

The Gold Rush



Did you know: Gold rushes happened in other places before California?

The Georgia Gold Rush started in 1829. So much gold was mined in the town of Dahlonega, Georgia that a United States Mint was established there to make coins from the gold. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 that led to the Trail of Tears helped open that area up for mining.

Even earlier, in 1690, a gold rush began in Brazil in South America. The Brazilian Gold Rush continues to this day, since gold is still being found there.

Refer to the map on page 24 to gather information about how people got to California to participate in the Gold Rush.

A hopeful gold miner might leave Independence, Missouri with other gold seekers and also settlers headed toward Oregon. The California and Oregon Trails share the same route until they split apart in the Rocky Mountains.

Where would someone stop on each journey? In the table to the right, number the stops that will come up along each route, after leaving Independence.

	Oregon Trail	California Trail
Fort Leavenworth		
Fort Kearney		
Fort Laramie		
Fort Bridger		
Fort Hall		
Salt Lake City		
Oregon City		
Sacramento		

From what other continents did gold seekers come to California?

Which cities on the western coast of Mexico had ports where you could get on a ship to San Francisco?

Refer to page 25 to gather information about gold deposits and gold production.

Did gold discoveries in Southern California happen before or after the Gold Rush started in 1848?

Compare the Gold Rush map to the Water Resources map on page 33 and name one river that runs through the Mother Lode?

Did all of the counties around the San Francisco Bay produce large amounts of gold?