

Grade 5 News

Learn About the States!



3-2-1 Summary

Topic: _____

3 Things I Learned:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2 Things I Found Interesting:

1. _____
2. _____

1 Question I Still Have:

1. _____

A Peek At What Skills We Are Reviewing

Reading

Daily reading practice, informational/nonfiction texts, compare and contrast, ask questions and reread

Word Work

Imagine Learning or Lexia (online resources)

Writing

Cite evidence and facts, text features, explain points of interest from texts, draw a diagram, map, chart or graph, list natural resources

Feedback on Writing

When giving feedback to children, describe at least one thing they did well on the assignment. Students need to build on their strengths to improve writing skills. You can also ask questions to uncover their thinking and include students in making decisions about their writing. If needed, offer only one or two specific suggestions for any changes and suggest next steps. The best feedback moves students forward in becoming better writers!

Grade 5 ELA

Activity 1

- **Imagine Language & Literacy or Lexia – 20-30 minutes three times a week.**
 - Log in through Clever
- **Reading- Read for 20 minutes each day (Nonfiction Text)**

Title _____

Author _____

Throughout the week we will be exploring different states in the U.S.A. Before you read think about what you already know about that specific state as well as anything you want to learn.

Reading Comprehension

Read about California.

Writing

- Write down 5 interesting things you learned about California. Be specific and cite evidence from the text.

Vocabulary

- The text talks about “natural resources.” List some of the natural resources that California produces and explain why you think those resources grow best there.

Further your thinking...

- After reading this selection, complete the 3-2-1 Summary graphic organizer.

California

Get facts and photos about the 31st state.

BY JAMIE KIFFEL-ALCHEH

FAST FACTS

- NICKNAME: The Golden State
- STATEHOOD: 1850; 31st state
- POPULATION (AS OF JULY 2015): 39,144,818
- CAPITAL: Sacramento
- BIGGEST CITY: Los Angeles
- ABBREVIATION: CA
- STATE BIRD: California valley quail
- STATE FLOWER: California poppy

HISTORY

More than 20,000 years ago, the first people arrived in what is now California. They walked from Asia, crossing on a strip of land that's now submerged under a body of water between [Russia](#) and the [United States](#) called the Bering Strait. For thousands of years, hundreds of [Native American tribes](#) thrived on this land.

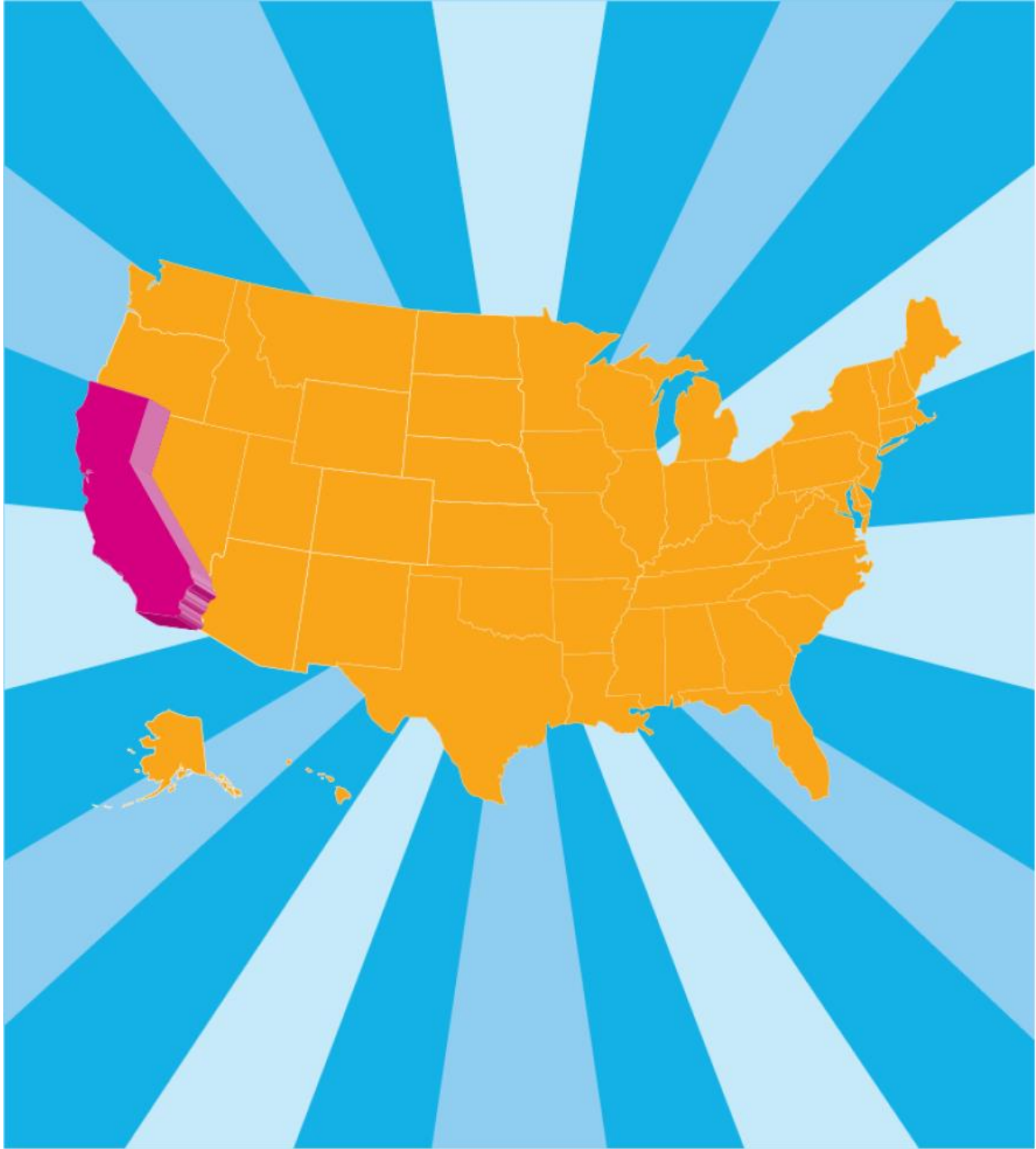
Europeans landed in the 16th century, with Spanish explorers leading the way. But when [Mexico](#) gained its independence from [Spain](#) in 1821, it also gained control of California. That didn't last long: in 1848, at the end of the Mexican-American War, California became a U.S. territory. When gold was struck in 1849 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, more than 100,000 people, nicknamed "forty-niners," rushed to California to seek their fortunes. Just a year later, in 1850, California officially became a state.

WHY'S IT CALLED THAT?

The name California comes from a 16th-century Spanish novel that describes a mythical paradise called California.

The gold rush probably helped earn California the nickname the Golden State, as did its golden poppies, the state flower.

GEOGRAPHY AND LANDFORMS



California is bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the west, [Oregon](#) in the north, [Nevada](#) and [Arizona](#) in the east, and Mexico in the south.

Follow the 1,100-mile coastline for sandy beaches, cliffs, and mountains. Or head northeast to discover forests with redwood trees that are about 380 feet tall—about as tall as a football field is long. East of the redwoods

is Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the 48 contiguous states and part of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Like the heat? Travel southeast to the 25,000-square-mile Mojave Desert. The center of the state is called the Central Valley, where you'll find miles of farmland.

WILDLIFE



Keep an eye out for black bears, [mountain lions](#), bighorn sheep, wild pigs, deer, and elk. And search the skies for a sight of [bald eagles](#), California condors, and California quails, the state bird. Swimming off the coast are [green sea turtles](#), [leatherback sea turtles](#), [California sea lions](#), [sea otters](#), and [blue whales](#).

About 6,500 types of plants thrive in California. You can see Joshua trees, which grow only in the Mojave Desert; perfumed magnolia trees; thorny coral trees; purple-flowered jacarandas; and lots of cacti.

NATURAL RESOURCES

There's a good chance that piece of fruit you're eating was grown in California. The state is the top U.S. producer of lemons, apricots, avocados, dates, figs, grapes, kiwi, nectarines, peaches, raspberries, strawberries, and many others. And it's not just fruit—California leads the

nation in production of almonds, pistachios, and walnuts. It even grows over 90 percent of the broccoli that's produced in the United States.

The state also produces timber, cement, natural gas, and petroleum.

FUN STUFF



—California's Death Valley is North America's hottest desert, with an average daily high in the month of June of **115.5° F**. Tank up before you drive there. Gas stations can be 50 miles apart.

—The world's biggest tree by volume is General Sherman, a giant sequoia tree in Sequoia National Park. It's **102 feet** around—that's bigger than a basketball court—and may be as many as **2,700 years** old.

—More movies have been filmed in California than any other state.

—Waves that reach over 50 feet high attract surfers to the state. In **1955**, Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California. Since then about **750 million** people have visited the park.

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