

8th Grade American Studies

Unit 8: Westward Expansion

The California Gold Rush

WS 8.8

(pp. 364-369)

Discovery of Gold Brings Settlers

What body of water marked the start of the California Trail?

SNAKE RIVER

Why did most settlers and travelers follow the California Trail?

***TO TRADE EASTERN MAUFACTURED GOODS FOR
NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS GOLD, SILVER, &
ANIMAL SKINS***

Before the Mexican-American War, what groups of people made up most of California's population?

NATIVE AMERICANS & MEXICANS

Who was John Sutter?

SWISS IMMIGRANT WHO WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO ESTABLISHED A COLONY IN CALIFORNIA IN 1839

What was the Donner Party?

GROUP OF WESTERN TRAVELLERS WHO WENT TO CALIFORNIA BUT WERE STRANDED IN THE SIERRA NEVADA DURING THE WINTER OF 1846- 47. 42 / 87 MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS DIED (SURVIVORS RESORTED TO CANNIBALISM)

What was the significance of Sutter's Mill?

***WHILE BUILDING A SAWMILL, GOLD WAS DISCOVERED
BY JAMES MARSHALL IN A NEARBY RIVER***

How did the federal government have an impact of the discovery of gold in California?

***JAMES K. POLK CONFIRMED THE DISCOVERY IN HIS
FAIRWELL ADDRESS***

Who were the "forty-niners?" (GLOSSARY)

***A GOLD-SEEKER WHO MOVED TO CALIFORNIA DURING
THE GOLD RUSH***

What types of people participated in the California Gold Rush?

***EASTERNS, MIDWESTERNERS, EUROPEANS, CHINESE,
MOSTLY MEN, SMALL PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN***

What city served as the “starting point” for many of forty-niners once they reached California?

SAN FRANCISCO

Who was able to “stake a claim?”

THE FIRST PERSON TO ARRIVE AT A SITE

Why was the lack of a court system a problem in the early days of the gold rush?

DISPUTES BETWEEN PEOPLE OR GROUPS OFTEN RESULTED IN CONFLICT & VIOLENCE

By 1853, what was California's yearly gold production?

\$60 MILLION

How profitable was the gold rush for MOST miners?

NOT VERY

What percentage of gold rush immigrants were women, and what opportunities did the gold rush provide them?

AROUND 5%; MOST WOMEN MADE MONEY BY WASHING CLOTHES, COOKING MEALS, RUNNING BOARDING HOUSES

What types of work did people do in the mining camps?

SOME RAN SUPPLY STORES, OPERATED BOARDING HOUSES, LAWYERS, MEDICINE

How did attitudes toward slavery in California benefit Bidy Mason?

THE MASON FAMILY WAS GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM, THEN THEY WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE PROPERTY WHICH INCREASED IN VALUE OVER TIME

Why did many Chinese immigrants go to California during the gold rush?

ESCAPE FAMINE AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS

What did the California government do in 1852 to discourage immigration?

PLACED A HIGH MONTHLY TAX ON ALL FOREIGN MINERS

Impact on California

What was the effect of the California's population explosion in 1849-50?

CALIFORNIA BECAME ELIGIBLE FOR STATEHOOD IN ONLY TWO YEARS

When did California become a state?

1850 (31ST STATE)

What type of effect did the gold rush have on the *Californios* & Native American population in California?

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES – THEY WERE PUSHED OFF OF THEIR LANDS / TREATED AS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS, FACED DISCRIMINATION

How did some people hope to solve the problem of California's isolation from the rest of the country?

BUILD A TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD THAT WOULD STRETCH ALL THE WAY TO CA