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Student Activity Maps

California

EMP119





Educational Masterprints a division of Social Studies School Service

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TEACHER'S GUIDE TO STUDENT ACTIVITIES

NOTE TO TEACHERS: The activities outlined here can be only a partial listing, for good learning activities are limited only by the imagination of the teacher and the scope of the school program. The suggested list that follows is designed to promote individual study and to encourage the use of materials outside the textbook and the classroom. The teacher can select the activity to fit the grade level and interests of each class.

MS-100 CALIFORNIA

MS-101 CALIFORNIA - Counties

- 1. Using the map scale, have the students determine the length and width of the State.
- 2. Locate your county on the map. Name the adjoining counties. What is the county seat? How did the county and the county seat get their names? What is the area and population of your county? The major cities?
- 3. Student Research Project. Have a student committee explore the history of the Seal of the State of California, and the meaning of the figures and symbols on the seal. Make a report to the class.

MS-102 CALIFORNIA - Mountains and Rivers

- The major mountain ranges are named on the map. Have the students locate and write on the map some of the smaller ranges (Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Lucia Range, San Bernardino Mountains, etc.). How do the mountains affect the weather in California?
- 2. Have the students name the major rivers on the map. In which direction do they flow?
- 3. Locate these famous valleys of California—San Fernando Valley, Napa Valley, Santa Clara Valley, Salinas Valley, Coachella Valley.

MS-103 CALIFORNIA - Aqueducts and Reservoirs

- 1. What is the source of the water for the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct, Los Angeles Aqueduct, and the California Aqueduct?
- 2. Name some of the dams used in the California Aqueduct system. Why are dams so important to Northern California? To Southern California?
- 3. What major cities lie along the routes of the aqueducts?

MS-104 CALIFORNIA - Cities and Highways

- 1. Locate your city on the map. What are the major highways in or near your city? What is your city's population? What is the population of the 5 largest cities of the State? Why did they grow where they did?
- 2. Name some suburban towns or cities that should be included in the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco.
- 3. List some notable landmarks of San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento.
- 4. Class Discussion: List some reasons why the cities in Southern California grew faster than those of Northern California.
- 5. Using a common highway map, trace a route from your county seat to the State Capitol. What are the identifying road numbers or highways traveled? How far is it? What are the major cities along U.S. Highway 101?

MS-105 CALIFORNIA - Lakes and Parks

- 1. Have the students explore the geographic features of a national park and write a report on its plant life. What kinds of animals inhabit these forests?
- 2. List some of the lakes in your area not listed on the map. What recreational facilities do they have?
- 3. List the major state parks listed on the map. Have students name the state parks in their county. What facilities do these parks provide for visitors?
- 4. Class Discussion: Why is forest conservation so important to California? What is a Wilderness Area?

MS-106 CALIFORNIA - Agriculture

- 1. Name and locate some of the famous farm valleys of California. What are the major agricultural products of your county? Where are these products marketed or processed?
- 2. How has farming changed in California over the past 40 years? What has caused these changes?
- 3. Name some government agencies that were created to help the farmers of California. Arrange a visit to the class by one of the agents.

MS-107 CALIFORNIA - Industry

- 1. Have the students examine the oil industry in Southern California.
- 2. Have a student committee report on one of the old mining town of the state.
- 3. Have the student report on one of the following industries in the Los Angeles area: aerospace, electronics, motion pictures. Why did it locate in that area?
- 4. What are some of the major industrial companies in your county? How many people do they employ?

MS-108 CALIFORNIA - Historical Map

- 1. Organize a committee to prepare an exhibit of life in California (a) under the Spanish rule; (b) during gold rush days.
- 2. Have students report on an Indian tribe that formerly lived in their area. To what cities, rivers, or areas have they given their tribal names? What other Indian tribes, other than those listed, lived in California?
- 3. Have students write a short history of their community, which should include the date and reasons for its settlement, its name, and one or more historical events from its history.
- 4. Californians to Know: Juan Cabrillo, Gaspar de Portola, Father Junipero Serra, Jedidiah Smith, John C. Fremont. Historical Events to Know: Bear Flag Revolt, the "Forty-Niners," Pony Express, Central Pacific Railroad, and the San Francisco earthquake and fire.



















