

Central City: Mining and the Environment

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OVERVIEW

Students examine primary sources to understand the environmental impact that early mining activities had on the Central City area.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 4. Students understand how science, technology, and economic activity have developed, changed, and affected societies throughout history.
- Geography Standard 2: Students know the physical and human characteristics of places, and use this knowledge to define and study regions and their patterns of change.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:

- Describe the impact mining had on the landscape near Central City.
- Use primary sources to trace changes over time.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What impact did mining have on the environment of the Central City area?

PROCEDURE

1. Print out the photo of Central City, 1864, and the three excerpts about the environmental degradation caused by miners there from the *Doing History/Keeping the Past* CD-ROM disk or Internet Website.
 - a. Open the disk
 - b. Click on the Mining topic

- c. Click on the Mining Towns theme
 - d. Click on the Central City sequence (click the In Their Own Words buttons for photos #1 and #2 to find the three excerpts)
2. Make an overhead transparency of the photo; make classroom sets of the three excerpts.
 3. Begin by showing the transparency of the Central City photo. Ask the students if the photo contains any evidence of environmental change caused by mining activities (the hillsides are nearly bare of vegetation).
 4. Hand out the three excerpts and have the students read them. (They describe the environmental changes that took place).
 5. Show the transparency again and ask if there is anything they want to add to their first assessment of the photo.