

Grade 4 Reading: Unit 6 Reading History

In this unit, your child will learn to read and understand history by exploring a time-period. We will focus on Westward Expansion as your child learns to analyze and synthesize information from various sources to understand the events, people, and concepts of the time from different perspectives. This unit aligns with our writing unit, *Bringing History to Life*. Students will delve deeply into Westward Expansion in reading, and take this learned knowledge and use it to write essays in writing.

Skills your child will focus on in this unit are:

- Determining the author's main idea and details
- Analyzing texts and images
- Collecting and merging information
- Analyzing perspective
- Questioning authors and information
- Comparing different versions of the same information; firsthand/secondhand accounts
- Determining theme

Questions to consider asking your child:

- What is your prior knowledge on the topic?
- What is the point of view of the author?
- What were some of the problems during this specific time-period?
- What strategies did you use to understand the topic?
- What strategies did you use to understand complex vocabulary?

Some books that may be shared in class:

Who Settled the West? By Bobbie Kalman

The Journals of Lewis and Clark BY Darlene Stills

Students will look closely at a variety of resources to help build the knowledge to assist them in their writing. You can support your child at home by exploring nonfiction texts about different time-periods in history. Readers should also continue enjoying a wide variety of genres throughout the school year and summer.