



Pathfinder: The West:

This pathfinder will help you research the American West for junior history requirements.

Search tools: When you are in the library you can use one of our two catalog lookup stations to find books that you need. From any computer in the high school you can use the same catalog by using the following URL 10.1.9.75:8080

Introductory Materials: Encyclopedias are a great way to start your research if you are not familiar with your subject. This will give you a quick explanation and other terms and ideas to expand your search terms.

Terms and Keywords: Use Alexandria, our on-line catalog, to look for your book sources. You may try specific words to find your subject like 'gold rush'. Remember to think beyond what your subject is to a larger, broader picture. So instead of just 'gold rush' try searches such as 'mining', 'California', and 'the west'. Use the index in the back of the book for your specific, more detailed subject. These are some broader terms you can use:

- West United States
- Pioneer and frontier life
- Gold Rush
- Native Americans
- American Frontier

Dewey Numbers: We organize our books according to the Dewey Decimal System. These are some of the areas you will find books for this project.

978.02 is the general history of the American west

970.1-970.5 Native Americans

974-979 Are the books on individual states

*Remember to use the index for your subject

Reference Materials to Use: The books with a reference sticker cannot be checked out, however, you may make copies of the pages you need from these books. Don't forget to make a copy of the title page for your works cited page. Here are a few books we have that are reference that could help you out.

- REF 978 PEN Westward Expansion
- REF 970.5 TRE Treaties with American Indians

Internet Resources: When you google a topic you can literally get millions of websites. It is difficult to know whether you have a reputable website. Most websites with the suffix .edu and .org are reliable. Make sure the .com sites are credible, if they are from well known entities like historychannel.com or newsweek.com they are fine to use. Here are a few good sites.

- www.donnerpartydiary.com -thorough account of the Donner Party along with diary entries.
- www.pbs.org/thewest -supplement to Ken Burns series The West
- <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/americanhistory.html> A Travel Site for the Nostalgic & Historic Minded

Fiction reading: If you would like to read a historical fiction book to supplement your studies here are some we have in the Library.

- *Blood Meridian or the Evening of Redness in the West* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Indian captive : the story of Mary Jemison* by Lois Lenski
- *Monument Rock* by Louis L'Amour
- *Welcome to hard times* by E.L. Doctorow
- *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
- *Bingo Palace* by Louise Erdrich
- *Little Britches* by Ralph Moody
- *These Is My Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine 1881-190, Arizona Territories* by Nancy Turner