**Benchmark #3**

Early Europeans in Okanagan Valley

The Missionaries, Miners, Ranchers

As the fur trade dwindled in 1847, the brigade trail became a vital link from the South to the North ( of British Columbia) for other reasons.

The Okanagan had attracted few permanent settlers. Activities had been related to fur and gold seeking. That changed when the missionaries came to the Okanagan Valley, with Father Pandosy (an Oblate priest) setting up the first non-native settlement in 1860. His mission settlement had a church, school and farm. Father Pandosy and Father Richard ministered to Natives and Europeans for over 30 years until his death in 1891.

The HBC had been buying gold from the Okanagan Aboriginals for years but William Peon was the first to discovery gold in Mission Creek in 1860. The Okanagan gold rush was on, and "color" was discovered in Belgo Creek, Bear Creek, Rock Creek and Powers Creek; miners flooded into the Okanagan Valley.

The influx of miners in the Cariboo and Okanagan goldfields saw a lot of hungry men. When the gold rush burned out, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1880s took off. Both required a lot of meat and food to feed these huge number of men and thus the boom in cattle ranching and agricultural farming. The Okanagan Valley had very fertile soil and favorable growing seasons. Early ranchers became wealthy settlers.

It was the Mission that first attracted Kelowna's first homesteaders, followed by cattle ranchers (to feed the gold rush in BC including the Okanagan Valley, and the CPR construction) and finally orchardists. The Fur Brigade Trail provided the transportation network for missionaries, miners, ranchers (moving cattle) and traders.

**Benchmark #3 - Task**

Historical Expert on a key element of growth and development of the Okanagan Valley.

You are going to become a historical expert on one of the 4 key elements in the growth and development of the Okanagan Valley. You will choose one of these 4 categories to research. Each of these 4 categories played an important role in the early development of the Okanagan Valley.

1. Early Missionaries
2. Miners (Okanagan Gold Rush)
3. Cattle Ranching
4. Early Agriculture

You will use a variety of resources, both on-line and library resources to complete the following categories of each.

1. Describe the development of your category in early Okanagan history
2. An important early European you come across in your resource. (*Brief* overview of this person, eg, origin of European, what is he/she famous for in Okanagan history, any accomplishments?). You should have no more than 4-5 points.
3. Map of location of the area(s) impacted in Okanagan by this category. (you will have to draw it)
4. One paragraph: The impact your topic on early growth of the Okanagan Valley.

Please note this material will be used in your final project/task.

Your Category:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Describe the development of your category in early Okanagan history.** (chain of events for this category, timeline of important dates, important events, etc.) |
| **An important early European you come across in your resource.** (B*rief*, origin, important dates, accomplishments, why is this person famous in Okanagan history). |
| **Paragraph: The impact your topic had on the growth of the Okanagan Valley. (include details from your research to support your answer).**  |
| **Map of location of the area(s) impacted in Okanagan by this category. (Hand draw and label)** |