

Name _____ Date _____

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

1. Why did John Sutter wish to keep the discovery of gold in his mill a secret?
 - Ⓐ He wanted to be sure it was real gold before telling everyone.
 - Ⓑ He was afraid that someone would try to steal his mill from him for the gold.
 - Ⓒ He did not want his mill to be overrun with gold hunters.
 - Ⓓ He wanted to see how much gold he could mine before he told anyone.
2. 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.
3. Immigrants are _____.
 - Ⓐ people who were forced to mine for gold
 - Ⓑ people who come to live in a new country
 - Ⓒ people who struck it rich during the gold rush
 - Ⓓ people who start and run their own business

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4. 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

5. What was the effect of the gold rush on the state of California?

- Ⓐ Many people moved to California.
- Ⓑ Everyone in California ended up wealthy.
- Ⓒ After the gold rush, many people moved away from California.
- Ⓓ Laws were made that required workers to be treated well.

6. Life for most miners in California was _____.

- Ⓐ exciting and full of riches
- Ⓑ challenging but well worth it
- Ⓒ difficult and full of disease
- Ⓓ inexpensive and joyful

7. Which of the following events happened in 1850?

- Ⓐ California officially became a state.
- Ⓑ Many people started moving out West.
- Ⓒ The first ship from China landed in California.
- Ⓓ The president told Congress that gold had been found.

8. 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.

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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. *People who search for gold* are called _____.
 - Ⓐ entrepreneurs
 - Ⓑ philosophers
 - Ⓒ prospectors
 - Ⓓ millionaires
11. **Extended Response:** In what ways was the gold rush an opportunity of a lifetime for many people?
12. **Extended Response:** Why did the prices of everyday goods go wild during the gold rush?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

1849: The California Gold Rush

Main Comprehension Skill: Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions

1. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
2. Ⓓ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
3. Ⓑ Vocabulary
4. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
5. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
6. Ⓒ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
7. Ⓐ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
8. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
9. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓒ Vocabulary
12. Students should note the following: *During the late 1800s, many people made less than a dollar a day and struggled to survive. The gold rush offered the potential to become instantly rich.*
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.*