

## Northwest History Consortium

### Jack London Is Coming To Town

**Michelle Yeager**  
**8th Grade**

#### **National Standard**

Era 6: The Development of the industrial United States (1870-1900) / Standard 1

**Standard 1:** *How the rise of corporations, heavy industry, and mechanized farming transformed the American people.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Note: Read *The Call of the Wild* as a class and hold discussions on themes. Then as the students to read two other London pieces independently.

#### **PROBLEM**

1. What real world events were happening at the time that could have influenced London's perspective?
2. What is his view of civilization during the late 1800's?
3. What clues in his stories lead you to believe this?
4. Are his representations of society accurate? To what degree?
5. What benefits can we take from London's particular view and presentation of society?

#### **SCENARIO**

You are a long time member of the club, Number One Fans Of One-of-a-kind London! (NO FOOL! for short), and your group has been working tirelessly to try to bring the new Jack London Touring Memorabilia Collection to Everett. In order to get Everett Public Library to host this event NO FOOL! needed to convince the Board of Directors that London was a significant writer who captured the essence of society during his time.

As your group was putting together the research, they found discrepancies in the validity of the facts his stories were based around, thus making you question the entire presentation of your group's information to the board.

Was London *really* representing a *true* version of society at the time?

## Northwest History Consortium

### Jack London Is Coming To Town

#### TASKS

You must decide if the stories that London wrote were a realistic view of the world, a fantastic imaginary world, or somewhere in between.

Whatever you find, you are still a member of NO FOOL!, and you will need to present your evidence in such a way that still presents London in a positive light so that the Everett Public Library Board of Directors will allow the traveling memorabilia collection to make a stop at your local library.

#### RESOURCES

“Chilkoot Trail 1898 Supplies.” Adventure Learning Foundation. 2010. Prescott, AZ. 7 June 2010 <[http://www.questconnect.org/ak\\_chilkoot\\_supplies.htm](http://www.questconnect.org/ak_chilkoot_supplies.htm)>.

“From The Far-Away land Where The Earth Seems Lined With Gold” from *The Examiner* newspaper, [date unreadable]. Yukon: Department of Tourism and Culture. ©2009 – 2010. Whitehorse, Yukon. 7 June 2010 <<http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/athomeintheyukon/en/newcomer/image/large/5.jpg>>.

“Gold Fever.” PBS.Org American Experience (WGBH). ©1995 – 2010 Public Broadcasting System. Arlington, VA. 8 June 2010 <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/gold/greetings.html>>.

“Gold Rush Centennial Photographs: 1893-1916.” 14 Jan. 1999. Alaska State Library. 2010. Juneau, AK. 7 June 2010 <<http://library.state.ak.us/hist/goldrush/table.html>>.

Hartzell, David A. “Jack London’s Ranch Album.” The World of Jack London. ©1997 – 2010. Glen Ellen, CA. 8 June 2010 <<http://www.jacklondons.net/museum.html>>.

“Jack London’s Writings.” Sonoma State University (Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center). 2010. Rohnert Park, CA. 7 June 2010 <<http://london.sonoma.edu/Writings/>>.

“Klondike.” University of Washington Libraries (Digital Collections). © University of Washington Libraries. Seattle, WA. 7 June 2010 <<http://content.lib.washington.edu/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=all&CISOBOX1=klondike&CISOFIELD1=CISOEARCHALL&CISOROOT=all&x=34&y=12&CISOSTART=1,21>>.

“Klondike Gold Rush: Yukon Territory 1897.” Adventure Learning Foundation. 2010. Prescott, AZ. 7 June 2010 <[http://www.questconnect.org/ak\\_klondike.htm](http://www.questconnect.org/ak_klondike.htm)>.

“The Klondike Gold Rush.” Sheppard Software. 2010. Jenkintown, PA. 8 June 2010 <<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/canadaweb/factfile/Unique-facts-Canada7.htm>>.

“Klondike Route Map” from *The Yukon District of Canada, 1897*. Adventure Learning Foundation. 2010. Prescott, AZ. 7 June 2010 <[http://www.questconnect.org/ak\\_chilkoot\\_supplies.htm](http://www.questconnect.org/ak_chilkoot_supplies.htm)>.

## Northwest History Consortium

### Jack London Is Coming To Town

Wilma, David. "Gold Prospectors Travel North by the Hundreds Through Puget Sound to Alaska and the Yukon Beginning in 1895." 22 May 2007. HistoryLink: The Free Online Encyclopedia of Washington State. 1999 – 2010. Seattle, WA. 8 June 2010 <[http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=8151](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8151)>.

#### ASSESSMENT

##### Objectives:

- Learn about the Yukon Gold Rush, events surrounding it, why so many people went, and what life was like for the prospectors, etc.
- Understand how a writer takes real world events, interprets them, and presents an interpretation in the form of fiction.

##### Assessment:

- Pre-assess – Quick Write: What do you know about the Yukon Gold Rush? Did Jack London write stories based on real events? What was his purpose? What do you think inspires an author to write different kinds of stories? Provide at least three pieces of evidence to support your answers - explain and elaborate with commentary.
- Post-write - same questions

#### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

"History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States." UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 8 June 2010 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/era6-5-12.html>>.

Yeager, Michelle. "Jack London Is Coming To Town." NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 8 June 2010 <[http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/6.1\\_JackLondon.Yeager.8.pdf](http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/6.1_JackLondon.Yeager.8.pdf)>.