

# How did the discovery of gold affect California?

## Grade 4 History-Social Science Content Standards

4.3 Students explain the economic, social, and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood.

4.3.3 Analyze the effects of the Gold Rush on settlements, daily life, politics, and the physical environment

## ELA Common Core State Standards

### Reading Standards for Informational Text

RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when and when drawing inferences from the text.

RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

RI.4.9: Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

RI.4.10: By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

### Writing

W.4.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

W.4.8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes, paraphrase, and categorize information, and provide a list of sources

## Gold Rush Artifacts:

### Artifact Analysis

What do you see? Describe the artifact: How does it look? Size, shape, color? Describe the material from which the artifact was made.		
What might it have been used for?		Evidence:
What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it?		Evidence:
What questions do we have?		

### Descriptive Word Chart (Example)

Start a chart of descriptive words and phrases to describe the first object (see below). You may want to add a mini-lesson on using descriptive language before moving on to the gallery walk.

#### Mini-lesson on Descriptive language

Size/Weight	Shape	Material	Texture & Color	
large small the size of a _____ Heavy Light	Round Oval Square Pointed rounded Irregularly shaped In the center inner Jutting out Adjacent touching Side by side Outer inverted	stone shell cloth bone skin grass/plant hard soft	smooth rough bumpy mottled shiny incandescent light dark shaded colorless multicolored	Old Primitive New Solid Has holes

# Document A

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majority - most

subscribers - people who buy the paper

advertisers - people who pay the newspaper for space to print their advertisements.

resounds - echoes

distasteful - not pleasant

neglected - left alone, not touched

manufactures - makes, produces

Mr. Buckelew, publisher of the *Californian* [Newspaper], stopped printing the newspaper on May 29, 1848 because there were no readers left in town and no newspaper workers left to print the paper. He wrote in his last paper:

“The majority of our subscribers and many of our advertisers have closed their doors and places of business and left town....The whole country, from San Francisco to Los Angeles and from the seashore to the Sierra Nevada, resounds with the [distasteful] cry of ‘gold! Gold!! GOLD!!!’ while the field is left half planted, the house half built, and everything neglected but the manufacture of shovels and pickaxes.”

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## Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the publisher have to stop printing his paper?
  2. Why did the publisher think that the sounds of people shouting "gold, Gold, GOLD" were distasteful?
  3. What is Mr. Buckelew's opinion? What is your evidence?
  3. What jobs were not getting done because of the discovery of gold?
  4. Why were shovels and pickaxes still being made?
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# How did the discovery of gold affect California?

## Evidence Collection: Document A

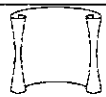
(To be used with the Historian's Tools)

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

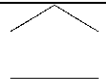
Is this a Primary or Secondary Source? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

What observations can you make about this source?



Type of Document

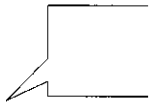


Historical Context

Author, Speaker, Creator

Audience, Listener,  
Recipient

Purpose



Content: Main Idea & Details

Is there any information in the source that helps me answer the question? Star the information that helps you answer the information.

Questions I have:

# Document B

San Francisco *Californian* [Newspaper]

August 15, 1848

Obtained - gotten

Labor - workers

Previous - before

"[Workers pay] has ever been high in California, but previous to the discovery of gold, the rates ranged from \$1 to \$3 per day. Since the [gold discovery] common labor cannot be obtained. Carpenters and other mechanics have been offered \$15 a day, but it has been flatly refused.

Some of our citizens want to build buildings and warehouses but all have had to suspend [stop] for the lack of that all important class of community, the working men."

## Discussion Questions

1. What was the pay for workers before the gold rush?
2. How did the worker's pay change after the gold rush started?
3. Why would workers refuse to work when they can make \$15 a day?
4. Why can't more buildings be built?
5. Where are all the working men?

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## Evidence Collection: Document B

(To be used with the Historian's Tools)


Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Primary or Secondary Source? \_\_\_\_\_

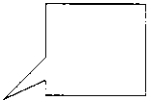
How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

What observations can you make about this source?

 Type of Document
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 Historical Context	Author, Speaker, Creator
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Audience, Listener, Recipient	Purpose
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 Content: Main Idea & Details
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Is there any information in the source that helps me answer the question? Star the information that helps you answer the information.
Questions I have:

## Journal Entry Focus Question:

### How did the discovery of gold affect California?

#### 1. Opening Sentence

- One way that the discovery of gold affected California was....
- California was affected by the gold rush because...
- An effect of the discovery of gold was.....
- Because of the discovery of gold.....
- .....because of the discovery of gold in California.

#### 2. Supporting your Idea with Evidence

- The document stated \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ said \_\_\_\_\_.  
(title of the source)

#### 3. Analyzing your Evidence

- This shows \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is evidence that \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is important because \_\_\_\_\_.

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