

# California Gold Rush

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_

Per. \_\_\_\_

*Fill in the blanks with the following words:*

1848

migrations

Prospectors

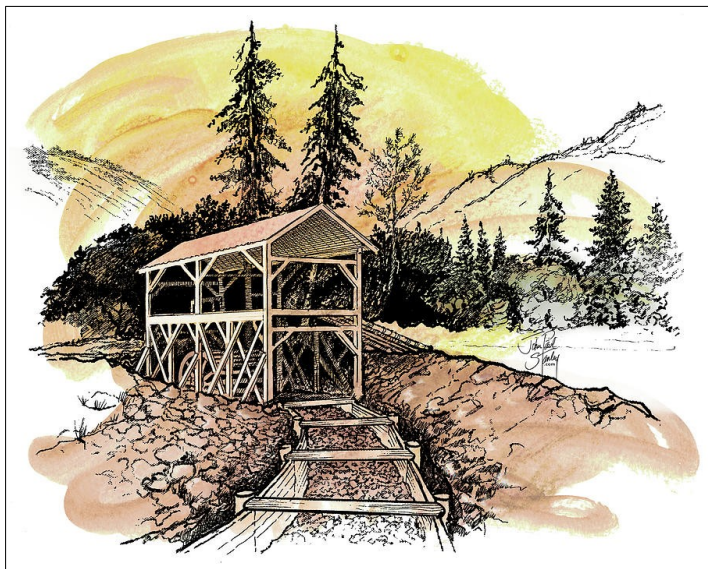
Asia

Native American

Sutter's Mill

The story of the California Gold Rush begins well before gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in \_\_\_\_\_. The area now known as California was originally inhabited by various \_\_\_\_\_ tribes who thrived on the abundant natural resources. The region was later explored by Spanish missionaries in the 18th century, who established colonial outposts, thereby altering the demographic landscape.

California became part of Mexico after its independence from Spain in 1821. However, the region remained sparsely populated, primarily by Native Americans, Mexican settlers, and a few European settlers who engaged in agriculture, ranching, and other local trades.



On January 24, 1848, James W. Marshall, a carpenter working for John Sutter, discovered gold flakes in the American River at \_\_\_\_\_ near Coloma, California. This discovery would change the course of American history forever.

## California Gold Rush

The news of gold spread rapidly, initially by word of mouth, then by newspapers and letters. The phrase "Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!" headlined an article in the San Francisco newspaper, the Californian, which



marked the beginning of one of the largest human \_\_\_\_\_ in history.

The year 1849 was when the first significant influx of prospectors, known as "forty-niners," arrived on the scene. Driven by dreams of instant wealth, these individuals came from various parts of the United States and the world, including Latin America, Europe, Australia, and \_\_\_\_\_.

By the end of 1849, the non-native population of California had skyrocketed to approximately 100,000. This surge marked the beginning of widespread migration to the region.

The Gold Rush was a pivotal event that triggered mass migration, reshaping the demographics of not just California but also the United States at large. In just a few years, California's population grew exponentially, transforming it from a remote outpost to a burgeoning society.

The rapid influx of diverse populations led to the creation of a multicultural society in California. \_\_\_\_\_ from different backgrounds brought their customs, languages, and traditions, enriching the cultural fabric of the region.

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More ...

- 1) What became of the populations of the Indigenous and the Mexicans when Americans migrated to the California territory and displaced them?
- 2) What other natural resources spurred Americans to rush to new territories?
- 3) What natural resources drew new populations to Alaska?