

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Life for most miners in California was _____.
 - Ⓐ exciting and full of riches
 - Ⓑ challenging but well worth it
 - Ⓒ hard and full of disease
 - Ⓓ inexpensive and joyful
2. Which of the following events happened in 1850?
 - Ⓐ The first gold was found in California.
 - Ⓑ Many people started moving out West.
 - Ⓒ The first ship from China landed in California.
 - Ⓓ California became a state.
3. What conclusion can you draw about the California gold rush?
 - Ⓐ The gold rush forever changed the American West.
 - Ⓑ The gold rush was more important to South America than to the United States.
 - Ⓒ The gold rush helped make most people in the United States wealthy.
 - Ⓓ The gold rush should have been kept a secret.
4. **Entrepreneurs** are _____.
 - Ⓐ people who were forced to mine for gold
 - Ⓑ people who start and run their own business
 - Ⓒ people who struck it rich during the gold rush
 - Ⓓ people who came from other countries looking for gold

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5. Who were the forty-niners?
 - Ⓐ a group of workers who refused to be treated badly at the mills
 - Ⓑ a group of people who decided to leave California because they did not find gold
 - Ⓒ a group of people who came from other countries to mine gold
 - Ⓓ a group of many people who joined the gold rush in one year
6. What was the effect of the gold rush on the state of California?
 - Ⓐ Many people moved to California.
 - Ⓑ Everyone in California ended up rich.
 - Ⓒ After the gold rush, many people moved away from California.
 - Ⓓ Laws were made that required workers to be treated well.
7. How did James Marshall affect the gold rush?
 - Ⓐ He told everyone about gold being found in California.
 - Ⓑ He helped bring people to California from China and South America.
 - Ⓒ He found the first gold in California.
 - Ⓓ He offered ways for people from the East to travel to the West.
8. What can you conclude about the experience of Native Americans during the gold rush?
 - Ⓐ The experience taught them how to mine for gold and make lots of money.
 - Ⓑ The experience was hard because they lost their land but helped them because many were able to get jobs.
 - Ⓒ The experience helped them because they were given money for their land.
 - Ⓓ The experience was terrible because they were forced out of their homes and many got sick.

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9. How did many women make money during the gold rush?
 - Ⓐ They mined for gold alongside the men.
 - Ⓑ They started businesses that cooked food and washed clothes for the miners.
 - Ⓒ They helped people travel to California.
 - Ⓓ They bought and sold mills.
10. *The process of extracting minerals from the surface of the Earth* is called _____.
 - Ⓐ scrubber mining
 - Ⓑ shaker mining
 - Ⓒ placer mining
 - Ⓓ California mining
11. **Extended Response:** Why did the prices of everyday goods go wild during the gold rush?
12. **Extended Response:** Why did many people choose to travel to California by boat rather than by land?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

1849: The California Gold Rush

Main Comprehension Skill: Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions

1. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓓ Sequence Events
3. Ⓐ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
4. Ⓑ Vocabulary
5. Ⓓ Main Idea and Detail
6. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
7. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
8. Ⓓ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
9. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓒ Vocabulary
11. Answers will vary, but students should note the following:
People were interested in making money any way they could during the gold rush and goods were scarce, so many prices were raised. Because miners did not have a choice, they were forced to buy overpriced goods.
12. Students should note the following: *Traveling by land was a very long and dangerous trip. People traveled by wagon and had to get the wagons over mountain ranges, across rivers, through bad weather, and so on. Many people who traveled by land faced starvation and disease.*