Ch. 16: Life in the West
Objectives:

By the end of this PowerPoint, students should be able to

• List the reasons that explorers, Californios, mountain men, missionaries, pioneer women, Mormons, forty-niners, and Chinese moved to the West.

• List the hardships that they endured.

• Describe the legacies that they left to the West.
Eight Major Groups Moved to the West

16.2 The Explorers (pg. 212-213)
16.3 The Californios (pg. 216-217)
16.4 The Mountain Men (pg. 217-218)
16.5 The Missionaries (pg. 219-220)
16.6 The Pioneer Women (pg. 220-222)
16.7 The Forty-Niners (pg. 224-225)
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16.9 The Chinese (pg. 225-226)
16.2 The Explorers

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – They wanted to begin trade with Indian people.
  – They hoped to find the Northwest Passage.
  – They wanted to find out what the U.S. had bought when it purchased Louisiana.

• Hardships they faced
  – Rowing against the current caused blistered hands and sore muscles.
  – They were bothered by mosquitoes and grizzly bears.
  – Prickly-pear cactus thorns pierced their feet.
  – Starvation was an ever-present danger.

• Legacies they left
  – The explorers mapped the route to the Pacific.
  – They established good relations with western Indian peoples.
  – They brought back information about the West.
16.3 The Californios

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – Spanish priests went to establish missions.
  – Other Spanish settlers wanted to find land for settlement.

• Hardships they faced
  – Neighbors lived so far apart that loneliness was a daily problem.
  – Government officials were unskilled and dishonest.

• Legacies they left
  – The Californios gave us Spanish names for California cities.
  – They brought new crops, such as grapes, olives, and citrus.
  – They opened California to the world.
The Mountain Men
16.4 The Mountain Men

- **Reasons they moved to the West**
  - The trappers went to search for furs.

- **Hardships they faced**
  - The mountain men feared attack by fur thieves, Indians, wolves, and bears.
  - Death from accident or disease was a hazard of the profession.

- **Legacies they left**
  - The mountain men explored the West.
  - Their routes became the Oregon and California Trails.
  - Their trading posts became supply stations for settlers.
  - Their personal journals make entertaining reading.
The Missionaries
16.5 The Missionaries

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – The missionaries intended to convert Native Americans to Christianity.
  – They also wanted to help settle the country and establish churches.

• Hardships they faced
  – Crossing the steep Rocky Mountains in wagons was difficult.
  – Hostile Indian warriors sometimes attacked them.

• Legacies they left
  – These settlers brought disease and death to many Native Americans.
  – They opened the West to settlement.
The Pioneer Women
16.6 The Pioneer Women

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – Women moved west to find new opportunities, such as establishing homesteads and finding husbands.

• Hardships they faced
  – Leaving the comforts of home and leaving treasured items along the trail was emotionally difficult.
  – Cooking, washing clothes, and caring for children while traveling 15 to 20 miles a day was grueling work.
  – Disease and accidents killed their loved ones.
  – Along the trail, they suffered from cold and thirst.

• Legacies they left
  – Women brought schools, churches, libraries, literary societies, and charitable groups to the rugged west.
  – They fought for and won the right for women to vote in the West.
The Forty-Niners
16.7 The Forty-Niners

- **Reasons they moved to the West**
  - The forty-niners hurried west to find gold.

- **Hardships they faced**
  - They had a difficult journey to California, by either land or sea.
  - High prices made it hard to get ahead.
  - There were no police to keep order, so camps were rough and dangerous.
  - Gold mining was hard, tedious work.

- **Legacies they left**
  - Warfare and disease reduced the Native American population.
  - Many Californios lost their land to these newcomers.
  - Their arrival increased the population of California so that it could become a state.
16.8 The Mormons

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – The Mormons moved west to escape persecution back east.

• Hardships they faced
  – Their road was a difficult journey with many deaths.
  – Life in a dry, barren land was difficult for these farmers.

• Legacies they left
  – Mormons were the first pioneers to settle in the Great Basin.
  – They pioneered farming methods such as dams, canals, and irrigation ditches.
  – They helped other settlers make their way west.
  – In Utah, they established a center for what is now a worldwide religion.
The Chinese
16.9 The Chinese

• Reasons they moved to the West
  – The Chinese migrated across the Pacific to find gold and riches.

• Hardships they faced
  – Laws taxing foreign miners drove these Chinese out of the gold camps.
  – Chinese immigrants suffered persecution by Americans.

• Legacies they left
  – The Chinese helped develop agriculture in California.
  – They brought their culture to the West.