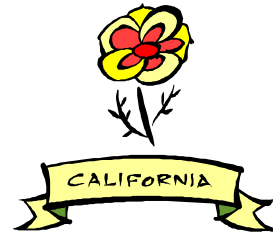


California State Facts

Lesson 1



1. What is California's state flower?

California's state flower is the **golden poppy**. Golden Poppies grow wild on hills and in valleys. The Spanish called them *copa de oro*, which means *cup of gold*.

2. What animal is on California's flag?

A **grizzly bear** is on California's flag. Grizzly bears represent strength. There are no more wild grizzly bears in California, but there are some in Canada and Alaska.

3. What ocean is California next to?

California is next to the **Pacific Ocean**. The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of the five oceans. In 2000, a new ocean was added to the map. It is called the Southern Ocean.

4. Which state is larger? California or Texas?

Texas is about 60 percent larger than California. Texas is 268,601 square miles and California is about 163,707 square miles. The largest state is Alaska, which is 656,425 square miles.

5. Which state has more people? California or New York?

California has more people than New York. In 2005, about 36,132,147 people lived in California and about 19,254,630 people lived in New York.

6. What is the capital of California?

The capital of California is Sacramento. When gold was discovered near **Sacramento** in 1848, its population and importance increased.

7. Who is the governor of California?

The governor of California is **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. He became the 38th governor of California in November of 2003. He is currently in his second term. Schwarzenegger is a republican.

8. What is California's nickname? Why?

California's nickname is the Golden State because of the **gold rush** and fields of **poppies**.

9. When did California become a state?

California became a state on **September 9, 1850**. It is our 31st state. Before California joined the United States, it belonged to Spain and then Mexico.

10. When was gold first discovered in California? Where was it discovered?

Gold was first discovered in California in **January of 1848**. It was discovered by James Marshall in **Coloma** near **Sutter's Fort** on the **American River**, near a sawmill owned by Captain John A. Sutter and James Marshall.