

GOLD RUSH



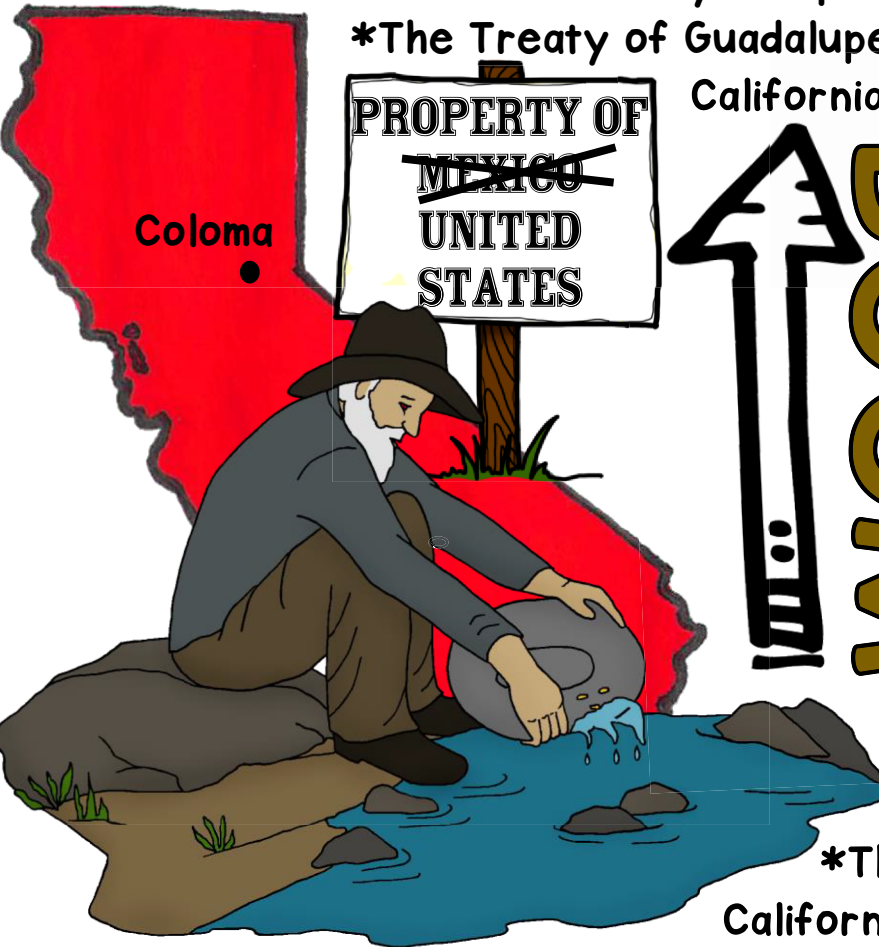
1848: *January 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Saw Mill along the American River in Coloma, California

*He tried to keep the discovery a secret, but the news quickly spread to the surrounding areas and soon people from all over the United States and the world flocked to California

WHO OWNS CALIFORNIA?:

*When gold was discovered in 1848, the United States and Mexico were at war and California was technically still part of Mexico

*The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded the territory of California to the United States (Feb. 1848)



BOOM

*Marshall's discovery was just one small area of the mother lode (the main vein of gold ore) that would soon be uncovered

*Ultimately, \$2 billion in gold would be uncovered by prospectors (worth over \$20 billion today)

*Over the next 8 years, 300,000 people and their money poured into California's boom towns

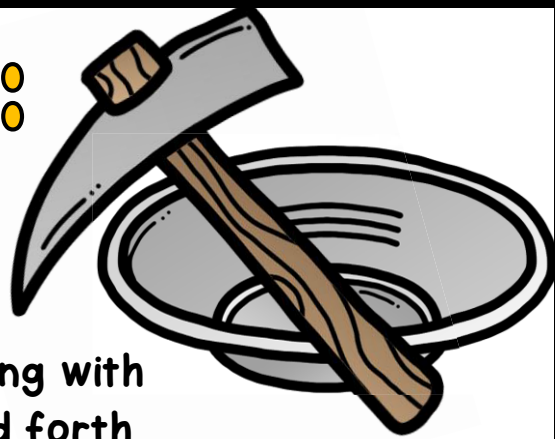
*The population explosion resulted in California quickly becoming a state in 1850

'49ners:

*The people rushing to California were called 49ners because they arrived in 1849

*They came overland along the California Trail or by sea via Cape Horn or Panama

PANNING FOR GOLD:



*One of the most common methods used to find gold is called panning

*Prospectors placed a shovel of dirt from an area suspected to contain gold into a pan or a sieve along with some water and vigorously shook the pan back and forth

*The shaking caused the heavier gold to settle on the bottom while the worthless silt rose to the top

*As gold became harder to find, more prospectors turned to underground and hydraulic mining in search for gold

NECESSARY SUPPLIES:

*Mining pan, sieve, pick, and shovel

*Food and living supplies like a tent, lamp, and kettle

*As demand for supplies increased, so did the prices

*People who sold mining supplies often made more money than the prospectors

GHOST TOWNS:

*As gold ran out, prospectors left the boom towns

*Without customers, businesses shut down and the towns became abandoned ghost towns

NOT THE FIRST & NOT THE LAST:

*While the California Gold Rush is probably the most well known gold rush, it was not the nation's first

*The first gold rush started in 1802 at Reed's Farm in North Carolina after the family discovered that a rock their son brought home was actually a gold nugget

*Between 1804-1828 all gold coins minted by the United States were cast from North Carolina gold

*After the California Gold Rush, gold, silver, copper, zinc, and lead deposits were discovered throughout the west resulting in more rushes as people hoped to strike it rich

