

Introduction

Exploring the United States: Puzzles, Activities, and Map Work Volume 4 explores the states of California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It's ideal for 4th-8th grade and includes numerous puzzles to sharpen research and language arts skills. The state motto, popular name, geography, historic events, famous people, and more are studied through decoding puzzles, acrostics, matching, fill-ins, crosswords, letter puzzles, multiple choice, and various other types of puzzles and activities.

Each state's map work includes an outline of the state on which students can draw or label the location of the capital, bordering states or bodies of water, key rivers, and important mountains. The location of these places does not need to be exact; the exercise is meant to be a basic introduction to the approximate location of the places and their relation to each other.

I hope you're ready for a closer look at the fascinating history of ten of our United States!

September 9, 1850 California Becomes a State

California Facts:

Capital	Sacramento
Major Rivers	Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Colorado River
Highest Point	Mount Whitney
Borders	Oregon; the Pacific Ocean; Nevada; Arizona; and Baja California, Mexico

California was the thirty-first state to join the Union. Find the places listed above on a map of California and then draw and/or label them on the map below.



California State Motto and Popular Name Decoding

Write the words for the California state motto and the popular name of the state by finding each letter in a graph and then writing the letter on the line provided. Follow the directions for finding each letter. For example, if the directions say Across 4, Down 3 (A4-D3), follow the Down row 3 over to Across column 4 and find the letter **e**. In the instructions, we will use A for Across and D for Down.

		Across				
		1	2	3	4	5
Down	1	j	d	i	w	x
	2	u	l	n	y	p
	3	k	q	o	e	m
	4	t	v	h	c	r
	5	g	a	f	b	s

Motto

 A3-D1 A3-D4 A2-D5 A2-D4 A4-D3

 A3-D5 A3-D3 A1-D2 A3-D2 A2-D1 A3-D1 A1-D4

Popular Name

 A1-D4 A3-D4 A4-D3 A1-D5 A3-D3 A2-D2 A2-D1 A4-D3 A3-D2

 A5-D5 A1-D4 A2-D5 A1-D4 A4-D3

California True and False

Label each of the following statements "T" for true or "F" for false. If the statement is false, see if you can change it to make it true.

- ___1. The first Spanish mission built in California was the San Gabriel Mission founded by Saint Junípero Serra.
- ___2. Gold was found at the site of Sutter's Mill, when John Sutter found gold in the American River.
- ___3. Port Chicago was the location of an explosion of two ships of ammunition during World War II.
- ___4. Franciscan friars built a series of 36 missions in California, each about a day apart from each other.
- ___5. The town of Calico, with its 500 silver mines, was a mining town that existed during the largest silver strike in California.
- ___6. The Channel Islands are eight islands that lie off the coast of California; Catalina Island is the best known.
- ___7. Two battles fought in California during the Mexican War were the Battle of San Pasqual near San Diego and the Battle of San Gabriel near San Francisco.
- ___8. California's first highway was the El Camino Real, which began as a path connecting the Spanish missions along the coast.
- ___9. Fort Point was established by the Russians in northern California.
- ___10. Mount Whitney is the highest peak in California.
- ___11. California became a part of the United States after the Treaty of Paris ended the Mexican War.
- ___12. The Mojave Desert is the desert that lies between the Sierra Nevada and the Colorado River.

California Matching

Match the person to the description of what he or she is known for by writing the letter in the space provided.

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. | Portuguese explorer who explored for Spain and was the first European to see the coast of California | a. Sebastián Vizcaíno |
| _____ 2. | Englishman who claimed part of California for England and named it New Albion | b. Jedediah Strong Smith |
| _____ 3. | Urged Spain to colonize California | c. Richard Nixon |
| _____ 4. | Established forts at San Diego and Monterey | d. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo |
| _____ 5. | First American to reach California by land | e. Sally Ride |
| _____ 6. | First governor of the state of California | f. Gaspar de Portolá |
| _____ 7. | President of the U.S. who resigned because of the Watergate scandal | g. César E. Chávez |
| _____ 8. | Author who wrote <i>The Call of the Wild</i> | h. Peter H. Burnett |
| _____ 9. | First American woman in space | i. Jack London |
| _____ 10. | Established the National Farm Workers Association to fight for better working conditions | j. Francis Drake |

California Places

Write the name of the correct place that goes with each fact. Some places are used once, and others are used more than once.

- _____ 1. Known as the "City by the Bay"
- _____ 2. Location of the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16
- _____ 3. Home of the Hobby City Toy and Doll Museum
- _____ 4. Once part of the San Gabriel Mission
- _____ 5. Known as the "Queen of the California Missions"
- _____ 6. Founded by John A. Sutter, Jr.
- _____ 7. Location of the California Institute of Technology
- _____ 8. Home to Alcatraz Island
- _____ 9. One of the two capitals of California during Mexican rule
- _____ 10. Western end of the Transcontinental Railroad
- _____ 11. Home to the first Franciscan mission in California
- _____ 12. Western end of the Pony Express
- _____ 13. Home to the Golden Gate Bridge
- _____ 14. Home of the Rose Bowl and the Tournament of the Roses
- _____ 15. Capital of California
- _____ 16. Sometimes called the "Birthplace of California"
- _____ 17. Founded by Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo
- _____ 18. Location of Will Rogers State Historic Park
- _____ 19. Location of the start of the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad
- _____ 20. Location of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915

Anaheim	Pasadena	San Francisco
Los Angeles	Sacramento	Santa Barbara
Oakland	San Diego	Sonoma

California Mountains and Bodies of Water Decoding

Below is a table showing the capital of California. Each letter in the name of the capital and the state has a number below it. Using those numbers, fill in the correct letter in the name of each of the mountains or bodies of water shown in the decoding. Then, see if you can figure out the rest of the letters to complete the names.

S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	O	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

1. 4 14 — — 16 8 15 2 13 13 1

2. 1 20 18 — 10 12 — — 19 8 17 14 7 4

3. 1 14 7 4 17 20 18 7 — 2 — 5

4. 1 12 13 9 16 8 1 7 5

5. 13 20 — 7 9 12 — 10 7

6. 6 16 8 9 7 4 7 — — 2 —

7. 1 12 18 — 14 7 — 10 — 20 —

8. 1 12 11 17 20 6 7 18 9 16 17 19 — 7 4

9. 13 5 1 1 7 8 — 7 5 —

10. 3 20 1 11 12 — 7 6 16 — 18 9 2 14 8 1