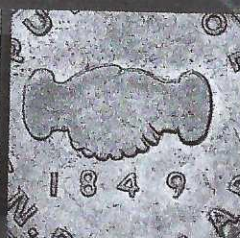


networks

There's More Online!

- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY**
Mariano G. Vallejo
- ✓ **GRAPH** San Francisco
Population Growth
- ✓ **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**
Roles in the West
- ✓ **PRIMARY SOURCE**
Gold Rush Letter



Lesson 4

California and Utah

ESSENTIAL QUESTION *How do new ideas change the way people live?*

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Through the treaty ending the war with Mexico, the United States controlled Texas, California, and what was then New Mexico territory.

California Gold Rush

GUIDING QUESTION *How did the discovery of gold help California?*

When gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848, people from all over the world traveled to California in search of riches. Those who arrived in 1849 were called **forty-niners**. As one official reported, "The farmers have thrown aside their plows, the lawyers their briefs, the doctors their pills, the priests their prayer books, and all are now digging gold." Some people arrived by sea. Others traveled on the Oregon Trail or the Santa Fe Trail.

Americans made up about 80 percent of the forty-niners. Others came from Mexico, South America, Europe, and Australia. About 300 men arrived from China, the first large group of Asian immigrants to settle in America. Although some eventually returned to China, others remained and established California's Chinese American community.

The Californios

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war with Mexico and made Californios—Mexicans living in California—citizens of the United States. The treaty also guaranteed them the rights to their lands. The Land Law of 1851, however, established a group of reviewers who examined the Californios' land rights.

Reading HELPDESK



Taking Notes: Describing

As you read, take notes in a chart like this one. Describe what each person or group did and what their roles were in the settlement of California and Utah.

Forty-Niners	Role
Mormons	Role
Brigham Young	Role

Content Vocabulary

- **forty-niner**
- **boomtown**
- **vigilante**

A few forty-niners became rich from their work on the hillsides and streams of California, but most gained little or nothing.



When a new settler claimed land that was held by a Californio, the two parties would go to court. There, it was the Californio who had to prove his or her ownership of the land. Some Californios were able to prove their claims. Many others lost their cases and their land.

The Life of a Forty-Niner

As people rushed to a new area to look for gold, they built new communities. Towns and small cities appeared almost overnight. One site on the Yuba River had only two houses in September 1849. A year later, a miner arrived to find a bustling town of 1,000 people “with a large number of hotels, stores, groceries, bakeries, and . . . gambling houses.”

Cities also flourished during the Gold Rush. As ships arrived daily with gold seekers, San Francisco became a **boomtown**, growing quickly from a tiny village to a city of about 20,000 people.

Most forty-niners had no experience in mining. Whenever they heard that gold had been discovered at a particular site, they rushed to it and attacked the hillsides with pickaxes and shovels. They spent hours bent over streambeds, “panning” for gold dust and nuggets. Panning involved gently swirling water and gravel in a pan in order to remove dirt and, perhaps, reveal a small speck of gold.

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Reading **HELPDESK**

forty-niner fortune-seeker who came to California during the Gold Rush
boomtown a fast-growing community

BIOGRAPHY



Mariano G. Vallejo
(1808–1890)

Mariano G. Vallejo was born in Monterey, California, to Mexican parents. He served in the Mexican military, but he was often critical of the Mexican government. After California became part of the United States, he took part in the convention that wrote California's constitution. After statehood, Vallejo served in the state senate and acted as a leader of the state's Californio population. Still, like many other Californios, Vallejo wound up losing much of his California land.

► CRITICAL THINKING

Speculating Why do you think Californios considered Vallejo to be a leader of their interests in California?

The California Gold Rush more than doubled the world's supply of gold. For all their hard work, however, very few forty-niners achieved lasting wealth. Most found little or no gold. Many of those who did find gold lost their riches through gambling or wild spending.

Boomtown merchants, however, made huge profits. They could charge whatever they liked for food and other essential items because there were no other nearby stores that sold these products. For example, an immigrant named Levi Strauss sold the miners sturdy pants made of denim. His "Levi's" made him rich.

Gold Rush Society

Mining camps contained men of all backgrounds but few women. Lonely and suffering hardships, many men spent their free hours drinking, gambling, and fighting. Mining towns had no police or prisons. As a result, citizens known as **vigilantes** (vih•juh•LAN•teez) formed committees to protect themselves. Vigilantes took the law into their own hands and acted as police, judge, jury, and sometimes executioner.

Economic and Political Progress

The Gold Rush had lasting effects on California. Agriculture, shipping, and trade grew to meet the demand for food and other goods. Many people who had arrived looking for gold stayed to farm or run a business.

Rapid growth brought the need for better government. In 1849, Californians applied for statehood and wrote a **constitution**. The constitution's ban on slavery, however, caused a crisis in Congress. Southern states opposed California's admission. Congress eventually worked out a compromise by which California became a free state in 1850.

✓ PROGRESS CHECK

Determining Cause and Effect How did the California Gold Rush lead to the expansion of cities?

A Religious Refuge in Utah

GUIDING QUESTION *Why did the Mormons settle in Utah?*

While the Gold Rush was transforming California, change was also taking place in nearby Utah. There, Mormons, or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were building a new community and fulfilling their vision of the godly life.

vigilante person who acts as police, judge, and jury without formal legal authority

Academic Vocabulary

constitution a list of laws supporting a government