**Treetops - Level 15**

**Tomahawk Beckworth**

**by Michael Cox**

**Predicting**

* What doe the word *tomahawk* mean?

Discuss with your group. If you are unsure look this word up using ICT or a dictionary and write the meaning in your jotter.

Discuss in your group:

1. What do you think this book will be about?
2. What do the images in the book suggest to you?
3. What clues does the blurb give you about what this book will be about?

After discussion, write a short paragraph about what your predictions about what this book will be about.

**Introduction**

1. What did Christopher Columbus call the people who lived in America and why?

2. What people did the Europeans bring to be slaves in America?

3. How does the writer describe ‘The Wild West’?

4. Who was James Beckwourth the son of?

5. When a movie was made about Beckwourth was made, why were black Americans outraged?

**Chapter 1 - The Howling Wilderness**

After reading the Introduction and chapter 1 visualise what you think *The Wild West* would have looked like back then and include a drawing of Beckwourth as well. Draw a very detailed picture of your visualisation and label parts of your drawing with text taken from your book to describe your drawing.

**Chapter 2 - Mountain Man Beckwourth**

**Pages 15 -23**

1. Where did Jim Beckwourth really want to explore?
2. What information on Page 15 tells you that America doubled in size?
3. Why was there no maps of the Wild West?
4. What words on page16 does the writer use to describe the Wild West?
5. What evidence can you find on page 18 that tells you that life was very hard for people in the Wild West?
6. What was General Ashley’s team going to catch to make their fortune?
7. What problems did they have regarding food?
8. Who helped them to survive the rest of the Winter?

Follow Up Task

After reading the writer’s description of the Rockies on page 24, visualise how you think it would look like in Spring time. Draw a detailed picture in your jotter. Label your drawing with some of the writer’s description of The Rockies in Spring.

**Chapter 2 - Mountain Man Beckwourth**

**Pages 24-31**

1. Describe what happened at The *Mountain Man Rendezvous.*
2. Name some of the animals that Jim met.
3. How did Jim and his friends help reduce the trapped women and children?
4. What furry creature did Jim have a close meeting with and how did it come to be in their camp?

Follow Up Task

What connections can you make to this book so far: text to text , self to text, text to world?

Have you read another book with a similar story, or is there a memory of your own you can make links to the story or things in the world you have knowledge of you can make links with.

**Chapter 3 - Bull’s Robe Beckwourth**

**Visualisation**

Using you Character Portrait, on page 2, draw Jim Beckwourth again and visualise how you now see him- adding further details that you have learned about this character or any opinions you now have about this character.

1. Why did the Crow Indians want him to join them?
2. Why was Jim very quickly made a chief?
3. What words on page 38 did Jim use to convince the Crow Indians to fight back?
4. Why do you think Jim benefited staying with the Crow Indians ?
5. How many years did it take Pine Leaf to say yes to marrying Jim?

**Chapter 4 -Swamp Warfare**

Predict what you think is going to happen next in the story by writing a paragraph to continue the story at this point. (you can check it later on to see how accurate your prediction was)

1. How had St. Louis changed in a few years and why?
2. Why did Jim feel worried as he was walking around the town?
3. Why did Jim decide to travel to Florida?
4. What do you think(provide your opinion) about General Zachary Taylor’s attack with his men to drive the Seminole Indians from their land ?
5. Why was the battle of Okeechobee such a disaster for Jim and the men who were fighting with ?

**Chapter 5 - Santa Fe- to California**

Think of and write out 5 questions you would like to ask Jim Beckwourth.

Visualisation - Draw Jim Beckwourth on page 3 of your character profile and draw 5 thought bubbles around him and fill them with some thoughts Jim would have had through this book.

**Chapter 6 - My Beautiful Valley**

Make a list of words and phrases from this story that helped this story seem interesting to you.

Now design a poster for this book to persuade others to read it. Try to use some of the interesting words you found in the book, remember to use suitable illustrations and persuasive language.

**Chapter 7- My Betrayal of Friends**

**Visualisation -** Using your character profile,visualise and draw how you now see Jim Beckwourth and write what you think of him now, after reading all of this book.

Reflect on how this story made you feel when you were reading it and explain why.

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