

California

A CHANGING STATE

An Atlas for California Students



Cover Icons



The *Coast Redwood* is the state tree. These trees grow more than 320 feet high and live more than 2,000 years. Redwood forests can be found from the Oregon **border** to the Central Coastal Range. Redwood trees thrive in areas of moderate to heavy rain and summer fog.



Kayaking is a popular activity in the clear rivers of Northwest California.



The *Gold Rush* began on January 24, 1848, when James Marshall discovered this precious metal in the Sierra Nevada **foothills**. Gold is the state **mineral**.



Lettuce is a cool season crop grown on the Central and Southern Coast and in the Central Valley. Lettuce production is highest in Monterey County.



The *California Grey Whale* is the state marine mammal. These mammals travel between nutrient-rich feeding grounds in the Arctic and warm water breeding grounds in Baja California. Gray whales measure 35-45 feet long as adults and weigh a ton for each foot of length.



The *State Capitol Building* is located in Sacramento. This is where the governor and lawmakers go to work.



The *California Valley Quail* is the state bird. These birds live from Southern Oregon to Southern California and east into Nevada. They are commonly found living in **grasslands** and brushy **woodlands**. These ground-dwelling birds mainly eat seeds, leaves, and insects.



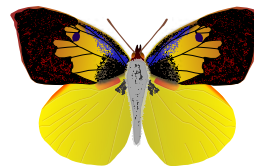
Half Dome is a distinctive mountain in Yosemite National Park. This rounded mass is a granite dome that rises 4,800 feet above the floor of Yosemite Valley. Each year, thousands of people climb to the top.



Oranges are one of California's most important crops. Many of these tasty citrus fruits are grown in the San Joaquin Valley.



Golden Trout are native to the Kern Plateau in the southern Sierra Nevada **mountain range**. This colorful fish is the state fish.



The *California Dogface Butterfly* is the state insect of California. The name comes from a wing pattern resembling a dog's face, which is found on the male of the species. Dogface butterflies are most common in the Santa Ana Mountains of Southern California.



The *Garibaldi* is a brightly colored fish that lives in the rocky bottoms of the Pacific Coast from Monterey Bay to Baja California. Young Garibaldis with bright blue spots on their reddish-orange bodies are even more colorful than the adults. The Garibaldi is the state marine fish.



The *Desert Tortoise* is the state reptile. Living in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts of Southeastern California, these reptiles live 80-100 years and grow to be 8-15 pounds. As herbivores, their diet consists of herbs, grasses, and wildflowers.



The California coastline stretches 840 miles between Oregon and Mexico. People of all ages enjoy *surfing* the waves along the coast.