



CALIFORNIA: QUIZ 1

1. What animal is on California's flag?

A **grizzly bear** is on California's flag. The grizzly bear, also called the brown bear, represents strength. There are no more grizzly bears in California, but there are some in Washington, Canada, and Alaska.

2. What is California's state flower?

California's state flower is the **Golden Poppy**. Golden Poppies are orange, and they bloom in the spring. Spanish explorers called them *copa de ora*, which means 'cup of gold.'

3. What ocean is California next to?

California is next to the **Pacific Ocean**. The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of the five oceans. (In 2000, a new ocean was added to the map. It is called the Southern Ocean.)

4. Which state is larger? California or Texas?

Texas is about 60% larger than California. Texas is 268,601 square miles and California is about 163,707 square miles. The largest state is Alaska, which is 656,425 square miles.

5. Which state has more people? California or New York?

California has more people than New York. About 36,500,000 people live in California and about 20,000,00 people live in New York (2005).

6. What is the capital of California?

The capital of California is **Sacramento**. When gold was discovered near Sacramento in 1848, its population and importance increased. It is now the 38th largest city in the USA.

7. Who is the governor of California?

The governor of California is **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. He became the 38th governor of California in November of 2003. Arnold is married, and he has four children.

8. What is California's nickname? Why?

California's nickname is the **Golden State** because of the **Gold Rush** and the **sunshine**.

9. When did California become a state?

California became a state on **September 9, 1850**. It was the 31st state to join the United States. California gained independence from Mexico in 1848 at the end of the Mexican-American War, which lasted from 1846-1848.

10. When was gold first discovered in California?

Gold was first discovered in California in **January of 1848**. It was discovered by James Marshall in **Coloma** on the **American River** near a sawmill owned by Captain John A. Sutter and James Marshall. The sawmill was called Sutter's Mill.