

# The California Gold Rush

BrainBuilder  
LA #5723

## Gathering

The 1849 California gold rush changed the western United States in a very short period. The discovery of gold drew thousands of people with the dream of finding riches to the hills of California. Take a closer look Americans who searched for their golden dream.

### Part A

**Directions:** Draw a line connecting the person in the first column to the correct description in the second column.

Person	Description
1. Sam Brannan	a. He had been both a handyman and a soldier. He became a celebrity after discovering gold, but he was never able to become rich panning for gold. He died alone with little money in 1855.
2. forty-niner	b. He was the leader of a group of Mormons who settled in Yerba Buena, now known as San Francisco. He was so excited by the discovery of gold that he ran through the streets of Yerba Buena screaming "Gold, gold!"
3. James Marshall	c. He was the eleventh president of the United States from 1845 through 1849. He said, "Nearly the whole of the male population of the country has gone to the gold districts."
4. James Polk	d. This is a person who rushed to California to find gold. Most came in 1849, but even if they came earlier or later, they were still called this.

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## Part B

**Directions:** Circle the letter that best completes the sentence.

1. Flakes of gold were discovered in 1848 at _____ near present-day Sacramento, California.	<b>a. Sutter's Fort</b> <b>b. Sutter's Sawmill</b> <b>c. Sutter's City</b>
2. At first, the other workers did not believe that it was gold. Many of the workers later left Sutter's Fort and began _____ for gold in the streams.	<b>a. panning</b> <b>b. digging</b> <b>c. fishing</b>
3. The population of California boomed from 14,000 before the gold rush to _____ in 1852. California quickly changed from a wilderness to the richest territory in the nation.	<b>a. 325,000</b> <b>b. 150,000</b> <b>c. 225,000</b>
4. This _____ of people made the California Territory a political and economic strength, and Congress worked quickly to make it a state. In 1850, California became a state.	<b>a. influx</b> <b>b. exiting</b> <b>c. combination</b>
5. In 1849, approximately 90,000 forty-niners left their homes in the eastern United States and traveled to California, many by _____, in search of gold.	<b>a. horse and buggy</b> <b>b. covered wagon</b> <b>c. automobile</b>