**It is 18\_\_ and you are a settler in \_\_\_\_\_. Write a letter to President \_\_\_\_\_ explaining why your territory is ready for state hood.**

What do you need to do to complete this assignment with success?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Historical Accuracy | Student provides historical information that reflects accuracy in area settled, date(s), and president. | Student provides historical information that is mostly accuracy in area settled, date(s), and president. | Student provides historical information that is not completely accurate in area settled, date(s), and president. | Student provides historical information that lacks accuracy in area settled, date(s), and president. |
| Conditions | Student accurately describes the necessary conditions for a territory being brought into the United States as a state. | Student mostly (few omissions or errors) describes the necessary conditions for a territory being brought into the United States as a state. | Student lacks description in the necessary conditions for a territory being brought into the United States as a state. | Student does not include in the letter the necessary conditions for a territory being brought into the United States as a state. |
| Creativity | Student work is colorful and creative in its design. Reading the letter makes for a convincing case for statehood. | Student work is mostly colorful and creative in its design. Reading the letter makes for a somewhat convincing case for statehood. | Student work is not creative in its design. Reading the letter makes does not provide a convincing case for statehood. | Student work lacks interest in subject and in its design. Reading the letter does not provide a convincing case for statehood. |
| Grammar | Student work lacks any grammatical mistakes. Format of letter is appropriately broken into paragraphs, with a greeting and salutation. | Student work has few grammatical mistakes. Format of letter is appropriately broken into paragraphs, with a greeting and salutation. | Student work has obvious grammatical mistakes. Format is not appropriate lacking paragraphs, a greeting and salutation. | Student work has a good amount of grammatical mistakes. Format of letter is not appropriate and lacks proper format. |

Oregon Territory:

* Initially claimed by Spain, Russia, England (Great Britain), and the United States
* United States and Great Britain (England) decided on a peaceful resolution to divide the land between the two countries – the United States would take the lower half and England the upper
* The fertile area was full of opportunity for settlers
  + Forests provided plentiful amounts of lumber that could be cut down
  + Fertile land that receives plentiful amounts of rainfall each year
* Location on/near the coastline meant easy transportation of goods

California:

* The finding of gold in late 1848 caused a “gold rush”
* A migration of tens of thousands of people from mainly the U.S., but also China, Latin America, Australia and Europe (an estimated 300,000 total)
* California would grow enormously as a result of these people coming to the territory
* Tens of billions of dollars of gold was recovered, however the majority of the people that went to California did not make it rich
* California’s fertile land, along with its mild climate, became a very productive area for agriculture and still is today