

Historical Journal Entry/Creative Writing Activity

Now you have learned about the exploration, invasion and conquest of Russian merchants in northern California. You also learned about the establishment of Fort Ross and some of the conditions that Pomo and Miwok California Indians, Native Alaskans, and Russian merchants were living under between 1812-1840 while the Fort was operational.

Using your new knowledge, imagine you are a person, plant or animal living in or near Fort Ross between 1812-1840 and create a journal entry from that point of view focusing on the events and changes associated with Russian settlers. For example, students may write a journal entry from the point of view of a sea otter who is being hunted by Russian merchants and describe how life has changed.

Write your journal entry on a piece of Butcher paper and use a calligraphy pen or marker to make your journal entry look like a historical document. Journal entries should contain the following:

- A description of the narrator, who is writing this entry?
- 3 of the narrator's actions in response to the development of Fort Ross. What did they do?
- The narrator's emotional state during this time period. How do they feel about what is happening?
- Effects of the narrator's behavior on other individuals (family, friends, community members, etc.) during this time. How did their actions impact others?
- The narrator's fears of what might happen if things do not go according to plan. What could happen to the narrator?
- The changes in landscape, seasons, and uses of the fort. What does the land look like? What does the Fort look like? What happens there?