



3rd Grade Social Studies & Activities

Competency Goal 1: 1.04 Explain the need for leaders in communities and describe their roles and responsibilities.

Ghost Town Site: Ghost Town Main Street

Activity: As the students walk through Ghost Town in the Sky, and particularly as they view the action on the main street, ask them to think about the sheriff and marshals in the town. Why were these leaders so important in the Old West? What were some of the jobs that they had to do to keep the town safe? Why do you think that the marshals needed to have deputies to work with them?

Competency Goal 2: 2.03 Describe similarities and differences among communities in different times and in different places.

Ghost Town Site: all over Ghost Town

Activity: As the students walk through the park, have them think about the ways this community is different from the community in which they live today and how is it the same. Ask them to particularly notice the following: the school, the barbershop, the depot, the apothecary, the church, where people stayed, how they went shopping, what the street looks like, what jobs the people in this town have, what the people in the town did for fun.

Activity (after the trip): Have the students make a chart comparing their community with that of Ghost Town in the Sky. An abbreviated sample is below. Have them include a variety of the topics you asked them to notice. Finish the activity by having the students write a story of what a day would be like for them if they lived in an Old Western community like the one they visited in Ghost Town.

	Western Town	My Community
School		
What the streets look like		

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Competency Goal 4: 4.04 Compare how people in different communities adapt to or modify the physical environment to meet their needs.

Ghost Town Site: Fort Cherokee/Indian Dance Hall and Western Town/Mining Village

Activity: Look at the structures and buildings that the townspeople work and live in (*bank, jail, dance hall, church, mining area, etc.*). Ask the students how these structures are different (*different entrances, bars on the jail, swinging doors, mining trough, etc.*). In what ways are they similar? How did these people use their environment when they built their structures? (*towns were made from available resources*)

Ghost Town Site: Fort Cherokee Mining Village

Activity:

1. Why did people in this time want gold?
2. What are the ways that miners got gold? (*from mines or by panning*)
3. Did panning change the land/environment? Did it hurt the land? (*no – you would not need to go into sluicing for this activity*)
4. Did digging a mine change the land? (*yes*)
5. In what ways? (*there are many answers; you might want to ask the students what would happen to the dirt that was brought out and explain that wood was needed to hold up the tunnels*)
6. Why might some miners be able to pan gold when others would have to dig mines? (*students may need help in understanding that some gold would be available in streams, while other sources of gold would have to be dug out*)