

Directions: Using pages 364 – 369, please complete the following activity about the California Gold Rush.

The Gold Rush	
Where was gold first discovered?	<i>Sutter's Mill (California), near the Sacramento River</i>
How was gold first discovered?	<i>John Marshall was sent out by John Sutter to build a sawmill on a river near Sutter's Fort. Gold was discovered along the river bed</i>
What was the Donner Party?	<i>A group of travellers heading to California who became stranded in the Sierra Nevada Mountains during the winter. Legend has it that the group resorted to cannibalism in order to survive</i>
Who were the Forty-Niners?	<i>Gold-seekers who moved to California during the gold rush</i>
How did miners search for gold?	<i>Prospecting; look for gold along the banks of streams and shallow rivers First person to arrive would "stake a claim" to the site Placer miners used pans to wash gold from rocks and gravel</i>
What was life like in the mining camps?	<i>Very few laws, very little organization & structure Mostly young, single males Diverse backgrounds and cultures Some people set up businesses like boarding houses and general stores Disputes sometimes ended in violence</i>
Who came to California to look for gold?	<i>People came from many different backgrounds Younger, unmarried men Chinese immigrants Immigrants from European nations, Mexico, eastern states</i>

What were some of the consequences of the "gold rush" on California?

*Population boom
CA became eligible for statehood only two years after the gold rush
Eventually led to the construction of the transcontinental railroad to link California to the rest of the U.S.*