

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ US History 8/Mr. Tripodi

Read the passages below. Underline and list words you don't know in the box at right. As you read, summarize what you're reading in the box at the bottom.

Use your "talking to the text" strategies to pull out the meaning of the document. In the bottom boxes, put the passages into your own words. You're encouraged to include what you predict, visualize, or are reminded of.

Jan. 1, 1847 - We pray the God of mercy to deliver us from our present calamity, if it be His holy will. Commenced snowing last night, and snows little yet; provisions getting scant; dug up a hide from under the snow yesterday; have not commenced on it yet.

Jan. 8 - Very cold this morning; Mrs. Reed and others came back, could not find their way, on the other side of the mountains; they have nothing but hides to live on.

Jan. 13 - Snowing fast; snow higher than the shanty; it must be thirteen feet deep; cannot get wood this morning; it is a dreadful sight for us to look upon.

Jan. 17 - Lanthron became crazy last night; provisions scarce; hides our main subsistence; may the Almighty send us help.

Jan. 22 - Began to snow after sunrise; likely to continue; wind north.

Jan. 26 - Cleared up yesterday; today fine and pleasant, wind south; in hopes we are done with snow storms; those who went to Sutter's not yet returned; provisions getting scant; people growing weak; living on small allowance of hides.

Jan. 28 - Commenced snowing yesterday - still continues today. Lewis (Sutter's Indian), died three day's ago; food growing scarcer; don't have fire enough to cook our hides.

Jan. 31 - The sun does not shine out brilliant this morning; froze hard last night; wind northwest. Lanthron Murphy died last night about one o'clock; Mrs. Reed went to Graves' this morning to look after goods.

Feb. 5 - Snowed hard until 12 o'clock last night; many uneasy for fear we shall all perish with hunger; we have but little meat left, and only three hides; Mrs. Reed has nothing but one hide, and that is on Graves' house; Milton lives there, and likely will keep that; Eddy's child died last night.

Feb. 7 - Ceased to snow at last; today it is quite pleasant; McCutcheon's child died on the second of this month.

Feb. 8 - Fine, clear morning; Spitzer died last night; we will bury him in the snow. Mrs. Eddy died on the night of the seventh.

### Tough vocabulary

Underline words you don't know, then list them in this box.

### What is this?

What's happening?  
(in your own words)

Feb. 9 - Mr. Pike's child all but dead; Milton is at Murphy's, not able to get out of bed; Kiesburg gets up; he says he is not able; Mrs. Eddy and child were buried today; wind southeast.

Feb. 10 - Beautiful morning; thawing in the sun; Milton Elliot died last night at Murphy's shanty; Mrs. Reed went there this morning to see after his effects; J. Denton trying to borrow meat for Graves; had none to give; they had nothing but hides; all are entirely out of meat; but a little we have; our hides are nearly all eat up; with God's help spring will soon smile upon us.

Feb. 12 - Warm, thawy morning.

Feb. 14 - Fine morning, but cold; buried Milton in the snow. John Denton not well.

Feb. 16 - Commenced to rain last evening, and turned to snow during the night, and continued until morning; weather changeable, sunshine, then light showers of hail, and wind at times. We all feel very unwell; the snow is not getting much less at present.

Feb. 19 - Froze hard last night. Seven men arrived from California yesterday evening with provisions, but left the greater part on the way. Today it is clear and warm for this region; some of the men have gone to Donner's camp; they will start back on Monday.

Feb. 22 - Buried Pike's child this morning in the snow; it died two days ago.

Feb. 25 - Today Mrs. Murphy says the wolves are about to dig up the dead bodies around her shanty, and the nights are too cold to watch them, but we hear them howl.

Feb. 26 - Hungry times in camp; plenty of hides, but the folks wont eat them; we eat them with tolerable appetite, thanks be to the Almighty God. Mrs. Murphy said here yesterday, that she thought she would commence on Milton and eat him; I do not think she has done so yet; it is distressing. The Donners told the California folks, four days ago, that they would commence on the dead people, if they did not succeed that day or the next in finding their cattle, then ten or twelve feet under the snow, and did not know the spot or any where near it; they have dine it ere this.

Feb. 29 - Ten men arrived this morning from Bear Valley, with provisions. We all leave in two or three days, and cache our goods here. They say the snow will remain until June.

### **Tough vocabulary**

Underline words you don't know, then list them in this box.

### **What's happening?**

(in your own words)