



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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County Superintendent of Schools

Friday, July 3

2:00pm

History Detectives – 4th thru 8th grade

Lauste Film Clip – A New Jersey man was antiquing in Pennsylvania when he bought a collection of photos, letters and scrapbooks that belonged to a man named Eugene Lauste. The seller said Lauste, a relative, played an important role in early filmmaking. The History Detectives delve into the early world of movie making to find the answer.

Baker's Gold – The history detectives investigate how some unusual drawings might be connected to the great fortunes made during the California Gold Rush. In 1848, the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill changed California forever. In one year, about 90,000 men and women stampeded west, lured by claims of giant gold nuggets lying in the ground. W. Baker's rare photographs document the often-grim truth behind what these early miners really found.

Transatlantic Cable – While vacationing in Cape Cod, a History Detectives fan from Maine found what looked like a length of odd, twisted rope. A closer look revealed this was actually a coil of wires covered in fabric. It could be one of the first transatlantic cables that connected the United States to Europe.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Choose 2-3 unfamiliar words for the program and define them.
- Could the piece of film in the first segment actually be a piece of the world's first talking picture?
- What did you learn about early film making from this episode?
- Describe the reality of the Gold Rush. Was a miner's life easy? Support your ideas with specific details from the episode.
- What were transatlantic cables used for?
- Why were transatlantic cables an important part of United States history?

Question Box 2

- What did you learn more about in this program?
- Which segment was your favorite?
- What in the program made you curious? Explain.
- What do you believe the program could have done differently to help you learn more about any of these topics?
- Think about the people who moved to California during the Gold Rush. Many of them left family and friends behind in their search for gold. Do you think it was worth it?
- What do you think they had to sacrifice to come to California?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- *The horse eats no cucumber salad* were the first words spoken into a telephone. Why? How did Reis' invention get overshadowed by Alexander Graham Bell's?
- The California Gold Rush changed the lives of thousands of Americans. Research Charley Parkhurst and discuss/ write or draw how life changed for him.
- Write a journal from the perspective of a miner, a miner's wife or a miner's child. Choose the setting for your journal. Will you write as if you were in California or if you were left back at home when someone in your family left for the Gold Rush? Consider the point of view of the person you are writing as. Will it be positive or negative? Include details that support your point of view.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- How is Elisha Gray's claim of a golden clasp keeping us from understanding Alexander Graham Bell and the true story of the telephone? Learn more [here](#).
- The California Gold Rush helped a lot of people get wealthy even if it wasn't from the gold. How did people get rich in the Gold Rush? List or create an infographic showing the different ways people got wealthy.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- There are many underwater cables today that provide us with the internet and allow us to access information from around the world almost instantaneously.
- Watch this video and make a list of all the types of jobs that would be needed to lay one cable across an ocean - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9R4tznCNB0>
- Research one of the jobs you listed and share what you have learned with a family member.