



EXTREMES

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature in California was -45°F (-43°C) at Boca in 1937.

Climate

California is famous for its climate. Summers are usually sunny and warm, although northern California's temperatures are lower than in the south. San Diego has one of the mildest year-round climates in the world. Winters are mild—except in the mountains, where snow may fall heavily. Most of the state's rain falls in the wintertime, though more of it falls in the north. Winds that blow from west to east, called *westerlies*, bring most of the rain.

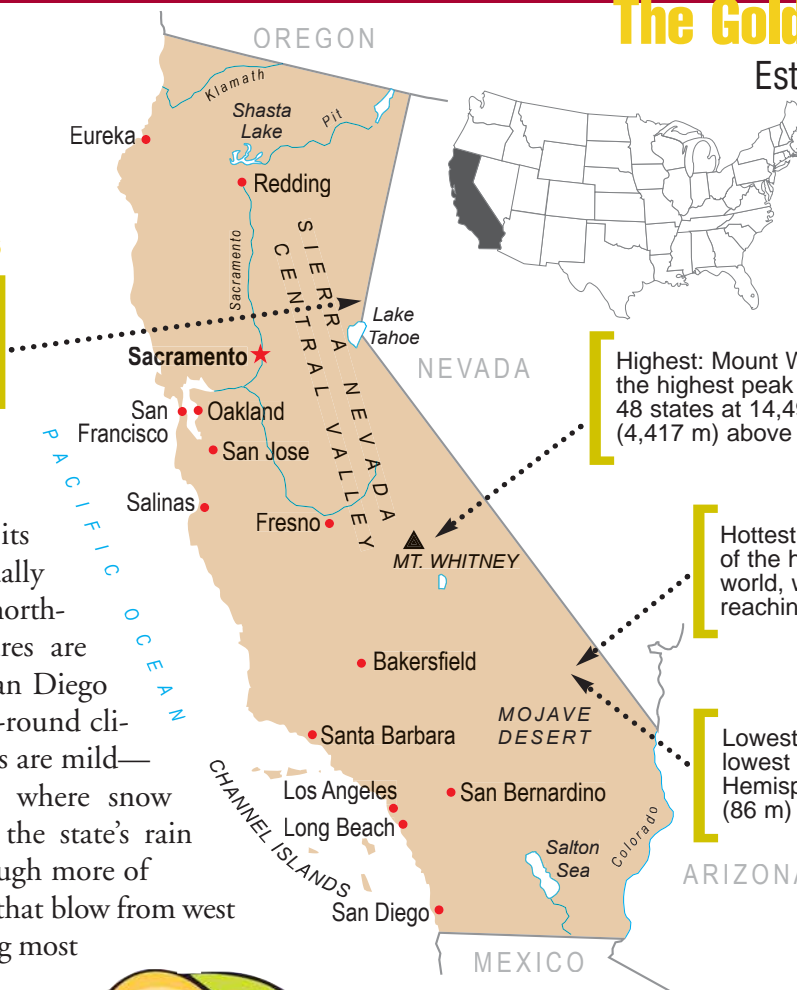
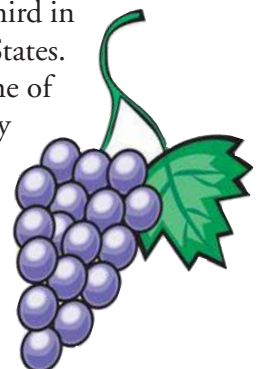
Geography

California is the third largest state in the United States at 158,869 square miles (411,469 sq km). At its longest point from top to bottom California is 654 miles (1,053 km) long; it is more than 200 miles (322 km) wide in most places. In the north lie high mountains forming part of the Cascade Range and feeding the Sacramento River, California's longest. Rolling hills and mountains follow the coastline. On the other side of the coast range is the giant Central Valley. Most of the state's crops are grown there. On the eastern side of the Central Valley lie rugged granite mountains called the *Sierra Nevada* (Spanish for "snowy mountain") range. Dry south-central California includes Death Valley and the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.



Resources and Economy

If California were a country, its economy would be one of the top 10 in the world because the state is rich in natural resources. Agriculture is the core of the state's economy. California produces more crops of more kinds than any other state. Chief farm products include milk, cream, grapes, cotton, carrots, onions, broccoli, flowers, oranges, rice, hay, tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries, almonds, and asparagus. The state also has rich mines of gold, silver, titanium, magnesium, and stone. Forests cover one-third of California, which ranks third in timber harvest in the United States. California's long coast makes it one of the top fishing states, too. Industry continues to play an increasingly important role in the region's economic development. Tourism, clothing, electronics, telecommunications, entertainment, and financial services are the state's chief industries.



History

Hunters and Gatherers

The earliest inhabitants of California were Native Americans. There was no central government or shared language among the various tribes in the region, but they existed in relative peace and isolation. Most lived in small villages. They ate deer and other animals, fish, fruit, and nuts. By the time the Spanish arrived in the 1700s, there were several hundred thousand native inhabitants.

Christian Missionaries

The first settlers to arrive in California after the Native Americans were the Spanish. Roman Catholic missionaries traveled to California to convert the natives to Christianity. Franciscan friar Junípero Serra established the first mission at San Diego in 1769. The Indians learned about farming and other trades as well as Christianity. But these missions were

sometimes destructive to the Native American cultures they sought to help. Eventually, 21 California missions stretched from San Diego to Sonoma. These Spanish missions were instrumental in the settlement of the state.



Early Explorers

Explorers played an important role in mapping and publicizing the region we now know as California. Spaniard Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo saw San Diego Bay and the northern coast for the first time in 1542. Thirty-seven years later, an English expedition headed

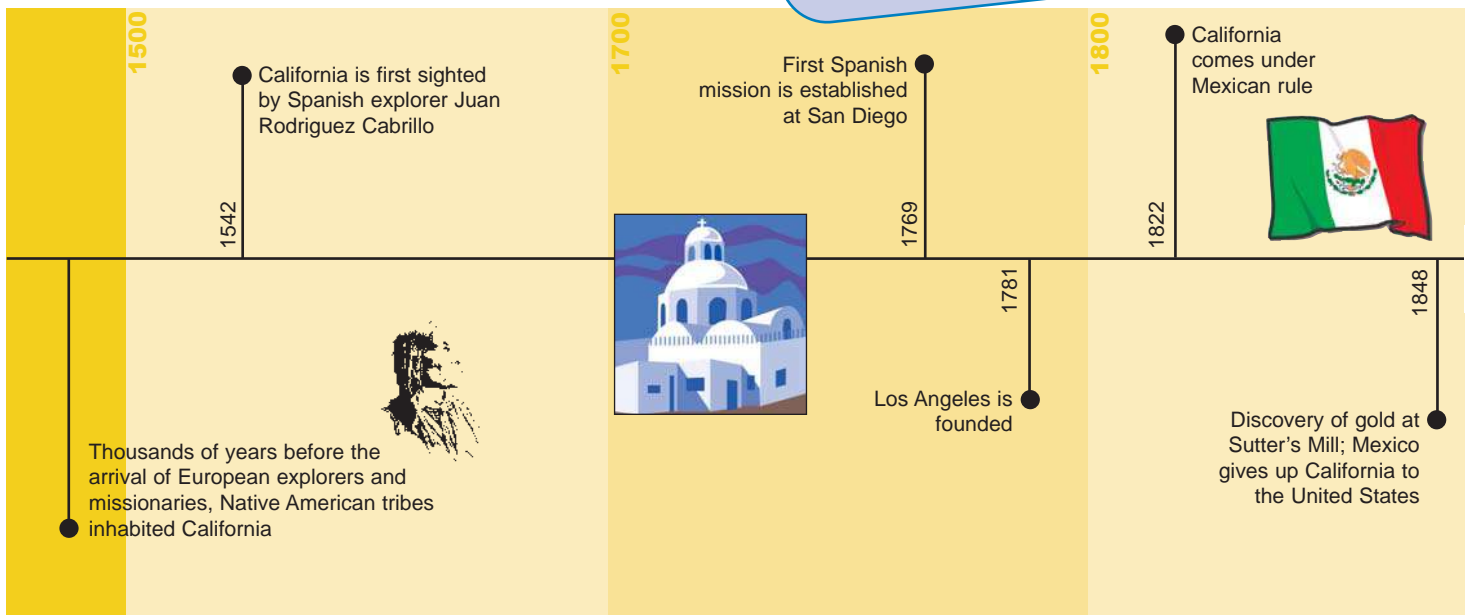
by Sir Francis Drake landed near San Francisco and claimed the area for Queen Elizabeth I. In the mid-1800s, John Charles Fremont surveyed the state during two western expeditions. Fremont's maps and stories changed the way people viewed the West. Other early California explorers include Jedediah Smith, Peter Skene Ogden, and Joseph Walker.

The Gold Rush

In January 1848, James Marshall discovered gold while helping to build a sawmill on his boss's property (Sutter's Mill) in northern California. Although Marshall and his boss tried to keep *(cont. on next page)*

Cultural Note

America's pop culture often comes from California. Many artists and performers are attracted to Hollywood and the motion picture industry. Since the 1940s, television has been a major industry, too. Because the media has so much influence, California trends can quickly spread throughout the entire country, even to an international audience. Clothing styles are an example of these trends. Levi's were first created in California, and Levi Strauss & Co. is still based in San Francisco. Also, fads like skateboards, roller blades, and scooters gained their popularity in California. Last but not least, the personal computer was first developed and marketed in California.





their discovery a secret, the news spread quickly and thousands of people moved to the state in hopes of becoming rich. San Francisco and other towns boomed with the gold rush. In just two years, San Francisco went from around 900 residents to 30,000.

Immigration

Immigration has defined much of the state's history. Chinese immigrants were brought to California in the 1860s to help build the transcontinental railroad. At the turn of the century, Japanese immigrants had acquired land and become successful farmers. Later, during the Great Depression, migrant farmers came to California from other parts of the United States to find work. Immigrants from all over the world have come to California at various times to earn an education, find a job, to be with family, or to make a new beginning.



San Francisco Quake of 1906 killed hundreds of people and almost destroyed the entire city. San Francisco was hit again in 1989 by an earthquake that toppled freeways, killed 63 people, and forced postponement of a World Series game. An earthquake in Southern California (Northridge) in 1994 was the costliest in U.S. history. It caused more than \$20 billion in damage and killed 56 people.



Steinbeck



Hearst



Warren



Duncan

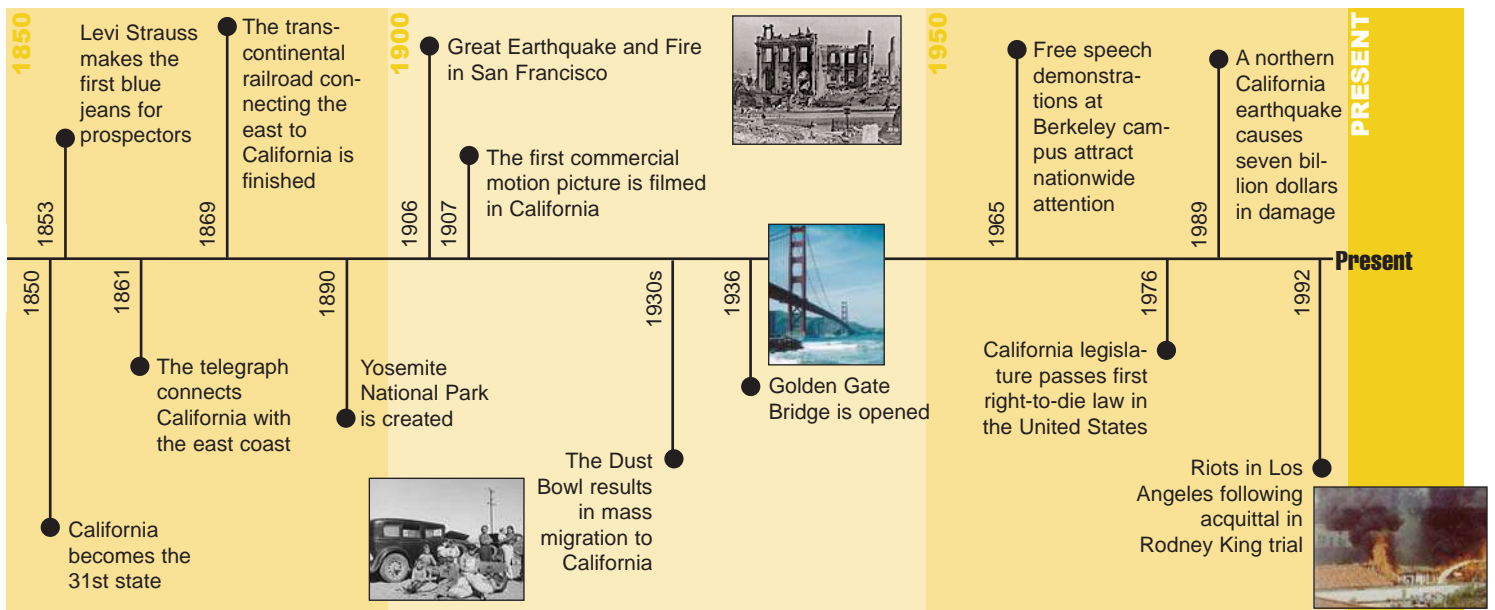


Famous People

Richard M. Nixon: 37th president of the United States
John Steinbeck: Nobel Prize-winning author
Adlai Stevenson: Statesman
William Randolph Hearst: Publisher
Earl Warren: Chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
Joe DiMaggio: Baseball player
John Muir: Naturalist and Sierra Club founder
Isadora Duncan: Modern dance pioneer

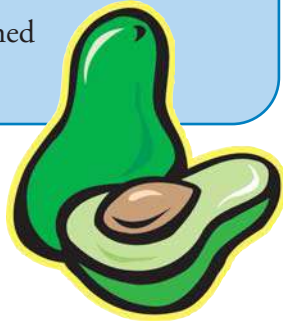
Earthquakes

The earth's crust is made of large areas called *tectonic plates*. When one or both plates move or slip, an earthquake occurs. The giant San Andreas Fault runs right down the most populated parts of California. Minor quakes rock the state daily, but serious quakes have affected the state as well. The Great San



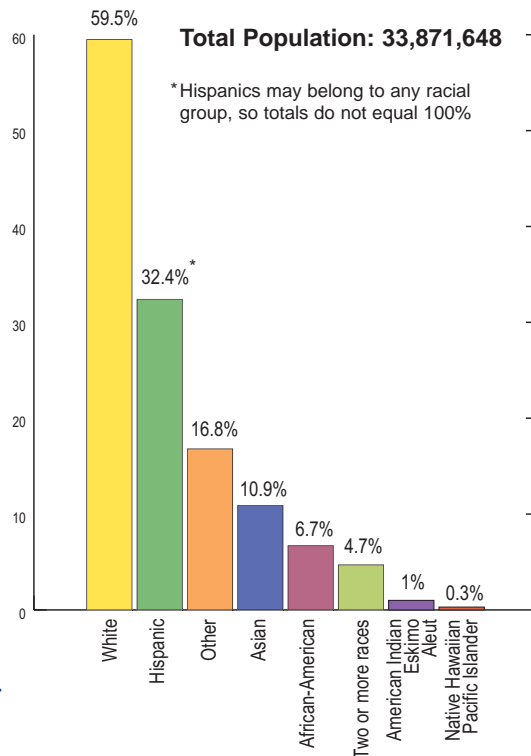
Did You Know?

- More turkeys are raised in California than in any other state.
- The first McDonald's restaurant was opened in San Bernardino.
- Fallbrook is called the Avocado Capital of the World.
- Marilyn Monroe, before she became a star, was crowned the Artichoke Queen in Castroville.
- In Pacific Grove, the law prohibits assaulting butterflies. The fine for breaking the law is five hundred dollars.
- There's enough water in Lake Tahoe to cover the whole state of California in 14.5 inches (37 cm) of water.
- During the Gold Rush, miners shipped their laundry to Honolulu because the prices in California were too high.
- California records about 500,000 detectable tremors or quakes each year.
- San Francisco was established in 1776.



Population

More people live in the Golden State than in any other state. In fact, about one out of every eight or nine Americans is a Californian! From 1860 to 1960, the population almost doubled every 20 years. Los Angeles is California's largest city and the second largest city in the United States. More than 90 percent of the people live in cities. Most of the population lives in or near San Francisco, San Diego, or Los Angeles. Because so many people live in urban areas, problems like pollution and heavy traffic arise. Crime is also a problem in some areas.



State Symbols



State Animal
California grizzly bear—These powerful animals were prevalent in the state at one time, but the last one was killed in 1922.



State Flower
Golden poppy—California Native Americans used the poppy as a food source and extracted oil from the plant.



State Tree
California redwood—Once common in the Northern Hemisphere, these majestic trees are found only on the Pacific coast today.



State Bird
California quail—Also called the valley quail, California quail feed in flocks about an hour or two after sunrise and an hour or two before sunset.

State Motto: *Eureka*—This Greek word means “I Have Found It” and refers to the discovery of gold in the state.

For more information: See www.state.ca.us or contact the California Division of Tourism, PO Box 1499, Sacramento, CA 95812; phone (800) GO-CALIF; Web site www.gocalif.ca.gov.

Government

Capital: Sacramento

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 53

Counties: 58

- California's legislature meets for one of the longest terms of any state legislature.
- The state casts 55 electoral votes in presidential elections.

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