



Come to California

California, our 31st state, is a record-breaker. It has the biggest population of all the states, with about 39 million people. Only Alaska and Texas are bigger in land area.



California was admitted to the Union in September 1850. Before becoming a state, the territory, which also included modern-day Arizona, Nevada, Colorado and Utah, belonged to Mexico.

Early peoples

Historians believe that more than 300,000 people lived in California before Europeans arrived. Today, there are more than 100 tribes of Indigenous people in the state. It has the second-largest Native American population of all the states.

With the state's different geographic areas, including mountains, deserts, forests and coastline, early people learned to develop different kinds of plants and manage their land. For instance, Indigenous people developed the idea of controlled burning to manage wildfires.

A growing state

In 1848, gold was discovered in Coloma, California. This led to the Gold Rush, which peaked in 1849. Gold miners were called "forty-niners"; about 300,000 arrived in the state to try to find gold. Today, San Francisco's NFL team is the 49ers.

Until 1869, when the transcontinental railroad was completed, it was very difficult for people to get to California and the West Coast. After the railroad made travel faster and easier, more people moved west. Later, during the early 20th century, a large number of Japanese people came to California. Many of the state's residents have Hispanic and Asian ancestors.

Modern economy

Today, California has the largest economy of any state. Its ports move more goods in and out than any other U.S. ports.

Farmers in the state raise dairy cattle, nuts, fruits and vegetables, and flowers. Silicon Valley, near San Jose, is home to many big tech firms, such as Apple, Meta, Intel and Netflix. Tourism also brings money to the state, with Disneyland and Hollywood attracting visitors.



California fun

California has 18 professional sports teams, with most in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. Californians love surfing, skating, beach volleyball, mountain climbing and motor sports like NASCAR.

Big events in California

- California is within the Ring of Fire, a belt around the Pacific Ocean that sees a lot of earthquakes and volcanoes. About 37,000 earthquakes are recorded there every year.

In April 1906, parts of northern California were struck by a strong earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. The main quake was followed by many aftershocks, and a large fire started in San Francisco, lasting several days. Experts think up to 3,000 people may have died as a result of the earthquake.



The Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 buckled and broke this overpass.

In 1989, another devastating earthquake struck central California, near Santa Cruz. Freeways and bridges were heavily damaged by the shaking.

- In recent years, wildfires have also affected Californians. In January of this year, fires caused more than 200,000 people to evacuate from the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. The fires are easily spread by dry Santa Ana winds that blow from inland toward the sea.

Resources



On the Web:
• bit.ly/MPCalifornia

At the library:
• "Golden Gate: Building the Mighty Bridge" by Elizabeth Partridge

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of California are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ASIAN, CALIFORNIA, CATTLE, COAST, DESERT, EARTHQUAKE, FAULT, FOREST, FRUITS, GOLD, MEXICO, MINERS, MOUNTAINS, RAILROAD, RUSH, TRIBES, WEST, WILDFIRE.

C C X C E E K A U Q H T R A E
W A Y A A R S N I A T N U O M
Y L M T D S I D T T R I B E S
N I E T P L I F T L X X T Z D
R F X L W K O A D Q U S L F E
R O I E J L E G N L E A R R S
T R C S R E N I M W I U F U E
B N O Y U Y Q R E W I W W S R
I I R P F O R E S T K Y H H T
D A O R L I A R S D C O A S T

Cook's Corner

Tomato Chicken

You'll need:


- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup water, boiling
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomatoes

- 1/2 cup tomato puree
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts

What to do:

- Cook onion in water in a medium pot over medium heat for 5 minutes or until onion is soft.
- Remove from heat. Add remaining ingredients except chicken. Mix well.
- Place chicken in an 8-by-8-inch baking dish.
- Pour tomato mixture evenly on top.
- Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.

Serves 4.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. Land along a shore with beaches, bays and inlets (5-letter noun)
_ _ _ _ _

2. Insect with a thin body and large colored wings (9-letter noun)
_ _ _ _ _

3. Soft yellow metal that miners wanted and hoped to find (4-letter noun)
_ _ _ _

4. A shaking or trembling of a part of the earth (10-letter noun)
_ _ _ _ _


1. People vacation along the _____ to see waves and seals.

2. The orange monarch _____ flies mostly in daytime.

3. In 1849, men traveled to California to try to find _____.

4. An _____ along the San Andreas Fault was mild.

ROOTONYM®
by Jan & Carey Ott Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Coast, Butterfly, Gold, Earthquake.

Mini Jokes

Callie: What did one earthquake say to the other?
Carson: "It's not my fault."

Eco Note

Penguin **guano**, or droppings, may be helping to cool the Antarctic climate by boosting cloud formation, scientists have found. New research shows that ammonia released from excrement reacts with gases from ocean plankton to form aerosol particles, which act as seeds for cloud creation. Clouds reflect sunlight and can help lower surface temperatures, potentially slowing Antarctic ice melt. The study recorded ammonia levels more than 1,000 times above normal, with particle formation rates spiking up to 10,000 times higher.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:
Look in your newspaper for news about things happening in California.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

KidSpot™ By Dan Thompson 7-26

THE PUZZLER

In this rhyming puzzle, you must solve the clues to supply the three rhyming words. For example, if the clues read "white bear, tooth, skate," the rhyming words would be "polar, molar, roller."

1. _____, _____, _____, m o l d.
to carry something, yellow precious metal, to form or shape into

2. b o a t, _____, _____, _____
water vessel, farm animal with horns, warm jacket

3. _____, h o l e, _____, _____
rounded dish, a small opening, a baby horse

4. _____, _____, _____, f a k e.
birthday dessert, a large body of water, not real

ANS: 1. HOLD, GOLD, MOLD. 2. BOAT, GOAT, COAT. 3. BOWL, HOLE, FOAL. 4. CAKE, LAKE, FAKE.

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