

SECTION 4 New Settlers in California and Utah

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The lure of gold and the promise of religious freedom drew many settlers westward.

Key Terms

forty-niners, boomtown, vigilante

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read Section 4, re-create the diagram below. In the boxes, describe who these groups and individuals were and what their role was in the settlement of California and Utah.

	What was their role?
Forty-niners	
Mormons	
Brigham Young	

Read to Learn

- how the hopes of getting rich drew thousands of people to California.
- how the search for religious freedom led to the settlement of Utah.

Section Theme

Groups and Institutions In the mid-1800s, people went to California in search of gold, and Mormons settled in Utah in search of religious freedom.



Preview of Events



AN American Story



Gold miner's cradle

James Marshall was building a sawmill on the South Fork of the American River in California. He worked for John Sutter, who owned a vast tract of land about 35 miles from present-day Sacramento. On January 24, 1848, Marshall saw something shining in a ditch. "I reached my hand down and picked it up," he wrote later. "It made my heart thump, for I was certain it was gold." Looking around, he found other shiny pieces. Marshall rushed to show the glittering pieces to Sutter, who determined that they were gold. Sutter tried to keep the discovery a secret, but word soon leaked out. The great California Gold Rush was underway!

California Gold Rush

People from all over the world flocked to California in search of quick riches. More than 80,000 people came to California looking for gold in 1849 alone. Those who arrived in 1849 were called **forty-niners**. An official in Monterey reported that "the farmers have thrown aside their plows, the lawyers their

Thinking Past & Present

Jeans

In 1873 Levi Strauss, a dry goods merchant living in San Francisco, and Jacob Davis, a Nevada tailor, developed and began to market denim pants reinforced with small copper tacks called rivets. Levi's popular denims—called blue jeans today—are known for their durability and quality.

Early Levi ads were aimed at miners and farmers.

At one time, jeans were associated exclusively with hard work. Now they're worn everywhere.

The Californios

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war with Mexico made **Californios** (Mexican Californians) citizens of the United States. The treaty also guaranteed them the rights to their lands. But these rights would soon be weakened.

The Land Law of 1851 set up a group of people to review the Californios' land rights. The Californios had to prove what land they owned. When a new settler claimed the rights to a Californio's land, the two parties would go to court. Some Californios were able to prove their claims. Many, however, lost their land.

Life in California

As people rushed to a new area to look for gold, they built new communities, called **boomtowns**, almost overnight. At one site on the Yuba River where only two houses stood in September 1849, a miner arrived the next year to find a town of 1,000 people "with a large number of hotels, stores, groceries, bakeries, and . . . gambling houses." The miners gave some of the boomtowns colorful names such as Shinbone Peak and You Bet.

Cities also flourished during the Gold Rush. As ships arrived daily with gold seekers and adventurers, San Francisco grew from a tiny village to a city of about 20,000 people.

Most of the hopeful forty-niners had no experience in mining. Rushing furiously from place to place, they attacked hillsides with pickaxes and shovels and spent hours bent over streambeds, "washing" or "panning" the water to seek gold dust and nuggets.

The California Gold Rush more than doubled the world's supply of gold. For all their effort, however, very few of the forty-niners achieved lasting wealth. Most of the miners found little or no gold. Many of those who did lost their riches through gambling or wild spending.

Merchants, however, made huge profits. They could charge whatever they liked because the miners had no place else to go to buy food and other essential items. Eggs sold for \$10 a dozen. A Jewish immigrant named **Levi Strauss** sold the miners sturdy pants made of denim. His "Levi's" made him rich.

briefs, the doctors their pills, the priests their prayer books, and all are now digging gold." By the end of 1848, they had taken \$6 million in gold from the American River.

Many of the gold seekers came to California by sea. Others came overland, traveling on the Oregon Trail or the Santa Fe Trail and then pushing westward through California's **Sierra Nevada** mountain range.

Americans made up about 80 percent of the forty-niners. Others came from Mexico, South America, Europe, and Australia. About 300 men arrived from China, the first large group of Asian immigrants to come to America. Although some eventually returned to China, others remained, establishing California's Chinese American community.

Gold Rush Society

Very few women lived in the mining camps, which were populated by men of all races and walks of life. Lonely and suffering from the hardships of mining, many men spent their free hours drinking, gambling, and fighting.

Mining towns had no police or prisons, so lawbreakers posed a real threat to business owners and miners. One miner wrote,

“Robberies and murders were of daily occurrence. Organized bands of thieves existed in the towns and in the mountains.”

Concerned citizens formed vigilance committees to protect themselves. The **vigilantes** (VIH•juh•LAN•tees) took the law into their own hands, acting as police, judge, jury, and sometimes executioner.

Economic and Political Progress

The Gold Rush ended within a few years but had lasting effects on California’s economy. Agriculture, shipping, and trade expanded to meet the miners’ needs for food and other goods. Many people who had come looking for gold stayed to farm or run a business. California’s population soared, increasing from about 20,000 in 1848 to more than 220,000 only four years later.

Such rapid growth brought the need for more effective government. Zachary Taylor, the Mexican War hero and now president, urged the people of California to apply for statehood. They did so, choosing representatives in September 1849 to write a constitution. Once their constitution was approved, Californians elected a governor and state legislators.

California applied to Congress for statehood in March 1850. Because California’s constitution banned slavery, however, the request caused a crisis in Congress. The Southern states objected to making California a state because it would upset the balance of free and slave states. California did not become a state until Congress worked out a compromise six months later.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why did the forty-niners come to California?

A Religious Refuge in Utah

A visitor to the Utah Territory in the 1850s wrote admiringly: “The whole of this small nation occupy themselves as usefully as the working bees of a hive.” This account described the **Mormons**, or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mormons had come to Utah to fulfill their vision of the godly life.

The First Mormons

Joseph Smith founded the church in 1830 in New York State. He had visions that led him to launch a new Christian church. He hoped to use these visions to build an ideal society.

Smith believed that property should be held in common. He believed God had called him as a prophet to restore the ancient church and claimed an angel had given him new scriptures to help clarify teachings in the Bible.

Smith formed a community in New York, but unsympathetic neighbors disapproved of the

Causes and Effects of Westward Movement

Causes

- Americans accept Manifest Destiny.
- As the East becomes more crowded, Americans want more land.
- The West contains furs, lumber, and precious metals.

Effects

- Native Americans are forced off their lands.
- The United States wars with Mexico.
- The U.S. extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Graphic Organizer Skills

Americans believed the United States had the right to expand to the Pacific Ocean.

Analyzing Information Why was the West attractive to many settlers?



Analyzing Political Cartoons

Cartoons of the period often showed Americans rushing to California in hopes of striking it rich. **What idea do you think the cartoonist is presenting?**



Mormons' religion. They forced the Mormons to move on. From New York the Mormons went to Ohio, then to Missouri, and then Illinois.

In 1844 a mob in Illinois killed Smith, and **Brigham Young** took over as head of the Mormons. Young decided the Mormons should move again, this time near the **Great Salt Lake** in present-day Utah. Although part of Mexico at that time, no Mexicans had settled in the region because of its harsh terrain.

A Haven in the Desert

The Mormon migration to the Great Salt Lake area began in 1846. About 12,000 Mormons made the trek—the largest single migration in American history. In the midst of the desert they set up communities in an area they called **Deseret**.

With hard work and determination, the Mormons made Deseret flourish. They planned their towns carefully and built irrigation canals to

water their farms. They also founded industries so they could be self-sufficient. Mormon merchants sold supplies to the forty-niners who passed through Utah on their way to California.

In 1848 the United States acquired the Salt Lake area as part of the settlement of the war with Mexico. In 1850 Congress established the Utah Territory, and President Millard Fillmore made Brigham Young its governor.

Utah was not easily incorporated into the United States. The Mormons often had conflicts with federal officials. In 1857 and 1858, war almost broke out between the Mormons and the United States Army. Utah did not become a state until 1896.

Reading Check Explaining Why was Deseret able to grow economically?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT



Study Central™ To review this section, go to tarvol1.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central™**.

Checking for Understanding

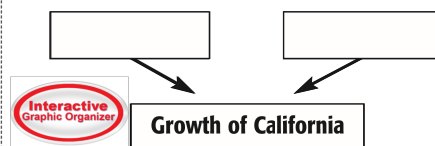
- Key Terms** Use each of these terms in a complete sentence that will help explain its meaning: **forty-niners, boomtown, vigilante.**
- Reviewing Facts** Why was California's entry into the Union delayed?

Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** What steps did Californians take to apply for statehood? When was California admitted?

Critical Thinking

- Predicting Consequences** How might the history of California have been different if the Gold Rush had not happened?
- Organizing Information** Re-create the diagram below. In the boxes, describe how the Gold Rush helped California's economy grow.



Analyzing Visuals

- Graphic Organizer Skills** Study the cause-and-effect chart on page 377. Are each of the effects of the westward movement positive? Explain.

Interdisciplinary Activity

Art Boomtowns sprang up almost overnight as gold seekers flocked to the West. Draw a scene of a boomtown. Include a written description of the activities that took place in the town.

America's LITERATURE

Hamlin Garland (1860–1940)



Hamlin Garland was born in rural Wisconsin and grew up on farms in Iowa and South Dakota. At the

age of 24, he moved to Boston to begin his writing career. Although he gave up the life of a prairie farmer, Garland's work—fiction and nonfiction—reflects his background and his concern for the hard, lonely lives of pioneer men and women.

READ TO DISCOVER

A Son of the Middle Border is Garland's autobiography. The following excerpt describes one of the many westward moves that the Garland family made. As you read, pay attention to the emotions that the author expresses when he sees the plains for the first time.

READER'S DICTIONARY

middle border: the advancing frontier across the Mississippi River

habitation: residence

blue-joint: type of prairie grass

A Son of the Middle Border

Late in August my father again loaded our household goods into wagons, and with our small herd of cattle following, set out toward the west, bound once again to overtake the actual line of the **middle border**.

This journey has an unforgettable epic charm as I look back upon it. Each mile took us farther and farther into the unsettled prairie, until in the afternoon of the second day, we came to a meadow so wide that its western rim touched the sky without revealing a sign of man's **habitation** other than the road in which we travelled.

The plain was covered with grass tall as ripe wheat and when my father stopped his team and came back to us and said, "Well, children, here we are on The Big Prairie," we looked about us with awe, so endless seemed this spread of wild oats and waving **blue-joint**.

Far away dim clumps of trees showed, but no chimney was in sight, and no living thing moved save our own cattle and the hawks lazily wheeling in the air. My heart filled with awe as well as wonder. . . .

Sunset came at last, but still he drove steadily on through the sparse settlements. Just at nightfall we came to a beautiful little stream and stopped to let the horses drink.

I heard its rippling, reassuring song on the pebbles. Thereafter all is dim and vague to me until my mother called out sharply, "Wake up, children! Here we are!"

Struggling to my feet I looked about me. Nothing could be seen but the dim form of a small house. On every side the land melted into blackness, silent and without boundary.



Child's doll made of cornhusks

ANALYZING LITERATURE

- 1. Recall and Interpret** Give two details that Garland uses to describe "The Big Prairie."
- 2. Evaluate and Connect** How does Garland feel about the prairie and the move west? Explain.

Interdisciplinary Activity

Descriptive Writing Write a poem about a vast empty place that you know, or base your poem on a place you have read about.

Chapter Summary

Manifest Destiny

Through war and negotiations, the United States acquires Texas, Oregon, California, Utah, and the remainder of the Southwest. By 1850 thousands and thousands of settlers cross the Great Plains for new homes.



Reviewing Key Terms

Use the vocabulary terms to create a newspaper article in which you describe events in the Southwest during this era.

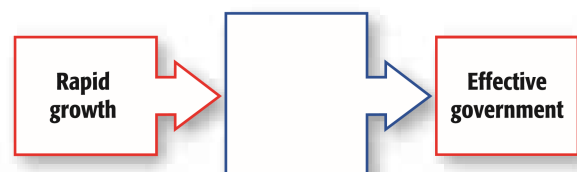
1. emigrant
2. Tejano
3. empresario
4. rancho
5. forty-niner

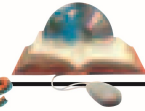
Reviewing Key Facts

6. What agreement did the United States and Great Britain reach about the Oregon Territory?
7. Why did President Jackson refuse to annex Texas?
8. Why did some Americans think that making California part of the United States would strengthen the security of the nation?
9. Explain the two main causes of the United States's war with Mexico.
10. Why did merchants earn such large profits during the Gold Rush?
11. **Analyzing Information** Reread the feature on page 363 about Stephen F. Austin. Why was Austin a good spokesperson for American settlers in Texas?

Critical Thinking

12. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did economic troubles in the East affect settlement in the Oregon area?
13. **Analyzing Themes: Geography and History** How did the war with Mexico change the U.S. border and its land holdings?
14. **Drawing Conclusions** What reactions do you think the governments of Great Britain and Mexico had to the American idea of Manifest Destiny?
15. **Comparing** How did the negotiations between the United States and Britain over the Oregon Territory differ from those between the United States and Mexico over the Southwest?
16. **Determining Cause and Effect** Re-create the diagram below. In the box, explain what led to the need for a more effective government in California.





Self-Check Quiz

Visit tarvol1.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 12—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.



Geography and History Activity

Study the routes of the western trails shown on the map above. Then answer the questions that follow.

- Region** Which mountains did settlers have to cross to reach Oregon's Pacific coast? California's Pacific coast?
- Location** In what city did the Oregon Trail begin? In what city did it end?

Citizenship Cooperative Activity

- Analyzing Issues** With a partner, read the newspaper to find out what problems your state faces. Perhaps your state has a large budget deficit, or the crime rate has increased sharply. List the problems and describe what you would do if you were governor. List your options and the advantages and disadvantages of each one. Choose a solution and explain why it is the best option.

Practicing Skills

- Understanding Latitude and Longitude** Turn to the map of the world on pages RA14–RA15 of the Reference Atlas. What is the largest land area both west of the Prime Meridian and entirely north of the Equator?



Technology Activity

- Using a Database** Search your library's card catalog for books and reports containing information about Salt Lake City and the state of Utah. Use this information to make an alphabetical directory of historic sites to visit. Your list might include museums, sites of businesses, or other places of interest.



Alternative Assessment

- Portfolio Writing Activity** If you were asked to make a film about one event described in this chapter, what would it be? In your journal describe the event and make a list of at least three people from history who would be in your movie. Then suggest the names of modern movie or TV stars you think would be suitable for these roles.

Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Choose the *best* answer to the following question.

The discovery of gold in California led to which of the following?

- A Discovery of gold in the Black Hills of the Dakotas
- B Increased western expansion and foreign immigration
- C Annexation of California as a slave state
- D War with Mexico over the independence of California

Test-Taking Tip:

This question is a good example of *cause and effect*. Think about other times in history when people have discovered something of value in an area. What effect did this discovery have on people's behavior?

THINKING CRITICALLY

You Decide

Let's Go West

Put yourself on a farm in Missouri in the 1840s. You work hard, but this year has been the most difficult. The crops have failed, and surviving winter will be a challenge. You meet other farmers traveling past your home on their way to the Oregon country or California. They speak of free, fertile land and new opportunities. Married settlers can claim a square mile, 640 acres, of the Oregon country at no cost. After much thought, you too decide to move your family west.

Analyzing the Issue

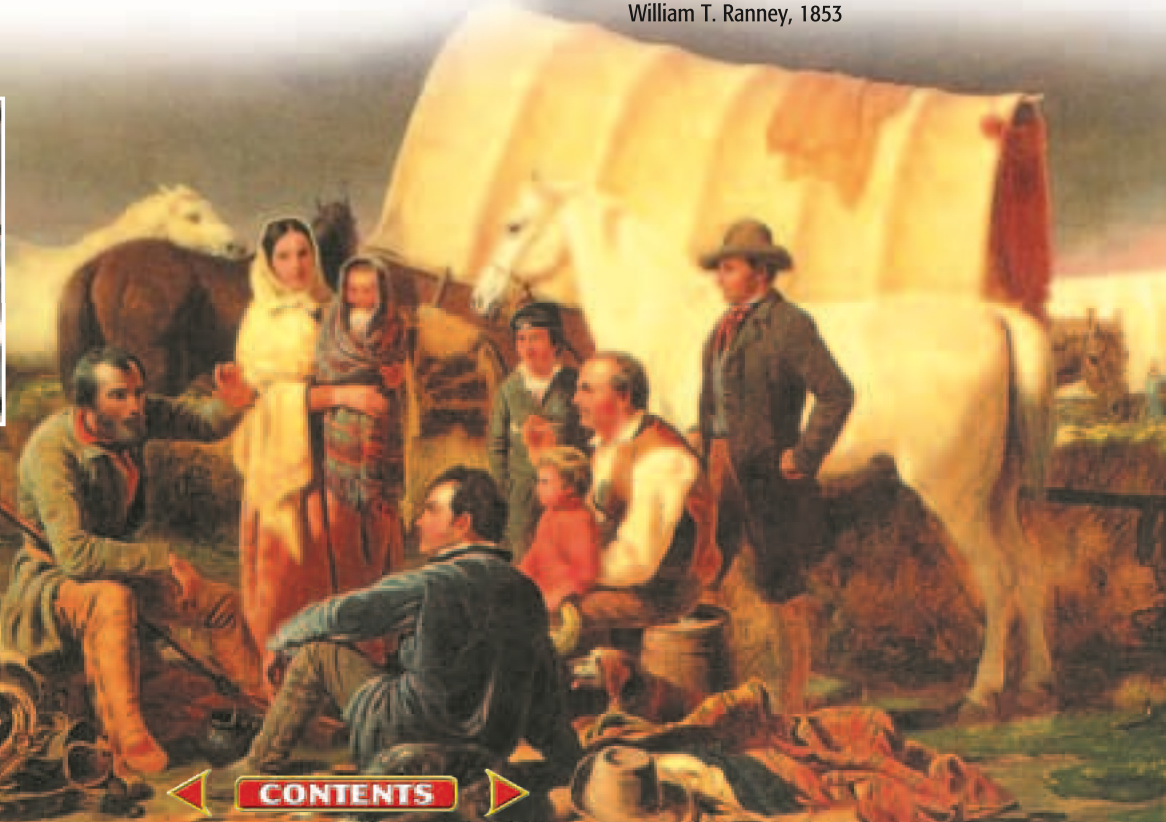
You, together with your spouse and two children, have decided to join a wagon train—a group of other families moving west. You will be traveling about 2,000 miles over rough country, finding your way with only the aid of natural landmarks. You will travel to either the Oregon country or to California. The trip will take about five months and must be completed before winter. Your goal is to survive and to make sure your family survives. Not knowing exactly what to expect, you have some research to do and decisions to make.

Believe It or Not!

Along the Oregon Trail, travelers lacked firewood for fuel over long parts of the trail. Looking for an alternative, they discovered dried buffalo dung burned well and was plentiful. The buffalo droppings—called chips—served another purpose too. Children would throw the chips back and forth for fun—the first, pioneer-type Frisbees?

Advice on the Prairie by
William T. Ranney, 1853

Inside of Conestoga Wagon



What To Do

After you have organized into groups of four to six, follow the directions to make decisions about your trip. Decide upon specific tasks for each member of your group and who will research the following items.

Research the following:

- 1 Your destination and departure date
- 2 What route you should follow (A map will need to be drawn.)
- 3 A set of “rules for the road” (For example, up at dawn, on the road by seven, careful use of water, drive at least 15 miles per day, walk nearly all the way, etc.)
- 4 What supplies you will carry with you (You will need to research and estimate the weights of supplies because you may only take with you what you can carry in your wagon. The wagon dimensions are 4 feet by 10 feet, and at least 1,000 pounds of food is needed for a four-person family. Be careful not to overload your wagon—you do not want the wagon to break down or your animals to become exhausted.)
- 5 What mode of power will your wagon use?
 - mules (most sure-footed, but expensive and hard to control)
 - horses (can pull wagons faster, but can easily become ill)
 - oxen (slowest, strongest, and have most endurance)

Presentation

- 6 Once you have collected your data, make your decisions and prepare your presentation. The format of the presentation is up to the group.



Go a Step Further

The Oregon Trail is the nation’s longest graveyard. In 25 years, thousands died from illness, accidents, and drownings. Using your experience with this activity, answer this question: What do you think was the major cause for failure for wagon trains traveling west? Answer the question by writing the story of one such possible failure.