

1st Trimester Extra Credit

For extra credit, do one of the following activities. Then, write a two-thirds to one page essay about what you saw and anything interesting that you witnessed. In order to earn extra credit, students must have all assignments turned in first, or the extra credit will not be accepted. All extra credit must be turned in no later than November 6th.

Watch one of the Ken Burns documentaries on America's National Parks, which will be shown on Channel 9 (KQED) beginning Sunday (9/27). Episodes will also be available online. Write about what you found interesting from the episode and why you think Ken Burns chose this particular park to create a movie about. For more information, check them out online at <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/>

Visit the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto and see how everyday things have changed over the past 100 years. This museum has many artifacts from the 20th centuries that your parents will find very nostalgic! Currently they have a special exhibit on music and musical instruments. The museum is located at 351 Homer Avenue in Palo Alto and they are open from 11 AM to 4 PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Contact them for more information at 650-321-1004 or online at www.moah.org

Visit the San Jose Museum of Art and check out their exhibition of the work of Ansel Adams. Their exhibit includes photography taken by Adams from 1920 to 1950, many focused on California. Additionally, they have an exhibit of Alexander Calder's "Mobile" sculptures and other exhibits. The SJMA is located at 110 South Market Street San Jose, CA 95113. They are open 11 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Entry costs \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Check them out online at <http://www.sanjosemuseumofart.org/> and download exhibit information for your iPod as well.

Enter the DAR American History Essay Contest. Describe how you felt on May 10, 1869, when the golden spike was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, to celebrate the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Pretend you are either a settler planning to use the train to travel to your new home in the West, an Irish or Chinese worker who helped build the line, or a Native American whose way of life was greatly affected by the railroad. This assignment must be between 600 and 1000 words long. The title must be "The Transcontinental Railroad" and must be typed using a word processor with black ink on white paper. Font must be non-script and size 12 or 14. This assignment must be turned in no later than October 16 for credit.