

# California State Facts

## Lesson 1

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### 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 2010, over 37,000,000 people lived in California and over 19,000,000 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 **Jerry Brown**. He became the state's 39th governor on January 3, 2011. He was also the Governor of California from 1975-1983. Brown is a Democrat. His full name is Edmund Gerald Brown, Jr.

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.