

CALIFORNIA BACKCOUNTRY GAZETTE

NEWS FROM CAMP INTERNET HEADQUARTERS FOR PROSPECTIVE EXPLORERS



Camp Internet Students are motivated to learn about important events in Western American history and see how explorations of the West have shaped the world

EXPLORE THE BACKCOUNTRY

Camp Internet hosts a multi-subject online learning expedition called Explore the California Backcountry that integrates teacher technology training with in-class, standards-based learning activities for students grades 4-12. Every week new study units are featured and live interactive learning activities are offered. Students and teacher learn to use technology-based resources as an integrated part of their classroom learning and are encouraged to develop hands-on projects using GPS, GIS, school gardens, weather stations, and the Camp Passport question and answer folios that earn every student color passport stamps for each area of the project completed.

Unique to the California Backcountry track are studies of:

- **Native California tribes** – pre-contact and as they adapted to survive
- **First Explorers** – from mountain men to wagon loads of early settlers
- **Gold Rush** – the first golden year to the wild mining camps to its industrialization
- **The California Railroad** – how it came to cut through the Sierras
- **Arts and Writers** – the first photographers and painters to explore the Backcountry and the important writers who shared the first views of the remote Backcountry with the world
- **John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt** – a secretive, shared camping adventure changed the future of our National Parks forever.
- **Geology, Native Plants and Animals** – arranged by regional mountain range and islands plus school garden projects growing pioneer's food sources
- **Dinosaurs and Fossils** – yes, dinosaurs have been found in California !
- **GIS/GPS** – all classrooms receive a GPS unit and begin gathering data to contribute to Camp's online GIS mapping projects.

Schools using Erate Discounts to purchase Email services from www.rain.org will receive full Camp access as a members-only service at no additional cost

MEET THE FAMOUS EXPLORERS

From Mark Twain to Robert Louis Stevenson and Jack London, now world-famous writers cut their teeth in the California Wilderness. Earlier writers like Brett Harte and Joaquin Miller created the Western Regionalism genre and then traveled the world – sometimes dressed in buckskins – to share the mysteries of the California Backcountry with salons in Europe. The first American photographs – Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge – carried massive equipment deep into the backcountry against remarkable odds to take the large plate photographs that drew painters to the West where the works of Thomas Moran, Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Hill came to influence the East – especially Congress, leading to establishing the National Park system.

The Backcountry also endured many struggles – from Native American survival, through the Chinese laborers life threatening risks in building the railroad, to the battle for water at Hetch Hetchy that broke John Muir's heart – students have a chance to see inside the triumphs and sorrows settlement has brought to the Backcountry and will consider options for Backcountry preservation today in the spirit of inquiry that honors Muir's stewardship philosophies.



Camp Teachers are learning to integrate technology into their classrooms and experience the rewards of working in a distance learning community. Teacher training includes 3-5 day live, face-to-face pre-session and online school year workshops that empower teachers to turn your technology investment into measurable academic success stories. Enjoy these services as a RAIN member when your school uses Erate to subscribe for Email services.

**YEAR END FIELD TRIPS TO YOSEMITE AND REDWOODS
RECOMMENDED ~ TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS PROVIDED**

CAMP INTERNET 1-800-889-2823 WWW.CAMPINTERNET.NET