

# The Gold Rush

Today, you will be able to:

**Describe** how different immigrant groups interacted with the environment and **explain** their reasons for immigration



# The Gold Rush in California

1. Read the presentation readings
2. Summarize the guided questions
3. Complete your Postcard





Westward Expansion  
Vocabulary

# Westward Expansion Vocabulary Page



Westward Expansion  
Vocabulary

Pages 77-78

**Timeline Voc.**

Destiny

Expansionist

To Acquire

Pioneer

Annex

**Western Trails Voc.**

Wagon Train

Conestoga Wagon

49ers

Mormons

**Land Acquisitions Voc.**

Territorial Acquisition

Treaty

Cede (cession)

**Gold Rush Voc.**

Mineral

Miner

Metal

# Mineral

A solid natural substance





# Miner

A person who works in a mine



# Metal

A solid shiny material





# The Gold Rush

1849 CALIFORNIA

Directions:  
Read the Gold Rush  
readings.  
Answer the questions  
on the Gold Rush  
newsletter

## The Gold Rush



Gold is Discovered

Life as a Miner

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Mining Camps

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Gold Rush Ended

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The Forty-Niners

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Forty-Niners' Legacy

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Challenges of Travel

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# Gold is Discovered

In 1848, carpenter James Marshall was building a sawmill on the American River in northern California. Suddenly, he spotted a shiny **mineral** in the water. It was GOLD! When gold was discovered, people across California dropped everything to race to the goldfields.

- Who discovered gold in California?
- What did everyone do when gold was discovered?





# STRIKE IT RICH!

THE STORY OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH





# The Forty-Niners

- How many gold seekers traveled to California?
- Most of the forty-niners were all what..?

By 1849, tens of thousands of gold seekers from around the world had joined the California gold rush. About two thirds of these forty-niners were Americans. The rest came from Mexico, South America, Europe, Australia, and even China. Most forty-niners were young, and almost all were men.



FOR  
**CALIFORNIA!**

**DIRECT**

**EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS!**

**THIRTY-FIVE DAYS TO GOLD REGIONS!**

The "California Steam Navigation Co."

Will dispatch their best vessel from New York, the "NEW" and "SPLENDID."

**STEAMSHIP!**

**NICARAGUA**

HAYES J. JERRELL, Master, positively

**ON FRIDAY, MARCH 23d, 1849.**

Via the River St. John and Lake Nicaragua, across the Isthmus of Central America.

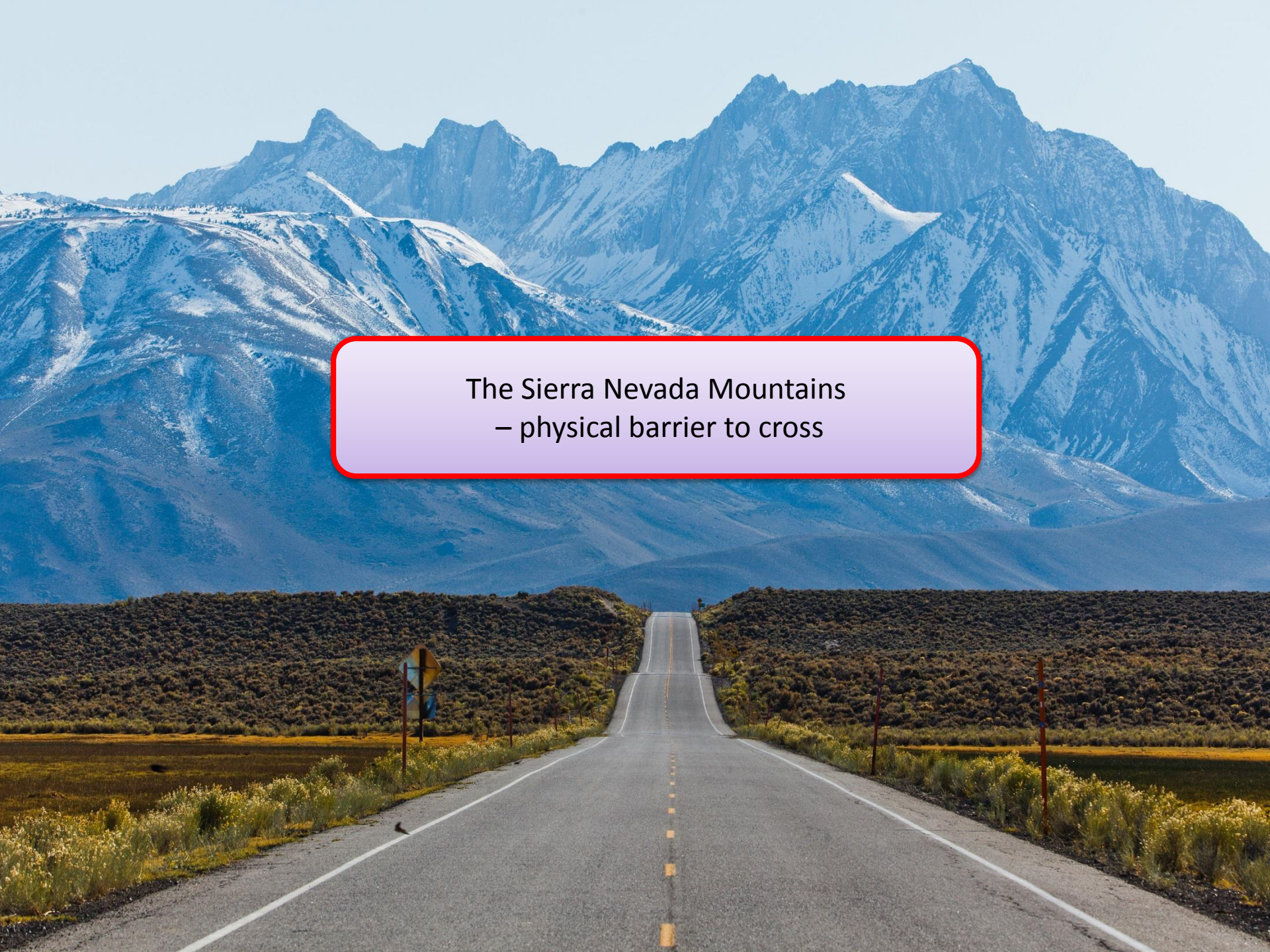
# Challenges of Travel

- What were the physical landforms travelers had to cross?
- What made the journey dangerous and difficult?

The forty-niners' first challenge was simply getting to California. From China and Australia, they had to brave the rough crossing of the Pacific Ocean. From the East, many traveled by ship that crossed through dangerous jungles. Traveling West, pioneers had a difficult journey over the Rockies and Sierra Nevada mountains.







The Sierra Nevada Mountains  
– physical barrier to cross




# Mining Camps

- Describe the setting of the mining camps.
- What did the miners fought over?

Wherever gold was spotted, mining camps took over. With no police to keep order the camps were rough places. **Miners** frequently fought over the boundaries of their claims, and they took it on themselves to punish crimes.







Every day goes by, the  
gold is harder to find





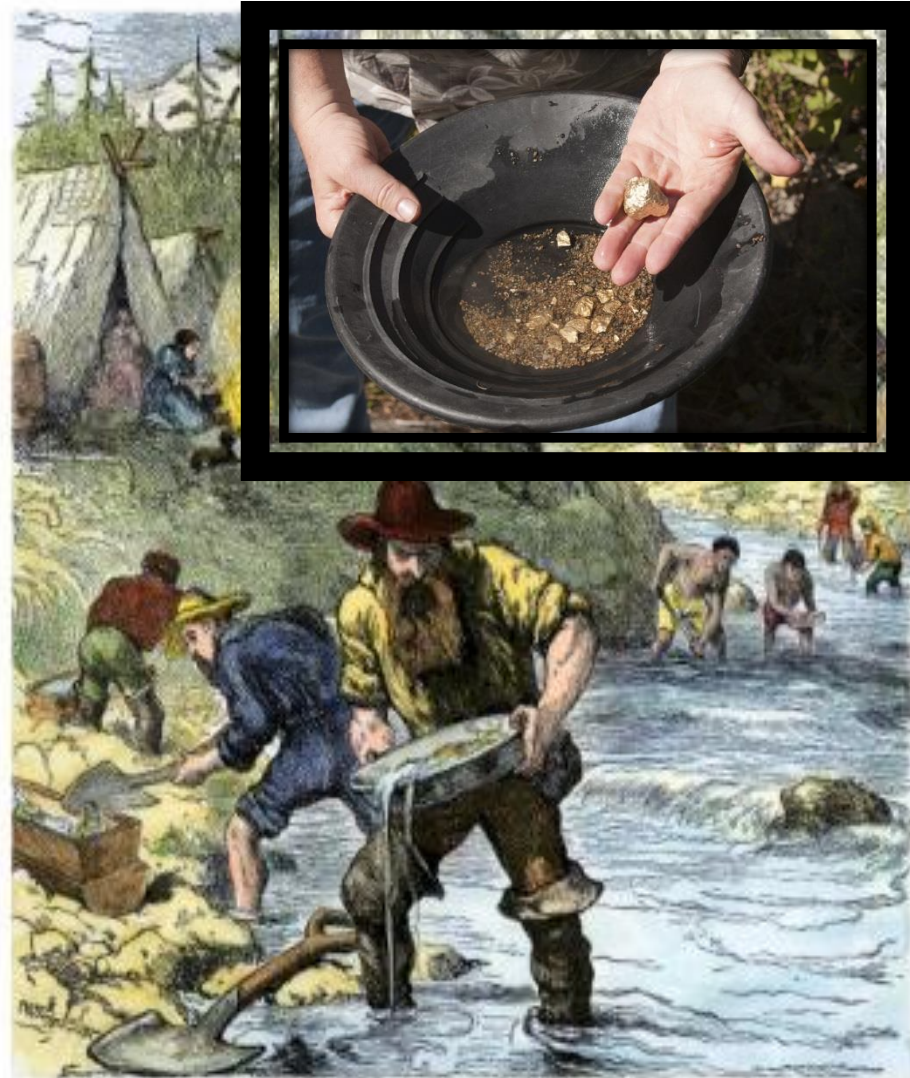
The gold mining is dangerous work



# Life as a Miner

- Why was digging for gold was difficult work?

Digging for gold was difficult work. The miners spent long days digging up mud, dirt, and stones while standing knee-deep in icy streams for this precious **metal**. All too soon, the easy-to-find gold was gone. The day of quick fortune-making is over.







**"California  
as we saw it"**

**Exploring  
the California**

**Gold  
Rush**



# Gold Rush Ended

- What happened in 1852?
- What happened to California's Indians?

By 1852, the gold rush was over. While it lasted, about 250,000 people flooded into California. For California's Indians, the legacy of this invasion was dreadful. Warfare and disease lost their land to the newcomers.

**Growth of Population in San Francisco, 1848–1850**







# Forty-Niners' Legacy

- What was the legacy of the forty-niners?
- How did Californians transform the Golden State?

The forty-niners also left a successful legacy. By 1850, California had enough people to become the first state in the far west. These new Californians helped to transform the Golden State into a diverse land of economic opportunity.





# The Gold Rush Postcard





# Postcard

**You are a gold miner traveling on the California Trail. Describe your journey on the trail and discuss your fortune of finding gold in California.**

- ❖ What physical land features you had to cross on the California Trail?
- ❖ What were you hoping to find in California?
- ❖ What will do you do if you find gold?
- ❖ Will you travel back or stay in California?  
Explain Why.



Summary of the  
Gold Rush **Here**

Draw Picture **Here**

To:  
From:

**The Gold  
Rush**