

History



Introduction

Because the history of California can inspire fascinating interpretation, a Junior Ranger program that allows children to step back in time through their imaginations can be both thought-provoking and fun.

The most exciting thing about a history program is all of its great possibilities. Find out about historic events that occurred at or near your park. Are you located in a gold rush region? A mission? A fort? Near a railroad? One of the best ways to help the history of our state become real to Junior Rangers is to have them re-enact events that occurred at a park, either by playing the role of a historic figure or by doing something the way it was done in the past. A child can better understand who he or she is by learning about the people who came before. For example, at Sutter's Fort SHP children have an opportunity to relive history as historic characters. Among other activities, they learn how to make tortillas over a fire, weave baskets, start a fire without matches, weave at a loom, and make things out of leather. You can do the same sorts of things on a smaller scale in your Junior Ranger history program.

We have included three sample programs and lots of interpretive ideas from veteran program leaders. Choose those most relevant to your park's history and have fun.

Interesting History Facts

- There are estimates that at least 135 different Indian languages were spoken in California in the mid 1700s.
- Scholars believe about 300,000 California Indians lived within the present borders of California before the Spaniards and other Europeans arrived.
- Early Spanish explorers of California's coastline were looking for riches and a passage through North America to Europe (the legendary Northwest Passage).
- Twenty-one missions were established, from San Diego in the south to Sonoma in the north. They were located approximately 30 miles apart, or a single day's journey along the royal road (El Camino Real).
- California became part of the independent Mexican empire in 1822.
- Mexicans who wanted land in California had to draw a sketch map (*diseño*) showing the trees, rivers, and other features on the property. This was submitted with a petition to the government. Each grantee surveyed his or her land from horseback, planting stakes and measuring the acreage with rope between natural landmarks. Possession of the land was done ceremoniously and included stones being cast to the four winds.
- Flags of the Spanish Empire, England, Russia, the Mexican Empire, and the Bear Flag Revolt once flew over California.
- On board ships of many nations, sea otter pelts and later cattle hides and tallow were traded by *Californios* for cloth, shoes, hardware, tools, and furniture.
- The first overland immigrant train to California, led by John Bartleson and John Bidwell, arrived at John Marsh's ranch on November 4, 1841.
- Immediately following James Marshall's discovery of gold on January 24, 1848 (at Sutter's mill on the American River), there was no mad rush there, simply because nothing like this had ever happened before. A San Francisco newspaper in early May of that year noted that "A few fools have hurried . . . but you may be sure there is nothing in it."
- During the gold rush, fortune seekers from the eastern United States trekked across the great plains, made the voyage around Cape Horn, or sailed by way of the Isthmus of Panama. These routes took four to nine heartbreaking, dangerous months of travel.
- In 100 years, miners in California found two billion dollars worth of gold.

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- California became the 31st state of the Union on September 9, 1850, after nearly a year of debate in Congress over whether it would be a free or a slave state.
- In a five year period, California had four different capitals. The first capital of California was San Jose, in 1849; the second was Vallejo, in 1851; the third was Benicia, in 1853; and fourth was Sacramento, in 1854.
- California's first railroad, the Sacramento Valley Railroad, opened in 1856. It was twenty-two miles long and ran between Sacramento and Folsom.
- Prior to 1860, nearly every manufactured article used in California had to be imported from the East Coast, Europe, South and Central America, or China.
- Some of the worst flooding in California history occurred in 1861-62. It was reported that the San Joaquin Valley became an inland sea the size of Lake Michigan. After his inauguration in January 1862, Governor Leland Stanford had to climb into the second story of his house from a boat.
- In 1902 Big Basin became the first redwood area set aside as a state park.



Sample Programs: History

Architecture

- I. Introduction
 - Introduce yourself.
 - Introduce the Junior Ranger Program.
- II. Focus
 - A. What is this? And, how was it used? (Carefully show a carpenter's plane or a broad axe.)
 - That's right, these are tools that were used by early carpenters to construct buildings.

III. Objectives

Today we are going to look at some of the old buildings here at _____ State Historic Park, to see how they were made, and to learn something about the people who built them.

IV. Inquiry/Discussion

A. What kind of building do you live in? What is it made of?

- adobe
- wood
- brick
- concrete
- steel and glass
- aluminum and wood
- plastic

B. What do all of your homes have in common?

- windows
- doors
- roofs
- floors
- living rooms
- bedrooms
- kitchens
- stoves
- refrigerators
- lights, electricity
- bathrooms, plumbing

C. Americans have been constructing buildings in which to live (go to school, work, or have fun) for several hundred years. Over time, the styles of these buildings have changed, as have the materials, sizes and ways in which they are built. Even though these things change, people still need somewhere to live (go to school, work, or play).

1. (Use historic photographs of the buildings in the park to illustrate.) We are lucky to be at _____ State Historic Park, where so many old and valuable buildings have been protected and cared for.
2. How about stepping back in time with me to find out more about how buildings were made in the past? Let's visit the _____ house (or store, or other structure). This place was built in 18__ for _____. The owners were _____ ("*Californios*," early settlers, farmers, store owners, ranchers, etc.)
3. (Walk to the structure.)
4. Imagine yourself back in 18__. I want you to walk through this building with me and look at how it was made. Who would you hire to build a house like this? Or, what crafts or skills would you have to know to create a building like this?
 - adobe making
 - stone masonry



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- brick mason—to build a good foundation and chimney
 - carpenter—to cut, shape, and nail together the wood
 - plasterer—to coat the walls and ceilings with plaster for a smooth finish
 - paper hanger—for applying wallpaper
 - painter—to apply paint that protects the building and makes it pretty
 - architect—to design the building
5. Architecture is the science, art, or profession of designing and constructing buildings. Is there anything different about how this 18__s building was made from your house today?
 - No electricity was used in its construction.
 - It may also have had no indoor plumbing—sinks, toilets, showers, etc.
 - There may be thick planks of wood used for walls, ceilings or floors.
 - Adobe walls with a dirt or tile floor.
 - Windows of different shapes and sizes.
 - Short height doorways.
 6. There were very few "labor saving devices" in the 1800s. Builders had no electric saws, drills, or nail guns to help them get the work done quickly. One hundred fifty years ago, nearly everything had to be made by hand, from chopping down the tree to producing fine moldings for windows and doorways. Think of how much time it took to build something—the care, and the craftsmanship. In the past, most houses were built to last.
 7. If you lived far away from town, where no builders could be hired, or if you couldn't afford one, you and your family (and friends) probably constructed the building yourself. You had to rely upon your own skills and abilities to design and build it. Many of these skills would have been taught to you by family members or you may have worked for someone else (as an apprentice), who taught them to you.

V. Guided Discovery

- A. Let me show you more tools used by early carpenters. (Display old tools—hammers, adzes, drawknives, planes, etc. and, if possible, demonstrate one or two of their uses. If tools are not available, use illustrations from books like Eric Sloane's Museum of Early American Tools.)
- B. Let's look for examples of how the planes (or another tool) might have been used on the _____ house. (Let the kids find examples.)
- C. How about making a drawing of a door, window, or other building feature we have seen today that is different from one on your home? (Provide paper and pencils.)
- D. If time allows, have the Junior Rangers draw a floor plan of the building to compare with their own home. Look at the number and size of the rooms. What is the same? What is different from their own?
- E. Do you see any parts of the building that are worn? (floors, doors, etc.) If the walls could talk, what kind of stories do you think this building would tell you?

VI. Application

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Buildings are everywhere—whether you live in the city, the country, or in between. Buildings provide the basic shelter that all people need to survive. The design of buildings is called architecture. Most old buildings were built by hand and made to last. If we take good care of them, they may be here for a hundred more years.

VII. Conclusion

- A. When you go home, look for old buildings in your neighborhood or town. Think about the stories they could tell you.
- B. Announce the next Junior Ranger program.
- C. Stamp logbooks.

The architecture program was developed by Mary Helmich.

Railroads

In most state parks, visitors find the nearby presence of railroads. This can be seen in the form of tracks, signs, stations, and support structures. Railroading is most evident in the central and southern coast and along the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

The railroad has played a major role in the development of the United States and especially the state of California. With the completion of the first railroad across the United States in 1869, people could ride in relative comfort from sea to sea in less than five days.

- Before the railroads were constructed, how long did it take to walk across the United States along the established Indian trails?
Five to six months
- When stagecoaches were invented, this shortened the time considerably in crossing the country. How long did it take then?
Fifteen to twenty days

The invention of the steam engine and its application to a mobile form of transportation led to railroad development. Great changes accompanied the transition from horse-pulled wagons to the huge iron machines. When constructing steam engines, parts were often shipped via horse-pulled wagons. You can imagine the strange sight to the American Indian as he saw a train approaching from the distance over the sleeping iron rails.

At first, steam engines were very small and were not capable of pulling any great weights. In addition, the railbed was modified from wood to stone to various types and sizes of steel and iron.

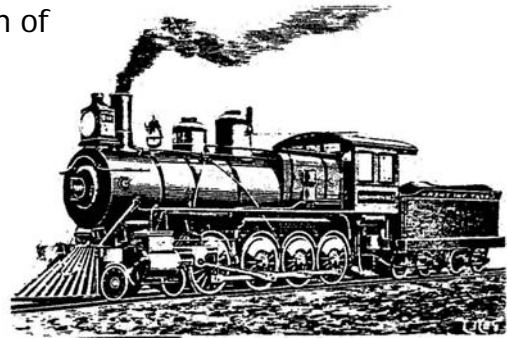
- What name did the American Indian give to trains in general?

“Iron horse” was close to their way of thinking in describing this foreign object.

As steam engines were perfected, their pulling capacity improved. Still, even as strong as they became, they were unable to climb grades or hills of any size. This resulted in the railbed having to be built with a gradual gradient. This worked well when the railroad crossed the Central Valley of California or the Great Plains of mid-America.

- When it became necessary to cross high mountains such as the Sierra Nevada, how did the railroad get across?
Tunnels and switchbacks.

The invention of the steam engine on wheels brought about rapid development of towns and land along the ribbon of steel. Steam engines operated off wood, coal, and, later, oil. These materials acted as a heating source when burned. The fire heated water in tanks, which turned into steam. The huge steam-powered pistons turned the wheels and pulled the train. Steam engines needed lots of stops for fuel and, even more importantly, for water. Towns sprang up where the railroad operated, especially at water and fuel stops, entrances or exits from tunnels, bridge crossings, and supply yards.



- Do any of you live near a railroad or does a railroad go through your town?
- Do you know if your hometown was started around a railroad station or railroad maintenance yard?

Railroads had no competition in speed and comfort for freight and passengers. After the success of crossing the country, other railroads began to build in the West. By the 1880s the coast of California had several railroads operating in competition with each other. Gradually, the smaller companies were bought up by the larger and wealthier ones. Eventually, only a few large companies remained.

- With competition reduced to a few companies, what do you think happened to the cost of rail tickets?
Prices went up.

When prices went up, only those who could afford to ride or ship freight did so.

- What did this do to the average person in California?
They could not afford to ride and if they did not pay high freight costs they went out of business.

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About this time, automobiles were invented. They were able to go over most mountain passes at a speed faster than trains. In addition, they were cheaper to operate and could be purchased by many people. This created competition for railroad passenger traffic and freight business. The railroads became threatened by this new form of transportation. Railroad companies had expanded their empires across the United States. In order to meet the railroads' needs, steam engines required more and more fuel and water to operate in many new locations. Forests were cut for wood; coal and oil were developed for fuel. In deserts, water had to be shipped to isolated locations. Steam engines had become very expensive to operate.

- The end of steam came about due to the cost of operation and competition from the automobile. What type of engine replaced the steam engine?
The diesel engine.

The diesel engine proved a much more economical alternative to the steam engine. This economy, along with the ability of these engines to pull great loads, made the modern diesel engines popular. Diesel engines required little water, and could go hundreds of miles before needing to be refueled.

- Do you know where old fashioned steam engines can still be found? Name a place.
Old Sacramento, local parks, rail clubs, etc.

Today, railroad companies still operate in the United States. These companies manage the freight systems that operate many types of railroad cars. Often these trains are one mile or more in length. Railroad freighting is very economical and is perhaps the cheapest form of transportation available.

- Can you think of the name of the railroad company that operates the freight trains in your community or near this park?
- Railroad freight cars were designed for the material they would carry. Do you know the purpose of...
 - The caboose?
 - The box car?
 - The hopper car?
 - The flat car?

Over recent years the importance of railroading for passenger traffic has declined. This is due to faster air travel and expanding motor vehicle ownership. However, in the past twenty years, Americans have found that the country still needs rail transportation for passengers. This is in part because railroads are a very scenic way to travel, and railroads are the safest form of mass transit. With this in mind, the U.S. Congress formed AMTRAK. Today, AMTRAK can be seen in many parts of California and the United States, linking cities and towns from coast to coast.

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- Have any of you ridden on AMTRAK? Describe the experience.

Railroad tracks are no place to play around. A freight or passenger train takes approximately its entire length to come to a complete stop. If a train is a half mile long, it will take that distance to stop. This is because of the great weight of the train and the fact that steel wheels do not stop quickly on steel tracks.

- When a road crosses train tracks and a crossing arm is down or red lights are flashing, what should drivers, bicyclists, and hikers do?
Stop and stay back!
- Do not walk on railroad tracks!

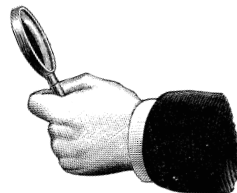
Railroads appear less important than cars since we seldom travel that way today. They do still play a major role in moving freight across the country. Many items that we eat, wear, or use are shipped by a train. Trains will continue to play an important role in America's future as a cost-effective nationwide rapid transit system.

Conclusion:

- Announce next Junior Ranger program and other interpretive programs.
- Stamp logbooks.

Railroad program was designed by Jim Fife.

Junior Ranger Gumshoes



I. Introduction

Introduce yourself.
Introduce the Junior Ranger Program.

II. Focus

I'll bet every one of you knows more about this park than you think you know.

III. Objectives

Today, I want each of you to become a detective. Through your special skills, we are going to discover who lived or worked here a long time ago, and why these grounds were preserved as a California state park.

IV. Inquiry/Discussion

- A. I am glad each of you is wearing "plainclothes" today. We don't want to draw attention to ourselves and our "secret mission." We will just pretend to wear our detective hats and capes. (Put on your imaginary detective hat and cape.)
- B. This is our first clue to the mystery of _____ (name your state park).

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1. Bring out a unique artifact or show a feature related to the historic use of the park, and have the Junior Ranger detectives guess what it is or how it was used.
2. What does the _____ tell you about the people who lived here? (Use the item to bring out characteristics of the people who once lived/worked here and how they may have behaved in earlier times.)

Examples:

- "The _____ was made from nearby plants and shrubs by people of the area. The work demonstrates close knowledge of the environment . . ."
- "The _____ was brought from somewhere else to be used here. People who worked with it were skilled in _____ (crafts)—once commonly practiced—now rarely used or unknown. Today, the work is done by a _____ . . ."
- "People took great care of this _____ because they could not replace it easily and it was special to them. We believe the _____ originally came from _____ and had to be transported here by ship, wagon, and later mule—a total of _____ miles . . ."

C. Let's look for more clues. Look around. What other signs do you see that tell you about who might have been here in the past?

1. Let the "gumshoes" point out evidence for earlier uses—bedrock mortars (food grinding), lumbering, harnessing water, mining activities, farming, etc. Discuss them, as above.

D. Many people came to this park from far off lands. What would they have brought from their homelands?

- Clothing
- Food traditions
- Tools and skills
- Building styles
- Music, songs, dances, games, etc.
- Dreams, ideas, plans



(Point out evidence of these in the park).

E. _____ State Park has a very rich and interesting history because of the people who once lived here and their culture. "Culture" is defined as the ideas, customs, skills, arts, etc. of a given people in a given period of time. Culture didn't just happen in the past. We are part of a culture today, too. What do you think our culture includes today? What clues will we leave for detectives like you in the future?

V. Guided Discovery

A. Often the best detectives learn by copying something. We can, too.

1. Have the Junior Ranger detectives make something that fits in with the culture of the people associated with the park.

Examples:

- Grind acorns with a mortar and pestle
- Grind corn with a *mano* and *metate*

- Prepare a food using period-style equipment and techniques—hot chocolate, taffy, ice cream, bread, tortillas, etc.
- Churn butter
- Hand-dip candles
- Wash clothes, using a scrub board and tub
- Card and spin wool
- Weave
- Iron clothes the old fashioned way, heating the irons on a cast iron stove.



B. What have you learned from this activity?

- It is hard work.
- Doing it requires a lot of skill, patience, and time.
- If you made it, you probably would want to take care of it and not waste it.

VI. Application

- A. If you could come to live here today, what would you bring to the park (to make your work easier, more pleasant, or to remind you of your former home)? Now step back in time. Detectives, if you were coming here from _____ in 18__, what would you bring from your homeland? Are there similarities between the things of yesterday and today?
- B. What do you see in this park that you don't see at home?
- C. What do you believe made people decide this place was worth preserving and protecting? (Follow the discussion with an explanation about when the park was established and by whom.)
- D. What would this area be like today if people hadn't protected and preserved the land for the future as a state park?

VII. Conclusion

- A. As you take off your detective hats and capes today, don't forget to look for the hidden clues in other historic places and parks. You might also want to share these "secrets" with your friends and family and maybe help them become better detectives, too.
- B. Announce the next Junior Ranger program.
- C. Stamp logbooks.

"Junior Ranger Gumshoes" was developed by Mary Helmich.

Activities

Gold Rush Game

Number of Children: 4 or more

Environment: Open space

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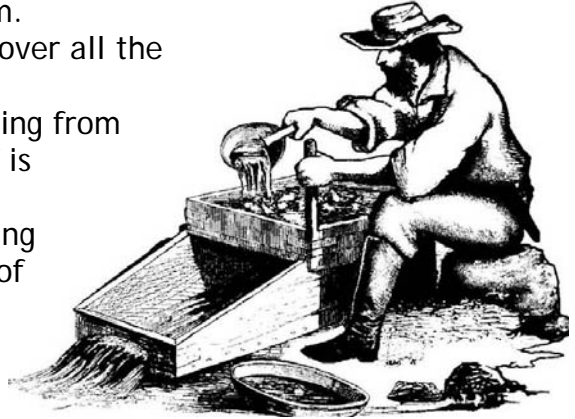
Equipment Needed: String or something to stake out claims, gold pieces (beans, candy, etc.)

Purpose of Activity: This game shows the effects of gold rush fever: gambling, stealing, owning property, profit, and investment

Activity:

1. Give each child a "Gold Rush plot" as a claim.
2. Spread kidney beans, which represent gold, over all the plots.
3. Let the Junior Rangers mine for gold. (Stealing from others' plots is a fine of 25 beans if the thief is caught).
4. Beans can be used to buy food, shelter, mining supplies. If you have no beans, you are out of the game.

Note: Round, wrapped candies also make good gold pieces.



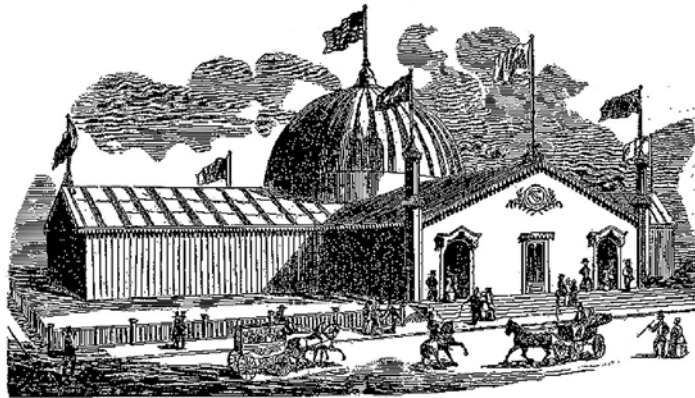
Additional Ideas for Activities

- Teach a historic skill, like candle making, gold panning, field grading and packing citrus, making a corn husk doll, making rope, etc.
- Demonstrate a piece of machinery or a skill that ties in with your park's history, such as operating a pelton wheel, or working with carpentry or blacksmithing tools.
- Explain the history of your park unit and some of the changes that have happened through time. Use old photographs to show the area in the past. What has changed? Why? Which changes have been beneficial, which have been detrimental? Has opinion changed as to whether the differences are good or bad?
- Using hand-held objects is a great way to make history real to kids. Compare what was used then to what is used now for a specific task (mortar and pestle/food processor, for example). You might fill a bag, basket or trunk with tools, toys, clothing, etc. from the past and have the Junior Rangers guess what they were used for, or use each one to tell a story.
- If there is a museum at your park, try a scavenger hunt in which Junior Rangers are given a description or illustrations of different objects in the museum that they have to find.
- Provide paper and soft chalk or crayons for rubbings of gravestones, an inscription on a cannon, or cast metal designs on buildings, etc.
- Having the Junior Rangers act out history by taking the parts of historic figures is one of the best ways to make a lasting impression on the group. Simple costumes, such as hats, aprons, etc. help the kids get into the role. Give each child a personality, then read a historic story and have them act it out as you are reading.
- You can take the Junior Rangers back in time using their imaginations. Have them pretend it is 18__ and have them look for things (electric wires, telephones, television, etc.) that should not be in this period.

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- If you have journals or diaries from historic figures, why not read portions of them to the group to make the people who wrote them come alive?
- Ask the group, "Why do people save things from the past to share with the future? Do you have any artifacts at home (heirlooms, antiques, etc.)?" Are there any historic buildings, monuments, or artifacts in the city where you live?
- Have Junior Rangers draw a map of the town or historic site, noting streets, important buildings and special features (like wells, mines, etc.).
- Have children draw pictures of historic buildings or their decorative details: ornamental brackets, fancy shingle siding, railings, columns, etc.
- If you could leave something for someone to find in the future that represents you, your life, and who you are, what would it be?

Many of these ideas were contributed by Ken Huie of Malakoff Diggins State Park, Wendy Harrison of Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and Mary Helmich.



Background Information: History

California has developed rapidly. Although often considered a young state, it lays claim to a long and interesting history. As it would not be possible to provide a complete account of this rich history here, we have outlined some of the major events and significant periods of this state's past. Depending on the history of your park, you may choose to emphasize one of these periods. Keep in mind, too, the dramatic development of the areas surrounding your park during the last half century. This may have had a significant impact on the park's creation, development, and use. For more information on California history, consult James J. Rawls and Walton Bean's *California: an Interpretive History*.¹

¹ Information on the history of California has been summarized from "History," from *California: Past, Present, Future* (The California Almanac Company, 1971, (pages 9-32)), James D. Hart's *A Companion to California*, James J. Rawls and Walton Bean's *California, an Interpretive History*, and other sources.

California's First Inhabitants

Although we do not know exactly when people first came to California, we do know that California Indians have been here for many thousands of years. Native people of California would say that they have been here from the beginning (Please see the California Indians section for information on their cultures and lifestyles). California Indians led a peaceful life before contact with Europeans, and did not generally engage in warfare. Tribal conflict was usually the result of intrusion upon tribal lands by other groups.

European Discovery of California

Most scholars agree that the name "California" was taken from a 15th century Spanish novel, *Las Sergas de Esplandian*, which described a mythical island lying on "the right hand of the Indies, very near to the terrestrial paradise." This island was believed to be inhabited by beautiful, but warlike women whose weapons and armor were made of gold, the only form of metal to be found there.

Fired by these stories and dreams of wealth, discovery, and conquest, Spanish adventurers were eager to explore the Pacific Coast. The King of Spain urged Hernando Cortés (Spanish conqueror of Mexico) to dispatch exploratory expeditions to the Gulf of California.

The first European explorer to reach California was Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who entered San Diego Bay on September 28, 1542. Cabrillo died on San Miguel Island four months later. Following Cabrillo's orders, shipmate Bartolomé Ferrello took command of the expedition and sailed northward to a point near the California-Oregon boundary, but starvation and scurvy forced their return in April 1543. Sixty years passed before a second expedition followed. Other explorers who later saw California include Francis Drake from England, Pedro de Unamuno from Macao, and Sebastian Vizcaíno from Spain.

In 1769 Spain sought to colonize California before rivals England and Holland did. The Spanish planned to control the land and make it productive. Three types of settlements were developed by the Spanish in their colonization: the mission, the presidio, and the pueblo. The missions played the central role, becoming both religious and economic centers. The Franciscan friars who established the mission system in California were remarkable men. Endowed with keen foresight, tireless energy, and practical ability, they were, or had to become, skilled craftsmen, practical stockbreeders, trained agriculturists, and gifted executives. Father Junípero Serra served as president of the Franciscan missions in California. Under his guidance and that of other later Franciscans, a chain of 20 missions was built roughly one day's march apart along California's coastline. (A 21st mission was later established at Sonoma under Mexican rule.)

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The Franciscans taught the California Indians to be: saddlers, blacksmiths, coopers, freighters, candle-makers, vintners, hatters, guitar-makers, muleteers, ranchmen, doctors, rope-makers, shepherds, woodcutters, painters, sculptors, bell-ringers, masons, acolytes, sacristans, stonecutters, farmers, herders, barbers, and carpenters. All these skills and the technology introduced by the Spaniards had a lasting impact on California Indian culture and economic traditions, ultimately changing their relationship to their environment.

The presidios at San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco were military establishments built to protect the missions from the Indians and to guard against foreign invaders. Both the presidios and the pueblos were important in the colonization of frontier California. San Jose was the first pueblo, founded near Mission Santa Clara in 1777. Next was Los Angeles near Mission San Gabriel in 1781, and Villa de Branciforte, near Santa Cruz, in 1797.

Each pueblo was built according to a plan, consisting of four square leagues of land, constructed around a rectangular plaza. Facing it were government buildings, a church, and some prominent homes. Adjacent to it, each settler was given a lot for a house and garden.

The remoteness of the California frontier from Spain's other holdings, however, promoted lawlessness, and it was difficult for the government to recruit settlers. Spanish California towns were settled mainly by a racially mixed group of Europeans, Native Americans, and African Americans.

Mexican Rancho Period

When Spanish colonists in California learned in 1822 that the Mexican struggle for independence from Spain had resulted in an independent government, Governor Pablo Vicente de Sola declared California's allegiance to the new nation. In 1825 jurisdiction of the Mexican government in California was asserted by the appointment of a new governor, José Maria de Echeandía. Life changed little during the first ten years of California's possession by Mexico.

In 1833 the Mexican government made a major change by beginning the process of secularization of the missions and apportioning the mission lands to private owners. One-half of the mission properties were to be handed over to the California Indians (although they were not allowed to sell their lands or possessions, and were to perform community work), and the rest became controlled by secular administrators who were to support the church and to act in the general public interest. The plan, however, did not go as prescribed. The mission properties were distributed to the Indians in whatever manner the administrators thought fit. Dishonest ones enriched themselves, their families and their friends from the spoils of the missions; incompetent ones squandered the mission lands and properties. California Indians, deprived of lands and livestock, became servants or ran away to join tribes in the interior. Most became laborers on the private *ranchos* (ranches) into which the

mission lands had been divided. Many became homeless, unemployed, and neglected by Mexican society. Others died of disease or starvation.

A native-born or naturalized Mexican citizen could petition the government for land in the new territories. The smallest of these *ranchos* was 4,500 acres, and the largest was more than 100,000 acres. From 1834 until the late 1840s, the large *ranchos* with its cattle and horses dominated the economic life of California. The *rancheros* built spacious adobe structures and used California Indians as laborers and servants. They sold little meat, but traded hides and tallow for consumer goods and manufactured items of all kinds.

Mountain Men, Russians and Fur Trapping

Beginning in the 1780s, the Spanish encouraged California Indians to snare sea otters. The skins could be bartered for goods in China, where they were highly valued. A larger fur trapping enterprise was begun by the Russians. While looking for food to support a fur-expedition in Alaska, the Russian-American Company sailed to San Francisco in 1806. The *Kodiak*, after dropping anchor in Bodega Bay (north of San Francisco), returned to Alaska with 2,350 sea-otter pelts and reports that the northern California coast was unoccupied and had plentiful food resources.

In June 1812, a crew of 95 Russians and 40 Aleuts of the Russian-American Company began work on Fort Ross. They attempted to control the area by closing the coast north of San Francisco to all but Russian ships. (This attempt was responsible for that part of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 which stated that the New World was no longer open to aggression by force and that European countries could not extend their holdings in it.)

In association with the Russians, Americans and independent hunters like George Nidever also sought fur-bearing sea mammals. Other U.S. frontiersmen—Ewing Young, George Yount, and William Wolfskill among them—established a trade in beaver and otter trapped in California's rivers.

Mountain men James Pattie and Jedediah Smith were encouraged to explore by the business of fur trapping and trading. That same purpose brought Peter Ogden and other Canadians of the Hudson's Bay Company south to California to trap its rivers for beaver.

When sea otters and fur seals disappeared, the Russians turned to agriculture and manufacturing, but without great success. By the end of 1839, Moscow officials ordered the colonists to return to Alaska. Captain John A. Sutter then bought the property.

Westward Expansion and California

The first Americans to come to California were fur traders from the East. American and European settlers soon followed. Several of these early traders and settlers, including John Sutter, John Bidwell, and John C. Frémont, became influential in California history.

John Sutter (1803-1880), born in Germany, was raised in Switzerland. He emigrated to New York in 1834. From there, his travels took him to St. Louis, where he joined fur traders enroute to Santa Fe. He traveled overland to Oregon and later sailed to Honolulu and Sitka, Alaska, before arriving in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) in 1839. Governor Alvarado granted to Sutter a large plot of land—11 square leagues (48,400 acres) at the junction of the Sacramento and American Rivers. Sutter, using Indian labor, planted wheat, orchards, and vineyards, beginning a kind of barony he called Nueva Helvetia. In 1841 he bought the Russian land at Bodega and Fort Ross. His holdings expanded further in 1845, with a new grant of 22 leagues from Governor Micheltoarena.

John Bidwell (1819-1900) arrived in 1841 with the first party of American immigrant settlers to travel overland. For several years he worked for John Sutter before becoming a naturalized Mexican citizen and obtaining a large land grant. Bidwell, responsible for drawing up the resolution of independence from Mexico in 1846, served as a lieutenant in John C. Fremont's California Battalion. He later discovered gold on the Feather River, but in 1849 turned his attention to agriculture. He acquired a 22,000 acre ranch in Chico and became a leading proponent of agriculture. Bidwell also served as a congressman from 1865 to 67.

Some settlers had a difficult time getting to California. The tragedy of the Donner Party occurred during the winter of 1846-47. After making a late start, the group lost precious time by taking an unfamiliar route. They were caught in one of the most severe winters in the history of the Sierra Nevada. Snow fell to a depth of more than twenty feet. Forty-two of the ninety immigrants who left Illinois lost their lives before the survivors reached Sutter's Fort.

The increase in settlement spurred California's development. Coastal towns became shipping centers for the hide and tallow trade. Fur traders, especially those who made their way over the southern routes from New Mexico, settled down, and many became influential citizens.

American Rule

Americans in Northern California were distrustful of Mexican rule. Encouraged by the presence of American troops under John C. Frémont, a small band of settlers led by William B. Ide captured General Vallejo at his home, that also served as his headquarters, in Sonoma. After seizing the town of Sonoma on June 14, 1846, they

proclaimed California an independent republic. This action has become known as the Bear Flag Revolt, because of the hastily designed flag raised by the settlers over the plaza of Sonoma. On the flag, a grizzly bear faced a red star. The bear had been chosen because it was the strongest animal in California. The crude lettering on the flag proclaimed: "A bear stands his ground always, and as long as the stars shine, we stand for the cause."

California was swept into a war with Mexico. Unknown to the Californians or the American settlers, Mexico and the United States were already at war at the time of the Bear Flag Revolt. Commodore Sloat, commanding U.S. Naval forces, seized Monterey on July 7, 1846, and formally announced the annexation of California to the United States. The Mexican government in California was not able to render any effective opposition to the occupation, since the province was generally without military supplies and the population appeared indifferent. Loyalties to Mexico and the Mexican government were divided at the time of the Mexican War, although there was some opposition to the occupation in Southern California. At the Battle of San Pasqual American forces under General Stephen Watts Kearney met *Californio* forces directed by Andrés Pico. Although 21 American lives were lost in that battle, it proved to be the last victory for the *Californios*. On July 7, 1846, the Capitulation of Cahuenga was signed on the banks of the Rio de San Gabriel.

The war between the United States and Mexico ended in February 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. It established the Rio Grande as the new boundary between the two countries, granting the United States the territory comprising the present states of California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado.

The Gold Rush

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered in California by James W. Marshall, who was overseeing construction of a sawmill at Coloma on the American River for John Sutter. As news spread, gold-seekers began to converge on the so-called diggings. The rush for gold touched everyone in California and deeply affected countless lives elsewhere. With dreams of riches, men eagerly headed for the mining districts. Often this meant leaving home and family for long periods of time. Some families were not happy about seeing the men leave. Early gold-seekers came from Oregon, Utah, Hawaii, Sonora and other parts of Mexico, as well as Chile and other coastal areas of South America. In 1849, the stream of newcomers became a flood. Growth was disorderly and uncontrolled; committees of vigilantes endeavored to enforce some semblance of law and order. The City of Sacramento, founded near the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, became an important supply depot for the mines, with roads radiating out across the plains to the various mountain settlements. Food and equipment shipped to the mining areas often came from ports as far away as Boston, Europe, South America, and Asia. Consequently, prices were high.

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The steady arrival of people into California's gold country brought a demand for meat, and thus a cattle boom for the *ranchos*. However, the sudden prosperity most of the *rancheros* enjoyed proved temporary. Ruined by land litigation, interest, taxes, and inexperience in business and financial matters, some lost their ranches to Americans or Europeans. (Between 1862 and 1864, a severe drought hit California and thousands of cattle died, forcing many surviving *rancheros* into bankruptcy.)

Prospectors headed for the so-called Mother Lode region, extending roughly from Mariposa in present Merced County to Nevada City on the north in present Nevada County, or to the mining area farther northwest in the region of the Trinity, Klamath, and Salmon Rivers. Other likely places were also tried in the quest for the best sites.

Conditions at the mines were primitive and the work hard. More than one miner had second thoughts about California, and some advised relatives in the East to spend their time working the family farm rather than seeking riches in the West. The spirit of the time is revealed in the names miners gave their new towns: Whiskeytown, Rough and Ready, Hangtown, Drytown, Fiddletown, etc. Other settlements were named for the origin of the people who lived there: French Gulch, Dutch Flat, Chinese Camp, Mormon Bar, Mexican Flat, Chile Bar, Scotch Flat, etc. A population of about 6,000 in the mining area in 1848 grew to about 100,000 in the peak year of 1852.

Miners formed rules and regulations for the protection of claims. Every miner in the district was required to respect the claims the others had "staked." However, not everyone was treated the same in the mines. "Foreigners" were required to pay a special tax before they could search for gold. Chinese and French miners were included in this group.

Several types of mining tools and techniques were used: miner's pans, cradles, "long toms," sluice boxes, ground sluicing, booming or gouging, hydraulic mining, and dredging. In the "wet diggings," gold was washed or panned from gravel beds and bars of streams and rivers. When this gave out, miners used hydraulic methods devised in 1853. Through penstocks they conducted or channeled water to hillsides, then sprayed it with such force that entire slopes collapsed and the gravel ran into long sluices, where riffles contained the heavier gold.

Hydraulic mining was destructive; whole mountainsides were washed away. Their scars remain visible today. The silt flowed downstream and was deposited on the floor of San Francisco Bay. In many places the river levels were raised above the adjacent land by the deposits, causing devastating floods. Legislation in 1884 that put an end to hydraulic mining became one of the first important conservation laws enacted in California. (Note: For more information on mining, please see Bean's *California, an Interpretive History* or California Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #41 *Basic Placer Mining*.)

In time the free-lance miner gave way to partnerships and corporations. Mining-company stock became active in the speculators' market. Assay reports on ore samples indicated what the profit of a mine might be. The dramatic rise of California's population during the gold rush, combined with the development of the mining economy, abruptly closed the pastoral period of California history and hastened enormously the rise of modern California.

Statehood

In 1849 Bennett Riley, 7th military governor of California, called for a convention of 48 delegates from the 10 districts into which he had divided California for representation. The delegates met at Colton Hall, Monterey (from September to November in 1849) to work on the State Constitution. The document was written in both English and Spanish and provided that future legislation be written in both languages. In addition to writing the Constitution, delegates established the state's boundaries, chose the site of its capital, and designed its Great Seal. The Constitution was ratified by popular vote on November 13, 1849, the same day officials were elected to office, so that California began to act as a state before its official admission to statehood. Congress, however, failed to take any action. Meanwhile, gold had been discovered and when the news spread, a tremendous wave of immigration began. This delayed official statehood, which finally occurred on September 9, 1850.

California's capitol moved often. San Jose was designated the first capital. In 1851, the government transferred to Vallejo, and in 1853 to Benicia. Finally, in 1854, the legislature decided that Sacramento would be the most suitable seat for state government.

Treatment of California Indians

In 1851 18 treaties were negotiated with groups of California Indians. The treaties promised over 7 million acres of land to the Indians in exchange for the entire state. These treaties were never ratified by the United States Senate, as vocal anti-treaty sentiment developed within the state's newer population. Already stripped of most of their ancestral lands, California Indians were denied even the nominal protection of treaties. Impatient settlers and miners clashed repeatedly with the native people. The outbreaks took on a pattern of attack and reprisal, as raids or killings set off a spreading cycle of revenge. The California Indian population decline during the period 1850-1880 has been estimated to be in the neighborhood of 80 percent.

Development of California

The gold rush had a great impact on California. During this period, the population increased six-fold. People of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, ethnic origins, and religious beliefs settled here. Transportation and communication needs

were met by express companies, such as the short-lived Pony Express, the Butterfield Overland Mail, Adams Company, Wells Fargo & Company, and by development of the transcontinental telegraph. Early on, some of the shrewder men in search of gold soon recognized the profits to be made providing food and supplies to the miners. Many of those who later became prominent in California began their careers as merchants during the gold rush, including Collis P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker. These men—"the Big Four"—dominated the state through their interests in the Central Pacific Railroad and later the Southern Pacific Railroad. It was through their support that the dream of a transcontinental railroad was realized in 1869.

Settlement in California spurred the growth of agricultural industries in wheat, wines, and citrus. The development of irrigation allowed for the expansion of farming in previously arid lands. Real estate boomed, with California often being marketed for the health-giving effects of its climate. Small utopian communities, like the African-American town of Allensworth, flourished.

Lumbering

Like fur trading, lumbering became an important industry in California. Commercial lumbering began with Americans and other immigrants: J.B.R. Cooper built a water-powered sawmill on the Russian River (1834); Isaac Graham established a power sawmill in the Santa Cruz mountains (1854); Captain Stephen Smith created a steam-driven sawmill near Bodega Bay (1844); and John A. Sutter and James Marshall built a mill on the American River (1848), where gold was discovered. The gold rush prompted a need for wood for: sluices, flumes, dams, tunnels, fences, and the construction of towns. Sawmills soon arose in present-day Mendocino, Humboldt, and Santa Cruz Counties and in the Sierra.

By 1870 the best and most accessible pine and redwood forests had been logged from nearly 100,000 acres (less than 1 percent of the state's forests). From 1870 to 1890, less accessible pine stands of the Sierra were cut in the present Plumas National Forest region for timber and for turpentine. Flumes—V-shaped troughs holding flowing water—made possible the transportation of lumber from the Sierra to Sacramento Valley lumber companies. From the 1890s to the mid-1930s, forest exploitation worsened, as clear cutting without reforestation was commonly practiced and steam donkeys (engines) and logging railroads severely damaged forests. Concern about their depletion and the use of destructive practices led to the creation of a State Board of Forestry (1885) and a State Forester (1905). The first forest rangers were funded by the counties in 1919.

During the 20th century, greatly enhanced protection of California's forests has been achieved through the 17 national forests, which contain about half of the state's commercial forest lands; the national parks, which protect great groves; the state forests, which practice conservation and do research; and California State Parks.

Twentieth-Century Innovation and Progress

In 1895 the Folsom powerhouse began operating, delivering to Sacramento 11,000 volts of electricity—a new achievement in long-distance, high-voltage transmission. Technological breakthroughs, like the automobile and motion picture photography, transformed the state, shaping both the environment (through roads and freeways) and impressions of the California lifestyle.

Competition for limited jobs in California in the 19th and early 20th centuries caused widespread discrimination and the harassment of Chinese and other ethnic groups. Exclusion Laws, first enacted in 1882, decreased or prevented their entry into California. From 1910 to 1940, the Immigration Station on Angel Island detained many individuals for interrogation who were trying to enter the United States, sometimes for long periods of time. The Exclusion Laws were repealed in 1943.

Wartime expansion boosted California's shipbuilding and aircraft industries. Older military facilities, like those on Angel Island, were enlarged, as new installations—Camp Pendleton, Treasure Island Naval Station, Castle and McClellan Air Force Bases, etc.—were developed. World War II also marked a dark period in California history, when, to quiet unfounded fears of sabotage and espionage, thousands of people of Japanese descent were interned in makeshift camps at Manzanar in Owens Valley and at Tule Lake near the Oregon border.

During the 20th century, further expansion of electric power and such engineering feats as the Central Valley and Colorado River water projects, permitted a growth and development of California unimagined in the 18th and 19th centuries. With the end of the Cold War and the resulting reductions in military and aerospace industries, many Californians have begun looking to the future through the expanding computer and bio-technology fields.

State Parks in California

The story of California's state parks began in the mid-1800s, prior to any organized environmental or cultural preservation movement. The gold rush had attracted thousands of people in search of riches. New cities quickly sprang up as rich gold and silver deposits fueled economic growth. Mountainsides of ancient redwood forests fell as the need for lumber increased. Few people appeared to be concerned with the drastic consequences of the exploitation of the land.

The first step toward protecting some of California's key resources and landscapes began during the Civil War. At that time a group of Californians lobbied for federal legislation that would grant to the state some 20,000 acres of federal land in and around Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove specifically for their protection and for public recreation. President Lincoln signed the legislation on June 30, 1864, thereby establishing the nation's first state park, although later these lands

would be transferred back to federal jurisdiction to become part of Yosemite National Park.

In the late 1800s, concern over the near-decimation of the ancient redwood forests on California's north and central coast prompted some citizens, including photographer Andrew P. Hill and members of the newly established Sempervirens Club, to lobby to acquire redwood property in Santa Cruz County. In 1902 the newly appointed California Redwood Park Commission acquired the first 2,500 acres in Big Basin for a public park at a cost of \$100 per acre. This "California Redwood Park" soon became a popular destination—and a symbol of the growing movement to protect some of the Golden State's finest natural resources and scenic landscapes for the enjoyment of future generations.

Around the same time, another movement began to preserve California's cultural resources. Interest in preserving California's history dates back to the gold rush as participants celebrated their involvement in this momentous event with the founding of the Society of California Pioneers in 1850 and the incorporation of the Historical Society of California in 1852 (today known as the California Historical Society). The lasting significance of the gold rush was memorialized in 1890 with California's first official historical landmark—a statue of James Marshall overlooking his 1848 gold discovery site on the American River near Coloma. Three years later, Sutter's Fort opened to the public as a state historic monument.

Official recognition of the state's colorful history was promoted by groups such as the California Historical Society and the Native Sons of the Golden West. These various groups gave rise to an alliance, the California Historical Landmark League, which secured funds to identify, preserve, and promote historic sites. Early achievements included the Monterey Custom House, San Pasqual Battlefield, Mission San Francisco Solano at Sonoma, Fort Ross, General Mariano Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe, and California's First Theatre in Monterey. Although many of these sites were deeded to the State of California, control of the state's historic monuments remained with independent boards and commissions until 1921. Today the Office of Historic Preservation, a branch of California State Parks, is responsible for overseeing state and federal historic preservation and designation programs.

Beginning in 1925, a coalition of groups and individuals led by the Save-the-Redwoods League began campaigning for the formation of a State Park Commission that would administer existing state parks and historic monuments and sites, conduct a statewide survey of potential state park sites, and establish a fundamental state park policy. Legislation passed in 1927 formally establishing the Commission, whose members soon began gathering support for a state park bond issue to fund park acquisitions. Their efforts were rewarded in 1928, when Californians voted nearly three-to-one in favor of a six-million dollar park bond act. Later that year, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. completed a statewide survey of potential parklands and issued a report that outlined general policies to guide the long-range acquisition and development of state parks.

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The new system of state parks began to grow rapidly, despite the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression. California's park system had grown from a dozen parks and five historic monuments in 1928 to 49 parks and 11 historic monuments by 1934. Total state park holdings increased from 13,700 to about 300,000 acres, and park visitation jumped from about 60,000 to nearly 6 million during the same time. After 1934, however, depletion of the 1928 State Park Bond and depressed economic conditions limited further land acquisitions, prevented park development of public facilities, and restricted staffing.

In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) stepped in to assist with park development by providing architects, manual laborers, and historians. Established under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program, the CCC employed young men, ages 17 to 28, on work projects throughout the nation's public parks and forests. About 3,800 enrollees worked in California's state parks, constructing roads and trails and building campgrounds, visitor centers, and other facilities, making it possible to open these parks to public use.

A distinct "park rustic" architectural style distinguished the work of CCC enrollees in California's parks. They used local, natural materials and hand-craftsmanship to construct buildings and other structures that blended into the surrounding natural landscape. Many of the facilities built by the CCC in the 1930s still remain as a tribute to their hard work.

After World War II there was a tremendous increase in tourism and recreation. To meet this demand, 24 new beaches and parks were acquired over the next decade. The growing diversity of park unit types had already resulted in an organizational change—the renaming of the Division of Parks as the California Division of Beaches and Parks. Newton Drury, one of the early leaders of the state park movement, was appointed Director in 1951. Under Drury's capable hand, the Division flourished so that, when he retired eight years later, more than 150 beaches, parks, and historic monuments comprised the State Park System.

During the 1960s, as public interest in preserving California's open land against encroaching development intensified, the State Park System was undergoing a transition. In 1967, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed William Penn Mott, Jr. as director of California's state parks. Despite the difficulties of budget cuts and hiring freezes, Mott successfully transformed the Division of Beaches and Parks into today's familiar Department of Parks and Recreation. Under Mott's innovative leadership, the administrative functions of the Department were centralized, with support staff positions moved to headquarters in Sacramento. Individual parks were reorganized under area managers who reported to district superintendents. New divisions were created within the Department to provide better management of historical and natural resources. A centralized and standardized ranger training program began at Asilomar in 1969, followed by construction of a formal training center there.

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During the 1970s, voters approved bond issues that permitted the acquisition and development of state recreation areas and other parklands. The decade also saw a new division—the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division—added to the Department. The 1980s and 1990s brought a focus on resource stewardship, with increased efforts to restore and protect the natural and cultural heritage preserved in state parks.

The 1990s were marked by a complete organizational restructuring of the Department of Parks and Recreation to improve service and efficiency. Modern business practices were implemented—identifying core program areas, monitoring performance carefully, and budgeting in accordance with results. Increasingly, the Department utilized a large, public-spirited corps of volunteers to help achieve its ambitious goals.

Today, California State Parks is the steward of more than 275 park units and properties encompassing more than one and one-half million acres. Within its purview are hundreds of miles of coastline, thousands of miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, and more than twenty thousand picnic and camp sites. The Department is also responsible for the management of more than one million museum objects, two million archaeological specimens, and more than three million archival documents throughout the state.

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

California's parks reflect the diverse nature of this state's history, preserving sites important to the Spanish, Mexicans, California Indians, Americans, Russians, Chinese, African-Americans, and others. For many, visiting these parks can be like taking a step back in time. Not only is history preserved, but in many cases history comes to life, as visitors participate in the activities of the past.

State Parks Associated with Specific Historic Periods

Below is a list of the state parks where park visitors can learn about California's rich historical and cultural diversity.

California Indians: In the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the story of the Northern Miwok and their neighbors is told at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. Here petroglyphs and bedrock mortars have been preserved and protected. A ceremonial roundhouse has been recreated so visitors can learn of this early culture. In the fall, a festival transforms the park with hand games, feasting and dancing. Descendants of the Miwok celebrate the coming of autumn much as their ancestors celebrated the acorn festival at this time every year.

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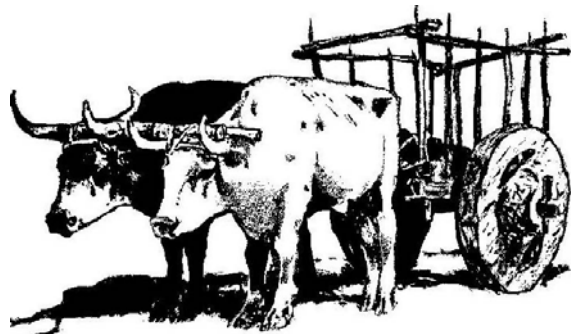
Parks interpreting California Indian culture include:

- Anderson Marsh SHP
- Angel Island SP
- Antelope Valley Indian Museum
- Anza-Borrego Desert SP
- Calaveras Big Trees SP
- Cuyamaca Rancho SP
- Fort Humboldt SHP
- Fort Ross SHP
- Fort Tejon SHP
- Indian Grinding Rock SHP
- La Purísima Mission SHP
- Lake Perris SRA: Mohave Desert Indian Museum
- Malibu Lagoon State Beach Museum
- Pfeiffer Big Sur SP
- Providence Mountains SRA: Mitchell Caverns
- Red Rock Canyon SP
- Santa Cruz Mission SHP
- State Indian Museum
- Wassama Round House SHP

Spanish/Mexican Era: Designed to share the faith and culture of the Spanish, the missions provided a vehicle for European settlement. At La Purísima Mission State Historic Park, the restored mission appears as it did more than a century ago. Today, mission life is revived during living history days.

Parks interpreting the Spanish/Mexican Era include:

- El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP
- La Purísima Mission SHP
- Los Encinos SHP
- Monterey SHP
- Old Town San Diego SHP
- Petaluma Adobe SHP
- Pío Pico SHP
- San Juan Bautista SHP
- San Pasqual Battlefield SHP
- Santa Cruz Mission SHP
- Sonoma SHP
- Sutter's Fort SHP



The Gold Rush: Today at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Sutter's Mill has been reconstructed, and a museum has been developed to tell the story of Sutter, Marshall, and the gold rush.

At Columbia State Historic Park, a gold rush town still lives. Try your hand at gold panning, take a ride on a stagecoach, or experience a gold rush vintage traveling show

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at the Fallon Theater. The gold rush brought people from all over the world to California. With them came new ideas, new cultures, and a new way of life. Today their stories have been preserved in a number of historic buildings.

Parks interpreting the gold rush and mining include:

- Bodie SHP
- Columbia SHP
- Cuyamaca Rancho SP
- Empire Mine SHP
- Malakoff Diggins SHP
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
- Millerton Lake SRA
- Old Sacramento SHP
- Picacho SRA
- Plumas-Eureka SP
- Shasta SHP

Pioneer Life: Many parks feature interpretation of early settlers in California. These include:

- Anza-Borrego Desert SP
- Benicia SHP: Fischer-Hanlon House
- Donner Memorial SP
- Lake Oroville SRA: Bidwell Bar tollhouse and bridge
- Los Encinos SHP
- Monterey SHP: Cooper-Molera Adobe
- Edwin L. Z'berg—Sugar Pine Point SP
- Sutter's Fort SHP
- William B. Ide Adobe SHP

Historic Towns and Communities: In some cases, much of a historic town or community has been preserved. These include:

- Bodie SHP
- Colonel Allensworth SHP
- Columbia SHP
- Malakoff Diggins SHP: North Bloomfield
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP: Coloma
- Monterey SHP
- Old Sacramento SHP
- Old Town San Diego SHP
- Plumas-Eureka SP: Johnsville
- San Juan Bautista SHP
- Shasta SHP
- Sonoma SHP

Schools: Many of the historic towns listed above have an old schoolhouse, including:

- Colonel Allensworth SHP

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- Columbia SHP
- Malakoff Diggins SHP
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
- Old Town San Diego SHP

Ethnic Communities: North of Bakersfield, Colonel Allen Allensworth founded the farming community of Allensworth in 1908. Black pioneers built the town to live self-sufficient lives, free from the adversities brought about by racial prejudice.

Parks interpreting California's ethnic communities include:

- Angel Island SP: Immigration Station
- China Camp SP
- Colonel Allensworth SHP
- Columbia SHP: Chinese Herb Shop/Temple
- Fort Ross SHP
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
- Monterey SHP
- Old Town San Diego SHP
- Point Lobos SR: Whaler's Cabin
- San Juan Bautista SHP
- Shasta SHP
- Sonoma SHP: Toscano Hotel Complex
- Weaverville Joss House SHP



Homes of Influential Figures: In Chico, Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park interprets the life of John Bidwell, known throughout California as a pioneer, statesman, and horticulturalist.

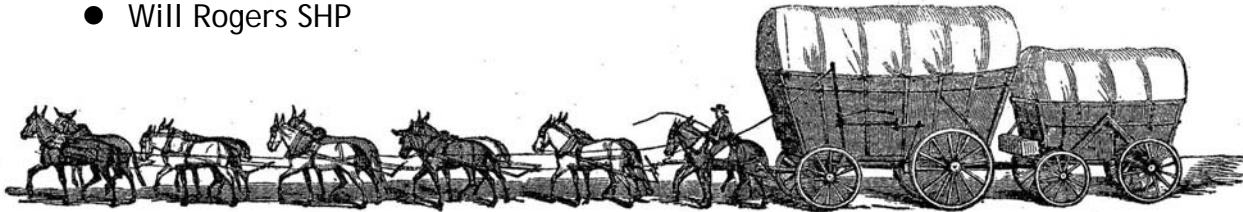
The home of William Randolph Hearst is an extremely popular unit of the State Park System. Every year, nearly 1,000,000 people visit Hearst Castle at San Simeon to see the priceless art and timeless architecture that reveal a man whose impact is still felt on our politics, journalism, and art.

Parks interpreting the homes and lives of influential figures include:

- Bidwell Mansion SHP
- Emerald Bay SP: Vikingsholm
- Empire Mine SHP
- Governor's Mansion SHP
- Hearst San Simeon SHM
- Jack London SHP
- Leland Stanford Mansion SHP
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
- Monterey SHP: Larkin House, Sherman Adobe, Robert Louis Stevenson House
- Petaluma Adobe SHP
- Pío Pico SHP

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- Sonoma SHP: Vallejo Home
- Edwin L. Z'berg—Sugar Pine Point SP: Ehrman Mansion
- Sutter's Fort SHP
- Will Rogers SHP



Ranching, Agriculture, and Lumbering: California's history has been affected by these industries, which are interpreted at the following parks:

- Anderson Marsh SHP
- Bale Grist Mill SHP
- Butano SP (Lumbering)
- Calaveras Big Trees SP
- California Citrus SHP
- Cuyamaca Rancho SP
- Fort Humboldt SHP
- Henry W. Coe SP
- Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
- Mendocino Headlands SP
- Petaluma Adobe SHP
- Sonoma SHP: Vallejo Home
- Wilder Ranch SP (dairy/butter making)

Military: Many parks interpret California's military history, including:

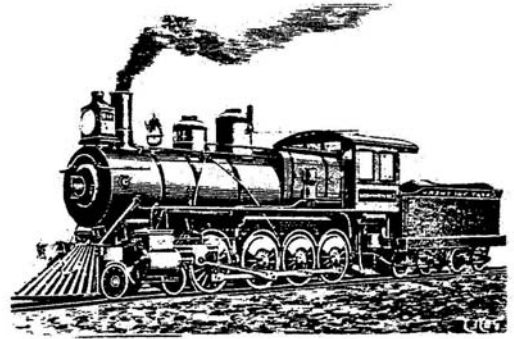
- Angel Island SP
- Fort Humboldt SHP
- Fort Tejon SHP
- San Pasqual Battlefield SHP
- Sonoma SHP
- Sutter's Fort SHP

Government:

- Benicia Capitol SHP
- California State Capitol Museum
- Millerton Lake SRA: Millerton Courthouse
- Monterey SHP
- Old Sacramento SHP: B.F. Hastings Building
- Old Town San Diego SHP
- Shasta SHP

Transportation, Communication, and Power
Generation:

- California State Railroad Museum
- Folsom Lake SRA: Folsom Powerhouse
- Old Sacramento SHP: B.F. Hastings Building
- Old Town San Diego SHP
- Plumas-Eureka SP: Hydroelectric plant
- Railtown 1897 SHP
- San Juan Bautista SHP: Stable



Early Recreation and Entertainment:

- Columbia SHP: Fallon Hotel and Theater
- Lighthouse Field State Beach: Santa Cruz Surfing Museum
- Monterey SHP: First Theater
- Old Sacramento SHP: Eagle Theater
- Plumas-Eureka SP: Skiing
- Edwin L. Z'berg—Sugar Pine Point SP
- Woodland Opera House SHP

Suggested Resources: History

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Bright, William. *1500 California Place Names: Their Origin and Meaning*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998. This little volume gives name explanations for well-known geographic features of the state—and some lesser-known ones, too.

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