

Gold Rush Art Analysis

PART 1 - The Autry Museum of the American West tells stories about the different peoples of the American West. One of the ways that the Autry Museum tells these stories is through art. Art comes in many different forms. Art can be a drawing, painting, performance, photograph, sculpture, and so much more. We can learn about the stories that art tells by analyzing, or studying, art such as drawings. Look closely at this drawing from the Autry Museum.



After looking closely at this drawing from long ago, describe what you see in the drawing by writing the answers to the questions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	MY DESCRIPTION
What is the name of the place that is in this drawing? (Hint: Look for the name of the place at the bottom of the drawing.)	
When does this drawing take place? (Hint: Look for the date at the bottom of the drawing.)	
What type of transportation do you see?	
What kinds of buildings do you see?	
What do you see in the environment (plants, bodies of water, other landforms, etc.)?	
What else do you notice in this drawing?	

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PART 2 - Look closely at another drawing from the Autry Museum.



After looking closely at this drawing from long ago, describe what you see in the drawing by writing the answers to the questions in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	MY DESCRIPTION
What is the name of the place that is in this drawing? (Hint: Look for the name of the place at the bottom of the drawing.)	
When does this drawing take place? (Hint: Look for the date at the bottom of the drawing.)	
What type of transportation do you see?	
What kinds of buildings do you see?	
What do you see in the environment (plants, bodies of water, other landforms, etc.)?	
What else do you notice in this drawing?	

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PART 3 - Let's compare these two drawings from long ago by looking at both of the drawings next to each other. Compare means to look at two or more things in order to see what is similar or different about them.



After looking closely at these two drawings, think about how these drawings are similar or the same. Write how these drawings are similar in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

These drawings are *similar* because _____

Next, think about how these two drawings are different or not the same. Write how these drawings are different in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

These drawings are *different* because _____

Now think about how much time passed between these two drawings. (Hint: Look for the dates at the bottom of each drawing. Then think about how many years passed between the two drawings. Was it one, five, ten, or 100 years?) Write your answer in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

The number of years that passed between these two drawings was _____

Finally, think about why these drawings of San Francisco look so different. Which historical event, or event from long ago, caused San Francisco to change so much in such a short period of time? Write your hypothesis, or educated guess, in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

I think the name of the historical event that caused San Francisco to change so much in such a short period of time was _____

Resources

E. W. Kain and Bayard Taylor, San Francisco in November 1848, San Francisco, California. Lantern slide of a drawing created late 1800s to early 1900s. Autry Museum; LS.2831

E. W. Kain and Bayard Taylor, San Francisco in November 1849, San Francisco, California. Lantern slide of a drawing created late 1800s to early 1900s. Autry Museum; LS.2833

For more information about the Gold Rush, visit www.theautry.org/education.