

History of California



From 1769-1898

18th Century

- 1769 – Entrance to San Francisco Bay is discovered by SGT Jose Ortega
- 1769 – Serra founds San Diego de Alcalá mission and missions begin to sprout all the way up to Sonoma
- 1776 – Mass Celebrated at San Francisco and Dolores mission with “colonizing party” from Padre Serra

Trans-Continental Railroad

- IN the late 1800s, funding from Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, Collis Huntington, and Leland Stanford, allowed for establishment of the trans-continental railroad system with tracks throughout the Sierra Nevada and connections to New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Mexico, Utah, and Nevada

Traders

- 1812 – Russian fur traders established Fort Ross north of San Francisco
- 1820 – Ships from Boston began to visit Spanish towns of California's coast to trade for otter and beaver pelts and other items used by the natives and settlers

Revolution!

- In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain and became California's new ruler
- In 1826, Native Americans at Mission Solano revolted against Father Jose Altimira who flogged them in an attempt to "civilize" them

Invasion!

- In 1846, the U.S. invaded Mexico from the East and the Mexican-American War began. It lasted until 1848 and the territory of California was ceded to the United States when Mexico lost the war. The Treaty of Guadalupe officially ended the war.

Gold

- In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's sawmill in Coloma, CA and by 1849, people from across the nation were coming to California for the "Gold Rush" (hence the term 49ers)

California Becomes a State

- September 9, 1850
- California admitted to the Union
- 31st State of the Union

The 1860s through the turn of the century

- The Pony Express operated mail service from Missouri to Sacramento and took only **TEN DAYS**. The news of President Lincoln's assassination took only **SIX DAYS** to relay by Pony Express
- Chinese laborers had been recruited to build the railroads, but because both gold and jobs had dried up, in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act which barred all Chinese immigration. This act was not repealed for sixty years