

Name _____

Family Times

Summary

Ghost Towns of the American West

In the mid-1800s, large numbers of Americans headed west in search of land and riches. The result was many small towns being built seemingly overnight. These same towns were deserted when the promised wealth didn't materialize. To this day, you can see ghost-like remnants of these small, temporary towns.

Activity

Uncover Your History Take a look through the closets or storage areas at your house for “ghost toys” you once played with all the time but now don't think about. Pull one out and with a family member write a short description about the “olden days” when you used to play with the toy.



Comprehension Skill

Generalize

To **generalize** means to make a broad statement or rule that applies to several examples. Clue words such as *all*, *many*, and *most* can signal that an author is making a generalization. If these generalizations are supported by the text, they are *valid*. If not, they are *faulty generalizations*.

Activity

Nose for News With a family member, read an article from a newspaper or current events magazine. As you read, look for instances where the author uses generalizations. When you find a generalization, examine the text to see if it is valid or faulty.