California Gold Rush from forty-niners, people began the westward movement and became forty-niners themselves. This event was one of the reasons why California is ever so populated in the past and today. In the late 1840’s and early 1850’s, the culture of mining and panning for gold spread through California like a wildfire. Inventions on making mining and panning easier began and ideas began to spread just as fast. Californians became rich off of gold mining/panning and creating gold mining/panning tools. The California Gold Rush had one of the biggest impacts on American: from spreading ideas and culture to producing a highly populated state and one of the biggest movements in America.