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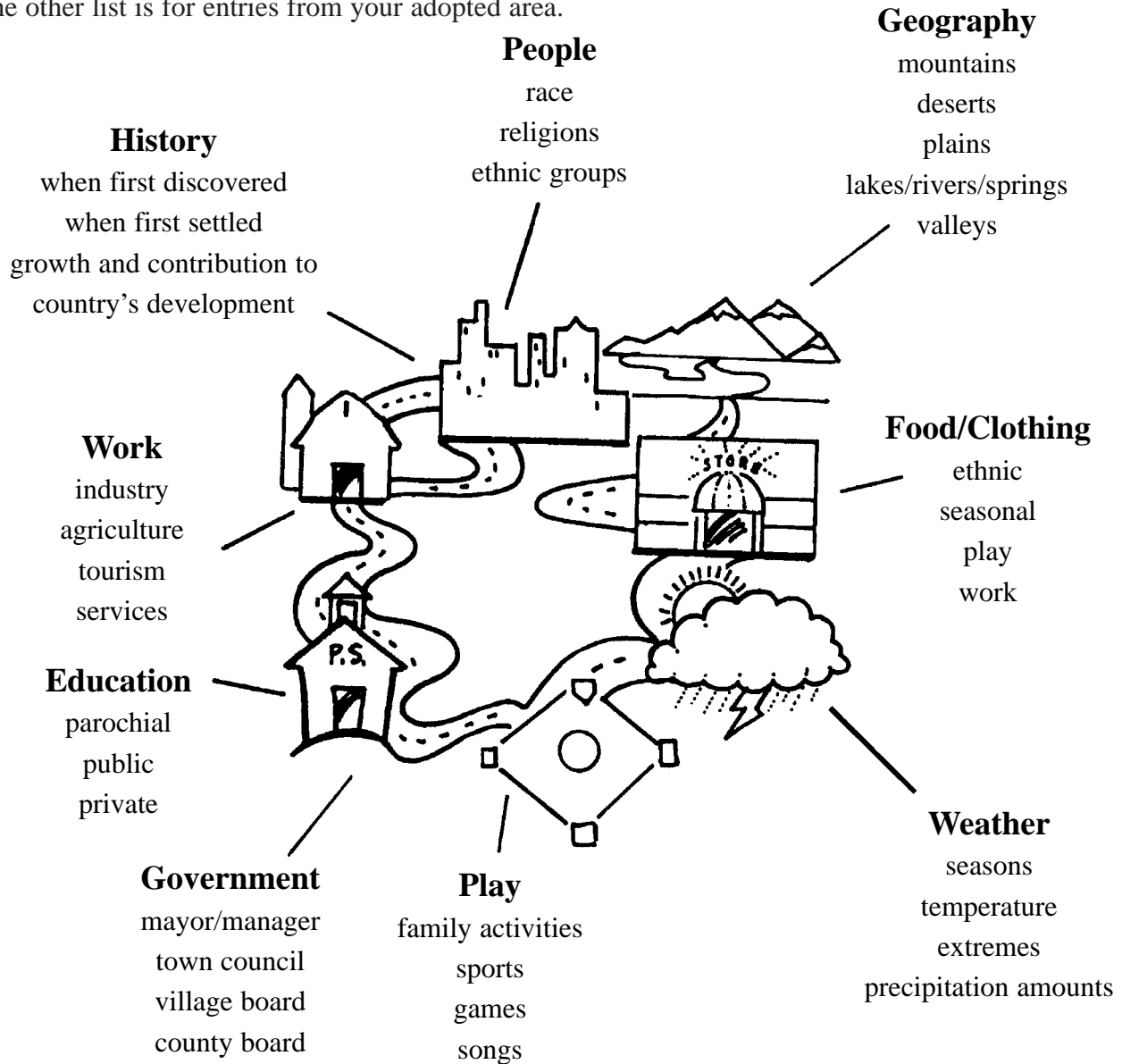
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Compare and Contrast Hometowns

When Sarah responded to Jacob’s advertisement, she wrote, “I have always loved to live by the sea, but at this time I feel a move is necessary. And the truth is, the sea is as far east as I can go.” So Sarah went west approximately 1600 miles (2560 km) to a new life, a new environment.

Adopt an area that is about 1600 miles (2560 km) from your home, to be your new hometown. Then research the area you have chosen. Collect pictures, books, tourist information, etc. Maybe you can find some pen pals from your adopted area.

After you have gathered your material, make two lists. One list will be for entries from your home area. The other list is for entries from your adopted area.



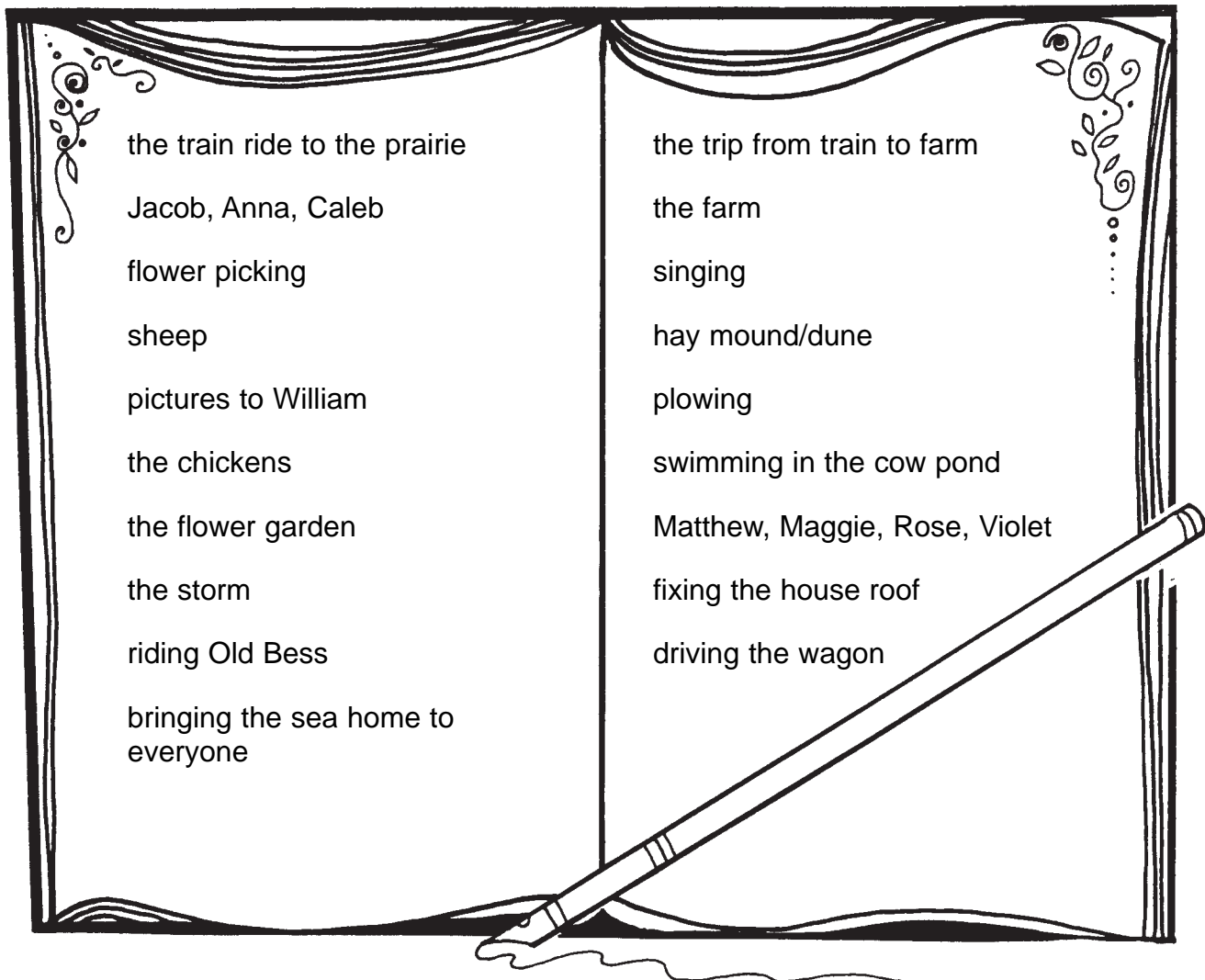
Note to the teacher: Have the students include some comparable items noted in the story (e.g. swimming—pond vs. sea, sliding—haystack vs. dune, etc.)

Sarah's Diary

Do you keep a diary? Many people do. You would be surprised by how easily we forget everyday occurrences. It is fun reading entries made in a diary months or years later. Many pioneers kept diaries. Our history of the settling of America was made more complete and interesting by diaries handed down from generation to generation.

It is time to put your imagination to work. Pretend that you are Sarah and that you have kept a diary for many years. Record a week's worth of thoughts and feelings as Sarah begins her adventure on the prairie. By using the major events in *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, you can find plenty of things to write about. Remember to include Sarah's emotions as she reacted to the events. Tell about the things she disliked as well as the changes in her life that she enjoyed.

Here are some of the events you could write about:



Note to the teacher: This activity could be combined with the Curriculum Connections activity, Pictures Worth a Thousand Words on page 19. A drawing could be made on one page with its diary entry on the adjacent page.