History of El Cajon Unit

to coordinate with

the East County Childhoods series

Packet Contains

• Teacher aids:
  
  Facts/Background List

  Sample clothespin doll — suggested student project

  Historical photographs and maps for bulletin board

  Words and music for Paddlin’ Madelin’ Home

• Reproducible Student Worksheets
  
  Geography: Where in the world did families come from?

  Comparisons/Contrasts: Things kids like to do

  Questions: Touring the Knox Hotel Museum

  Game: Historical Bingo

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El Cajon, California

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Teachers’ Facts/Background List

In 1870, when Josephine Asher was born in Old Town, San Diego,

Sports pages and comic strips were not yet in any newspaper. There were no radios, movies, airplanes, income taxes, surtaxes, medicines like insulin, chain stores like Woolworths and Bloomingdales, or self-service anything.

There were no ice-cream sundaes or sodas, cross-word puzzles, scouts, state police, voting for women except for four states, and no 8-hour/5-day work week. People had never heard of germs and had no idea how diseases were spread, or why food spoiled.

However, by the time thirteen-year-old Josie and her family moved to El Cajon, people are buying beans and condensed milk in cans, the first “nonstop” railway cars arrive in New York City from the West coast, the first lightweight all-metal bicycle with wire-spoked wheels are patented, Standard Oil Company is incorporated — with John D. Rockefeller as president, and New York Tribune publisher Horace Greeley writes, “Go west, young man.”

Only two Americans in 100 — 17 years and older — are high school graduates. Most people live on farms or ranches.

In the next few years, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and its public Library are built — along with a beautiful system of parks within the city. The Chicago Art Institute, New York’s American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are chartered and, about the same time, the F.A.O. Schwartz toy shop opens its first store. Four million buffalo roam the American plains south of the Platte River, but those buffalo will be nearly wiped out in the next four years by “sportsmen” who shoot them from train windows.

California wheat growers produce 16 million bushels and the $20 million they receive is twice the value of all the gold mined in California for the year. Newly invented steam-powered harvesters and reapers increase those yields. Chiricahua Apache chief Cochise is tracked down in Arizona Territory and forced to surrender. The Indian Appropriation Act passes soon after when Congress makes Indians wards of the federal government. They also discontinue the practice of according full treaty status to agreements made with tribal leaders. Uprisings begin a ten-year reign of terror against white settlers.

In 1871, when Josie is a year old, Little Men is written by Louisa May Alcott — she’d published Little Women in 1869. A hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers, becomes popular, and the tune Chopsticks is played by pianists of all ages.

In New York, Barnum’s first Circus opens and, by the time Josie starts school at five, Barnum is taking his performers — including Jumbo the elephant — around the country by train, filling 65 railcars. At this time, both Chicago and
the Tuileries Palace in Paris are consumed by fire. Much of the Louvre is gutted.

When Josie is two, a machine to make flat-bottomed paper bags with side pleats is invented, artist James Whistler paints his mother, actress Sarah Bernhardt begins her career, the first type of motion picture is shown, Black Jack licorice-flavored chewing gum is introduced, Yellowstone is declared a National Park, and author John Muir writes *God's First Temples — How Shall We Preserve Our Forests*. Muir has seen sheepmen and "their hoofed locusts" overgrazing the "gardens and meadows" of the Merced River Valley above Yosemite, and has heard the lumbermill saws "booming and moaning like bad ghosts." A few years later, California outlaws the hydraulic mining that has been ruining the environment since 1852, and sets aside more land for parks. While adults are worrying about these things, Josie and other American children are playing with tops, kites, dolls, checkers, alphabet blocks, the ring toss, ten pins, paper dolls, dominoes, harmonicas, the Jack in the Box, puppets, metal wagons, and music boxes.

In the next few years, a gigantic lode of silver is discovered in Nevada, the cause of typhoid fever is identified, and so is the parasite causing malaria and the germ causing diphtheria. Tuberculosis is a terrible problem and open-air treatment is encouraged. The first local anesthetics are pioneered, Father Damien goes to Hawaii to help lepers, and New York's Bellevue Hospital establishes the Nightingale System of nurses' training. Dry plates for photography are perfected and rolled film is developed. Popular songs are *Home on the Range*, *Silver Threads Among the Gold*, *Grandfather's Clock*, and John Phillip Souza marches. Popular books are *A Standard Dictionary of the English Language*, *Black Beauty*, *Pinnochio*, and *Treasure Island*. Barbed wire is developed — it's called "devil's rope", Burpee & Company launches a mail-order seed business, and typewriters now have capital and lower case letters. French "Impressionists" hold their first exhibition in Paris while Winslow Homer gains attention as a naturalist painter of American themes.

The first real football game is played. Levi Strauss' blue jeans get copper rivets — and sell at $13.50 a dozen, the electric telephone is invented by Alexander Graham Bell. The electric dental drill is invented as well. New York's Macy's store displays its doll collection in the world's first Christmas windows. America's first Christmas cards are printed. New, also, is the Boston Symphony, the Brooklyn Bridge, ice hockey, the Kentucky Derby, indoor roller skating, the first roller coaster at Coney Island, baseball's National League, and navel oranges in California. These oranges are the first winter-ripening oranges in the U.S. It doesn't take long for someone to invent the orange crate.

Four oil wells are drilled in California, quarantine regulations for fruits and vegetables are imposed to keep insect pests and plant diseases out of the state, and the University of Southern California is founded. The light bulb is invented. And, the first edible milk chocolate is developed in Switzerland. In America, Hires Root beer is invented, and so is Heinz ketchup, Heinz vinegar, apple butter, Philadelphia cream cheese, Quaker oatmeal, Ivory soap, roasted
coffee in cans, malted milk, Oscar Mayer wiener, and margarine. But, too often, the margarine is made of unhealthy components. People sicken and die.

A decade of drought begins on west's range land, Oregon territory is opened to white settlement by President Grant, and train tracks in New York City are lowered beneath the streets to create the underground. Around the same time, Eli Lilly — a former Union Army officer — begins to produce reliable medications for responsible physicians in a time when patent medicines are the only medicines available. Most are worthless.

When Josie is eight, President Hayes invites the children of Washington, D.C. to the first White House Easter Egg Hunt.

After 1883, when the Ashers moved to the ranch where Sears in Parkway Plaza is now, many, many things we use today were invented — the anti-rabies vaccine, for one, although no one knows what to do about the flu. When Josie is 19 and teaching, 40 percent of the human race is struck by influenza.

Other new things are the world's first open heart surgery in Chicago, American Express Travelers Cheques, Good Housekeeping Magazine, Collier's Weekly Magazine, stories of the west by Mark Twain, tuxedos, Johnson's Wax, Avon products, the first motorcars, games published by Parker Brothers, Kodak cameras, and the first Ferris Wheel. Sears Roebuck Company is new, too, and its catalogues transform life on farms and ranches and small towns throughout America. Now, it is possible for most Americans to buy the same clothing, housewares, and furniture. Even pre-cut houses eventually are available.

The Orange Growers Protective Union of Southern California is organized as the Santa Fe Railroad extends its service in the Los Angeles area. Fresh milk begins to be delivered in bottles, Morton's salt is introduced and Coca-Cola goes on sale, as does Log Cabin Syrup, peanut butter, saltine crackers, Shredded Wheat, Baker's Coconut, Our Pet evaporated milk, Minute Tapioca, Cream of Wheat, Lipton Tea, Hershey's Chocolate, Aunt Jemima pancake flour, Calumet baking powder, Wrigley's chewing gum, Del Monte vegetables and fruits, Hawaiian pineapple, Spreckels sugar, Fig Newtons, canning jars, electric elevators, and books of matches. Electric lights are installed at the White House, but neither President Harrison nor his wife will touch the switches; they wait for employees to turn them on and off.

Unionization begins, and so do strikes. President Harrison opens Oklahoma Territory to white homesteaders, while North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington are admitted to the Union as the 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, and 43rd states. The artists making names for themselves are portraitist John Singer Sargent, and Mary Cassatt.

But all is not well in America. A nation-wide depression affects everyone. In San Diego, land sales fall, strikes cripple the railroads all over America, and Coxey's Army arrives at Washington, D.C. after a 36-day march of unemployed workers from Ohio. The 400 marchers demand that public works
be started to provide employment. Cokey is arrested for walking on the grass and forced to leave the Capitol grounds.

Only 3% of Americans age 18-21 attend college in 1890. Josie is among them. The U.S. population reaches 62.9 million: two-thirds rural.

In 1896, when Josie is 25, gold is discovered in the Klondike. Several people from El Cajon rushed north, including Duncan McFadden, who owns a number of stores on the south side of Main Street. He goes thousands of miles north to find a fortune, although silver was still being mined in our mountains near the town of Julian.

By 1900, infant mortality in the U.S. is 122 per 1,000 live births. The average age of death in the U.S. is 47. The U.S. population reaches 76 million, with 10.3 million of the total foreign born. Half of all U.S. working women are farmhands or domestic servants.

But there were great advances in dealing with social problems, medicines, transportation, and technology. Food preservation comes along more slowly. Still, new products hit the market. There were Tootsie Rolls, Cracker Jack, Welch’s Grape Juice, and Campbell’s soups. Typical food prices were: sugar 4 cents a pound, eggs 14 cents per dozen, butter 24-25 cents a pound. 70% of bread is baked at home. Boarding houses offer turkey dinner at 20 cents and supper or breakfast at 15 cents. The average wage of a male stenographer is $10 a week, and an unskilled girl earns $2.50.

President Cleveland sets aside 20 million acres of additional western forest reserves to establish a national forest system — and to make it illegal for the government to sell National Forest timber not dead, or fully mature and individually marked for felling. Some senators demand that Cleveland be impeached. He isn’t, and his proclamations become law.

For 112 days in 1898, the U.S. goes to war. More U.S. soldiers die from eating contaminated meat than from battle wounds. Their deaths raise a public outcry for reform of the meat-packing industry. More food reforms follow.

New products are Jell-O, Carnation evaporated milk, Crisco, Kellogg’s Cornflakes, Wesson Oil, canned tuna, and Pepsi-Cola. So are hamburger — aspirin, and Crayola crayons. Barnum’s Animal Crackers are introduced just before Christmas in a box topped with a white string so that it can be hung from Christmas trees. In the next few years, the Palmer School of Chiropractic is founded, the Indian motorcycle (later named Harley-Davidson) is produced and — after the turn of the century — the Wright brothers pioneer flying, and U.S. gunboat diplomacy hurries construction of the Panama Canal.

Some of the social changes taking place involved the 9 million new immigrants entering the U.S. in this decade. Interesting, girls in Western cultures menstruate for the first time at about age 14, down from age 17 in the late 18th century. This will decline to 13 by the 1940s.
Psychiatry is beginning to be accepted, President Theodore Roosevelt saves even more forestlands from lumbering interests, a National Bison Refuge is created in Montana, more national parks are created, the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire are founded, the North Pole is explored, and the nation has 2,600 daily newspapers,

Other changes come in anti-trust laws intended to regulate large corporations and financiers who continue to manipulate and control vital commodities and services required by the American public. Problems with immigration has a U.S. Immigration Commission winding up nearly four years of study and recommending restricting the overwhelming flow of foreigners to our soil to those who are skilled.


During the years that Josie married and had two children, a Federal Reserve System is designed to reform banking and currency, *The Perils of Pauline* and Charlie Chaplin capture movie-goers’ hearts, a Pure Food and Drug Law is amended to make policing of earlier laws more effective, and the first Indian head/buffalo nickel is minted.

The year that Gene Vacher is born, war breaks out in Europe between the Germans and French. Eventually Belgium, Japan, Russia, England, Serbia, and America become involved. Mexico is plunged into civil war, the Panama Canal opens to traffic, the first national Mother’s Day is celebrated, Paul Bunyan and his blue Ox *Babe* appear for the first time, 4-H Clubs are founded, and the first Teddy Bear — named for president Teddy Roosevelt for his environmentalist stand — emerges as a child’s toy.
Ongoing issues at the turn of the century were:

- Ghetto children and crime
- Corporate greed
- Poverty
- Abuse of children
- Loss of morals and growth of personal greed
- Ethnic hatreds
- Religious intolerance
- Immigration
- Growing numbers of people in relation to available land
- Limitation of natural resources
- Preservation of those resources
- Power of organized wealth in politics
- Monopolies and protective tariffs
- War

New issues in 1900:

- California Fruit Canners Association
- Water diverted from the Colorado River to create the Salton Sea in California.
- Conspicuous consumption and conspicuous waste
- Laws involving genetics
- Major causes of death: diptheria, flu and pneumonia, tuberculosis, typhoid, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.
- Bathroom facilities: only one home in 7 has a bathtub
- The lack of surfaced roads in the nation — with 13,824 cars on the road, only 144 miles are surfaced.
- Closing down the U.S. patent office because some in Congress believe that "everything that could be invented, has!"
- Foreign countries requesting our intervention
- Alcoholism — called "demon rum" by Carrie Nation
Downtown El Cajon
"Knoxs Corners"

Facsimile of crossroads at Main and Magnolia before the year 1900
Artist: Alan Miller Graphic Design
for Cajon Valley Union School District
1981 CAJON VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Looking south and west toward Mt. Miguel and Mt. Helix from the Paul Ranch. The Vacher ranch is around the bend to the left. Note the flume line. Today, Fuerte School is just west of the Vacher ranch. Circa 1895.

Main Street El Cajon in the 1890s.
Josie Asher's house on the ranch where Sears in Parkway Plaza is now.
Aunt Edith in the ranch truck.

The Paul family: Aunt Clara, Aunt Edith, George Paul’s mother holding baby George. On the floor, left to right: brother Bert, sister Helen, and cousin, Paul Sidell.
Music Gene Vacher played at the school picnic

_Paddlin' Madelin' Home_

Cause when I'm paddlin' Madelin' home ----- 
Gee! when I'm paddlin' Madelin' home ----- First I 
drift with the tide, Then pull for the shore ----- I hug her and kiss ---- 
hers and paddle some more. Oh! she never says no ---- 
so I kiss her and go ---- Paddlin' Madelin' 
Sweet, sweet Madelin', Paddlin' Madelin' home.

Then I keep paddlin' Madelin' home ----- 
Un-til I find a spot where we're a-lone----First I 
drift with the tide, Then pull for the shore ----- I hug her and kiss her and 
paddle some more. Oh! she never says no ---- 
as I kiss her and go ---- Paddlin' Madelin' 
Sweet, sweet Madelin', Paddlin' Madelin' home.
Where in the world did families come from?

- red – Asher family
- green – Vacher family
- blue – Paul family

1. Josephine Asher’s mother and grandparents came from Toronto, Canada. Put a red dot there, then draw a red line to the east coast of Canada.

2. On the east coast, they boarded a ship for California. California is on the west coast. Put a red dot on San Francisco. Now, make a red line from the east coast of Canada, following the route their ship took to San Francisco.

3. Put a blue dot on San Diego. Make a red line showing the ocean route Josephine’s mother, father, and brother took from San Francisco to San Diego.

4. The man Josephine married was Eugene Vacher. He came from France. Put a green dot on France. Make a green line from France to Canada.

5. Eugene Vacher and his first wife and daughter lived in Philadelphia. Put an orange dot on Philadelphia. They took a train to Los Angeles. Draw a green line from Philadelphia to Los Angeles. From Los Angeles they drove a “coach and pair” to El Cajon. Draw a green line from Los Angeles to San Diego. Put a purple dot on El Cajon.

6. George Paul’s family came from Scotland. Put a blue dot on Scotland. Put another blue dot on New York City. Draw a blue line from Scotland to New York City, then across American to Los Angeles. Continue the blue line down to San Diego, then east to El Cajon.
Things kids like to do

From 1900 to 1930, kids liked to:

ride bikes.
listen to the phonograph.
shop at Weinstock’s store.
eat Hershey candy bars.
eat Campbell’s soup for lunch.

Today, kids like to:

play outdoor games, like baseball and marbles, and fly kites.
play indoor games like Old Maid and checkers, draw, color, work puzzles, play with dolls and cars.
Touring the Knox Hotel Museum

Half the fun of visiting any museum is finding out things you didn't know before. Did you know that the Knox Hotel Museum was a hotel for only a few years? After that, it was a home for the Knox family. Other families lived in it after the Knox's moved away.

Today, the Museum looks like a family home at the turn of the last century. Here are some things to look for:

Living Room

A stereoptic – how do you use it?

An early phonograph – what does it play?

An organ – how does it work?

Family pictures – who are these people?

A hanging lamp – were the hotel's lamps electric in 1900?

Kitchen

Telephone – how does it work?

Apple corer – how does it work?

Folding table – who made it?

Kitchen cupboard – what do we call it? What's in it that we eat today? What's in it that you have never tasted?

Stove – how do you turn on the heat?

What is the name of the cold place the Knox's kept milk and other perishable foods? What kept things cold?

On the counter are many fruits and vegetables that were shipped back east.

Where did these fruits and vegetables grow?
Historical Bingo

Directions

Materials: Reproduce Historical Bingo sheet – one per child
Cut 30 paper markers per child

Procedure:

. Write vocabulary words on chalkboard.

. Have students write the vocabulary word (or words) into the squares wherever they want on their bingo sheets. Squares with pictures are free and do not need to be covered.

. Teacher or student describes the items aloud.

. Children cover the word described. BINGO occurs when five squares in a row are covered. Free squares may be included.

Expected Outcome:

. Vocabulary from East County Childhood series aid reinforcement of introduction.

Vocabulary Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>coveralls</th>
<th>stagecoach</th>
<th>Knox Hotel</th>
<th>candles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>livery stable</td>
<td>wooden sidewalk</td>
<td>horse and wagon</td>
<td>lanterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marmalade</td>
<td>porridge</td>
<td>rainmaker</td>
<td>scones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shortbread</td>
<td>raisin grapes</td>
<td>leather chaps</td>
<td>Julian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cap pistols</td>
<td>Knox Hotel</td>
<td>ranch house</td>
<td>coyote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Vista Ranch</td>
<td>Cuyamaca Mountains</td>
<td>Palomar Mountains</td>
<td>symphony</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HISTORICAL BINGO
Class Art Project

Making Character Dolls from *East County Childhood* Stories

Teacher does beforehand

- Buy *clothespins* — available at craft stores.
- Buy *pipe cleaners*.
- Drill shoulder holes with electric drill.
- Either spray dolls’ heads with *clear paint*, or paint circles of *skin-colored enamel paint, or clear varnish*. This keeps ink/paint eyes and mouths from running.
- Ask parents to send *ribbon, tiny beads, and small-print fabric* to school.
- Have *glue* available to seal edges of fabric to doll.
- Fill narrow class with *bluing* and water to 3 1/4 inches.
- Have *stamp-pad* available for bottoms of “shoes.”

In class, Students choose the character they wish to make, then

Boy/Men dolls:

- Dip legs and lower part of body into glass of bluing.
- With a *square brush*, paint bib on doll’s chest with bluing.
- With a *narrow-tipped blue pen*, draw shoulder straps.
- With any-colored narrow-tipped pen draw plaid shirt.
- With *orange, yellow, or brown* narrow-tipped pen draw hair.
- Use same color for eyebrows. Orange for cheeks, mouth. Black to outline eyes.
- Insert *pipe cleaner* arms. Paint them to match shirt.

Girl/Women dolls:

- Draw face with *narrow-tipped pens*.
- Use *yellow, tan, brown, or black narrow-tipped pen* to draw hair and eyebrows — or *wrap threads* of those colors around two fingers 20 times. Cut once in half. Paint hair areas on head with glue, push threads evenly on top of head, wipe down onto sides of head with fingers.
- Outline eyes with black narrow-tipped pen.
- Glue rows of *lace, wide lace or ribbon, or fabric* to doll’s body to form the straight dresses worn at the turn of the century. Short dress for girls, full-length for adults.
- Insert *pipe cleaner* arms. Paint or glue on dress material for sleeves.