

## YOSEMITE UNIT ACTIVITIES

Dear Parents,

The following information will help you better understand what your child will be doing in school for the next eight weeks related to our Yosemite unit.

Your child needs a 2 inch binder and 8 to 10 dividers. This binder will help keep your child's completed Yosemite work organized. Please purchase this binder as soon as possible as I am now introducing the Yosemite curriculum. The binder need not be at school until called for some time after our trip. In the meantime, it can be a place to store finished work (final draft work that has been turned in, scored, and returned). This binder will eventually evolve into a Yosemite memory project. If you would like to see samples of Yosemite memory binders, please come in and look at past students' projects.

Keeping a journal while on the trip is one of the important components of the trip. I would like each child to have a small bound journal with unlined pages. (wire bound journal is the best if you can find them) The students will write and sketch in their journals before and during the trip. Again, if you would like to see a sample of a journal, please come in and look at my personal nature journal or other journals that students have created.

**"Oh, Mom and Dad!! I have a project due tomorrow!!"** Important activities you should know that your child might forget to tell you about.

**Research Project** - After we get back from Yosemite your child will be researching one of our national parks and develop a research project. More information about the project will be presented later. In the mean time, your child can think about what topic related to Yosemite they would like to consider researching.

### Other Activities

These activities will be done in class, but final drafts will be competed at home.

**Yosemite Bulletin Board Questions** - Your child will answer 22 questions related to the Yosemite maps, posters, and articles displayed throughout the classroom. See assignment sheet for further details.

**Yosemite Map** - Your child will be designing their own map of Yosemite Valley. See handout for further details.

**Yosemite Dictionary** - Students are required to design a Yosemite dictionary of terms that will be used while on the trip. See assignment for further details.

**Science** - We will be studying geology, glaciers, and natural resources with a focus on renewable and nonrenewable resources for the next several weeks. The first part will be a general overview of geology. I will use a science textbook and my own materials to teach this part of the study. Later, I will guide students through the geological history of Yosemite.

**Reading and Writing** - Students are required to read assigned articles and excerpts from the Yosemite materials on display in the classroom and respond in writing to what they have read. For reading we will be studying the Awhwahneechees, Yosemite Valley Indians, analyze the Sacramento Bee's opinion articles on the debate to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley, and read the book Brightly of the Grand Canyon by Marguerite Henry. I will also read orally the book Yosemite Tomboy by Shirley Sargent, a well known Yosemite historian. Other writing experiences will include legends, poems, journals, and interpretations of John Muir quotes.

**Culmination of Yosemite Unit:** Students will created an evening program to share with parents their Yosemite experience in songs, journal and poetry readings, skits, art, and slides.

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