



4th Grade Social Studies & Activities

Competency Goal 1: 1.01 Locate, in absolute and relative terms, major landforms, bodies of water and natural resources in North Carolina. 1.05 Assess human movement as it relates to the physical environment.

Activity (before the trip): Have the students locate the site of Ghost Town in the Sky in absolute terms (*Maggie Valley is 35.52 N, 83.1 W*), and relative terms (*it is near Maggie Valley, Haywood County*).

Ghost Town Site: all areas of Ghost Town

Activity: Explain that pioneers moved out west over a hundred and fifty years ago, or about the time their great, great, great, great, great-grandparents were alive. Ask them to look as they examine Ghost Town for clues on how the pioneers would have traveled to the west. What kind of transportation did they have? (*stagecoach, horses, wagons, trains*). Ask the students to think about why the pioneers used those kinds of transportation. Lead the students to discover that these are all land methods of transportation – the pioneers were traveling across the country, not generally by ship. (After the trip, show the students a drawing from the Library of Congress at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html> and then type - *Camp 100 Humbolt River* - into the search box). Explain to them that this is from 1859 when pioneers were moving to the west. Ask them to list all the different things they see in the drawing as you write them on chart paper or board. How does this picture help them understand what it was like to travel in that time?

Competency Goal 7: 7.02 Analyze the effect of technology on North Carolina's citizens, past and present.

Ghost Town Site: chair lift and incline railway

Activity: Ask the students to examine and then describe the site of Ghost Town on the top of Buck Mountain as they look from the parking lot. Have them think about how people over one hundred years ago would have been able to get to that site. Ask for volunteers to share their ideas. Then ask them to look around to see the ways visitors to Ghost Town in the Sky can now get to the park. What technology has made those new methods of getting to the top possible? (*they should look at the chair lift, incline railway*).

English/Language Arts 4th grade 3.06: Conduct research for assigned projects or self-selected projects (with assistance) from a variety of sources through the use of technological and informal tools (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people, libraries, databases, computer networks).

Activity (after the trip): Have the students research a famous cowboy, lawman, or outlaw from the Wild West. The product of this research can be a trading card similar to the cowboy trading cards that the students saw at Ghost Town. Include on the back of the card relevant information such as: birth and death dates, birthplace, job, an interesting story about the cowboy, lawman, or outlaw. Duplicate the cards and allow the students to trade the cards with other students.