

## GHOST TOWNS



Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about ghost towns. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read and research all you can about ghost towns. Keep a bibliography on all the books you read and record them on your "Ghost Towns Abound" chart.

Using information you learned during your research, construct a model of a mining ghost town. Use a variety of materials and include as much detail as possible in your model.

Read *Unique Ghost Towns and Mountain Spots* by Caroline Bancroft. Locate several close ghost towns and draw a map labeled with major metropolitan cities and the ghost towns you have identified in your reading. If any of them are in your state, arrange to visit them.



Other books to read:

- *Mountain Treasures* by Barker and Downing
- *The Central City Story* by Kamphausen
- *How and Where to Find Gold* by Ballanytne
- *Hidden Treasure in the Wild West* by Arnold
- *Roadside History of Colorado* by McTighe

Arrange to visit an old cemetery. Call ahead to make sure you will be able to take the tour. Collect information and stories about people who lived in your area during the 1800s and early 1900s. Locate several gravestones from people who lived then and make one or two gravestone rubbings.

Research the "modern ghost town"-Love Canal, New York. Present your findings to your class.



Create the front page of a newspaper from the times of one of the ghost towns. Research carefully so the headlines, stories, pictures, and advertisements reflect those that would actually have been seen during those times.

Chose one:

- In a written story, predict what Tombstone, Arizona would be like today if the mine had not played out.
- Imagine you are a miner in a boomtown. Write a diary that covers two weeks of events in your life.

Create an anthropological site reflecting the life cycle of a ghost town. Using a large container of dirt, bury artifacts from the town showing its birth, boom years, and death. Bury the artifacts in appropriate depths and levels to reveal this life cycle.

Write a non-fiction book for younger students on ghost towns. Include information found in your research and trips, pictures, etc.

