

California: State History Discovery Journal

Sutter's Fort

WORD BANK

Choose from these options to fill in the blanks below. Some answers may be used more than once.

1839	James W. Marshall	1880
Mexican	47,827	1803
American	Bear Flag	Kandern/Baden
New Helvetia	1891	Alta



John Sutter was born in _____, Germany, and was married by the age of 23 to Anna Dubeld. In 1834, when Sutter was 31 years old, he sailed to New York and briefly settled in Missouri. His interest in adventure didn't end there. He soon picked up and traveled to Kansas, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, and eventually sailed up the American River and settled in _____, California.

In 1840, "Captain" Sutter became a _____ citizen, and in 1841, he received a grant of _____ acres along the Sacramento River. By 1845, Sutter had lots of cattle, horses, and sheep on his working fort. Although the name, "_____" didn't last, Sutter's Fort became a magnet for travelers. Anyone who arrived at the fort was fed and some were employed.

Sutter's Fort, of course, flew the _____ flag, as Sutter maintained a friendly relationship with everyone. In 1846, the _____ Revolt in Sonoma

caused a new flag, a lone star, to be raised briefly over Sutter's Fort. Soon thereafter, the American flag was raised. Sutter was given back his command of the fort in March of 1847.

Among the dozens of men Sutter employed was _____, who, in 1848, discovered gold in the _____ River, about 50 miles east of the fort. Soon, the gold rush became a refuge for many miners and traders. Some unscrupulous men began swindling Sutter out of his holdings and squatters took over much of his land. As debts piled up, John Sutter was forced to sell the fort at the end of 1849, resulting in his retirement at his ranch near Marysville, CA.

By the late 1850s all that was left of Sutter's Fort was the Central Building. The Native Sons of the Golden West purchased it in 1890 and donated it to the state in 1891. Reconstruction began in _____, and was completed in 1893. Sutter's Fort

became part of the California State Park System in 1947.

After a fire destroyed the ranch, Sutter and his wife decided to go to Washington, D.C., to obtain reimbursement from Congress for his aid to emigrants and for his help in colonizing the state of California. His pleas were never answered, however, because on June 16, _____, Congress adjourned without passing the reimbursement bill and Sutter died two days later. His wife Anna lived another six months and was buried alongside him in Lititz, Pennsylvania.



California Gold Rush

On January 24, 1848, an event occurred in Coloma that would radically impact the history of California and the nation. James W. Marshall was building a sawmill for Captain John Sutter, using water from the South Fork of the

American River. He noticed several flakes of metal in the tailrace water and recognized them to be gold. Though he tried to keep it a secret, the word spread quickly, and triggered the California Gold Rush of 1849.

Some 80,000 immigrants poured into California during 1849. By the 1850s, miners were coming from places all over the world: Britain, Europe, China, Australia, North America, and South America.



Imagine you have been traveling three months with a wagon train on the California Trail. You have reached the dreaded desert in Nevada called the Carson Sink, and your wagon must be abandoned because your oxen are too weak to continue the trek. Other members of the wagon train had to leave wagons alongside the trail, too. Now, only a few wagons continue to roll across the desolate land.

A sympathetic companion offers you space in his wagon, but says you can only bring seven items. Ahead lies more desert, and after that, the Sierra Nevada. What seven items would you take and what could you live without?

Choose your seven items:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-lb. bag of flour | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-lb. bag of salt | <input type="checkbox"/> One buffalo hide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 in gold | <input type="checkbox"/> Table and chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-gallon pail | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron stove | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel and ax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about California | <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds for farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Spyglass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 feet of rope | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen pots | <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper and pen | <input type="checkbox"/> Keg of nails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiddle | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer and saw | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest of drawers | <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass windows |

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Questions to Think About:

1. How would California be different if gold had not been discovered?

2. People usually think of the gold rush as an adventure for the people involved. What is an adventure? Did most people have a good or bad adventure?

3. How does it feel to hope and plan for great success, only to lose everything because of adversity? What adversities did the early pioneers face? How did they overcome these problems? Should people risk everything for a chance to be rich?

Making Connections



Write the number of the answer in the space next to the matching definition.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|
| 1. PLACER | ___ | Liquid metal used by miners to concentrate gold |
| 2. MARSHALL | ___ | The workers who constructed Sutter's Mill |
| 3. ADOBE | ___ | A ditch that drains water away from machinery |
| 4. BRANNAN | ___ | The kind of rock within which gold is found |
| 5. SAWMILL | ___ | An odd-shaped chunk of gold |
| 6. GRISTMILL | ___ | A deposit of sand with gold dust in it |
| 7. MORMONS | ___ | A brick made out of dried mud |
| 8. SUTTER | ___ | Native Americans who lived near Sutter's Mill |
| 9. MERCURY | ___ | Looking for gold |
| 10. ADZE | ___ | A forest of large shrubs found in the foothills |
| 11. TAILRACE | ___ | A small machine to wash out placer gold |
| 12. NISENAN | ___ | He built a sawmill and discovered gold |
| 13. QUARTZ | ___ | A machine that cuts lumber from logs |
| 14. NUGGET | ___ | A machine that grinds grain into flour |
| 15. CHAPARRAL | ___ | The owner of New Helvetia, a fort and a mill |
| 16. PROSPECTING | ___ | He announced the news of the gold discovery |
| 17. CRADLE | ___ | A tool for making the sides of a log flat |