State Constitution

Assignment Page 6
40 pts. possible

Beginning with the Mexican Cession (Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848) research the organization of California into statehood. Take notes to document your research. Be sure to include the diverse population of the region. Next pretend that your Gone West character ended up in a position of high influence and leadership, and was asked to help design a state government for California, that helps it to be accepted into the Union by the U.S. Government. Use what you know from your research and of the U.S. Constitution to be sure that your State Government matches the U.S. government in basic structure, so that it will work together well with the federal government. Also take into consideration any special laws you might need to have to ensure the proper treatment of a diverse population, the slavery and sectionalism issue, provisions for land sales and development and any other issues you consider important.

With all those considerations in mind, create a California State Constitution, complete with articles, bill of rights and any other important provisions you consider important. Use a computer to type it up neatly and professionally. It should include provisions that deal with each of the issues and considerations listed above, and should be at least two pages, double-spaced, in 12 pt. font, and with 1" margins.

When finished, present the constitution to your pioneer team, trail boss and the teacher, explaining its provisions and goals. Grading will be as follows:

Rubric

Look: (Overall document neatness & professional appearance   10 pts. _____

Conventions: (spelling, punctuation, grammar, mechanics,   10 pts. _____
         word choice, sentence fluency)

Connections: (FCA) (clear, detailed connections between the U.S.
         Constitution and your own state constitution)   10 pts. _____

Issues: (Specifically addresses issues listed above and others in a
         way that shows the knowledge you gained from research.   10 pts. _____

     Total Pts. _____/40