

Chapter Nine

Social Studies Study Guide

Vocabulary:

Reforest: The process of planting new trees to replace ones that have been cut down

Canal: A human-made waterway dug to hold water

Vineyard: A place that grows grapes

Totem Pole: A tall post carved with images of people and animals

Gold rush: The arrival of thousands of people in California in search of gold

Boomtown: Towns that saw sudden increases in people and businesses due to the gold rush

Key Points:

- ◆ The Rocky Mountains stretch more than 3,000 miles through the Western region.
- ◆ Alaska has the most extreme cold weather of all the states in the Western region.
- ◆ People discovered gold and oil in Alaska, which changed the minds of people about the value of the Alaska territory.
- ◆ Mount McKinley is the highest mountain peak in North America.
- ◆ The Columbia River is an important river in the Western region.
- ◆ Tourists often visit Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming to hike and fish.
- ◆ Mount Saint Helens in the Cascade Range has an active volcano that erupted violently in 1980.
- ◆ Death Valley, California received the least yearly precipitation of all areas in the Western region.
- ◆ Mount Waialeale, Hawaii receives the most yearly precipitation of all areas in the Western region.
- ◆ Hawaii became valuable to the United States because it is closer to Asia than the continental U.S., making it easier to trade with Asia.
- ◆ Central Valley in California is ideal for growing crops because its soil is rich and the growing season is long.
- ◆ People in Portland, Oregon help make it a "green" city by encouraging its residents to ride bikes instead of driving cars to reduce pollution.
- ◆ The Spanish missions were intended to teach religion to Native Americans and help the Spanish settlers.
- ◆ Sheep are raised in the Western region so farmers can sell their wool.
- ◆ A rain shadow is created when clouds form over the ocean; pass over the mountains, cool, and release moisture as precipitation.
- ◆ The population in the West had the smallest number of people in any region in 1900, but increased to having four of the largest cities in the U.S. by 1920.