

Essential Question

What factors affected the settlement of California and Utah in the West?

Reading Guide**Content Vocabulary**

forty-niner (p. 379) vigilante (p. 380)
boomtown (p. 379)

Academic Vocabulary

constitution (p. 380) incorporate (p. 382)

Key People and Events

Levi Strauss (p. 380)
Mormon (p. 381)
Joseph Smith (p. 381)
Brigham Young (p. 382)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, take notes in a diagram like the one below. Describe what a person or group did and what their roles were in the settlement of California and Utah.

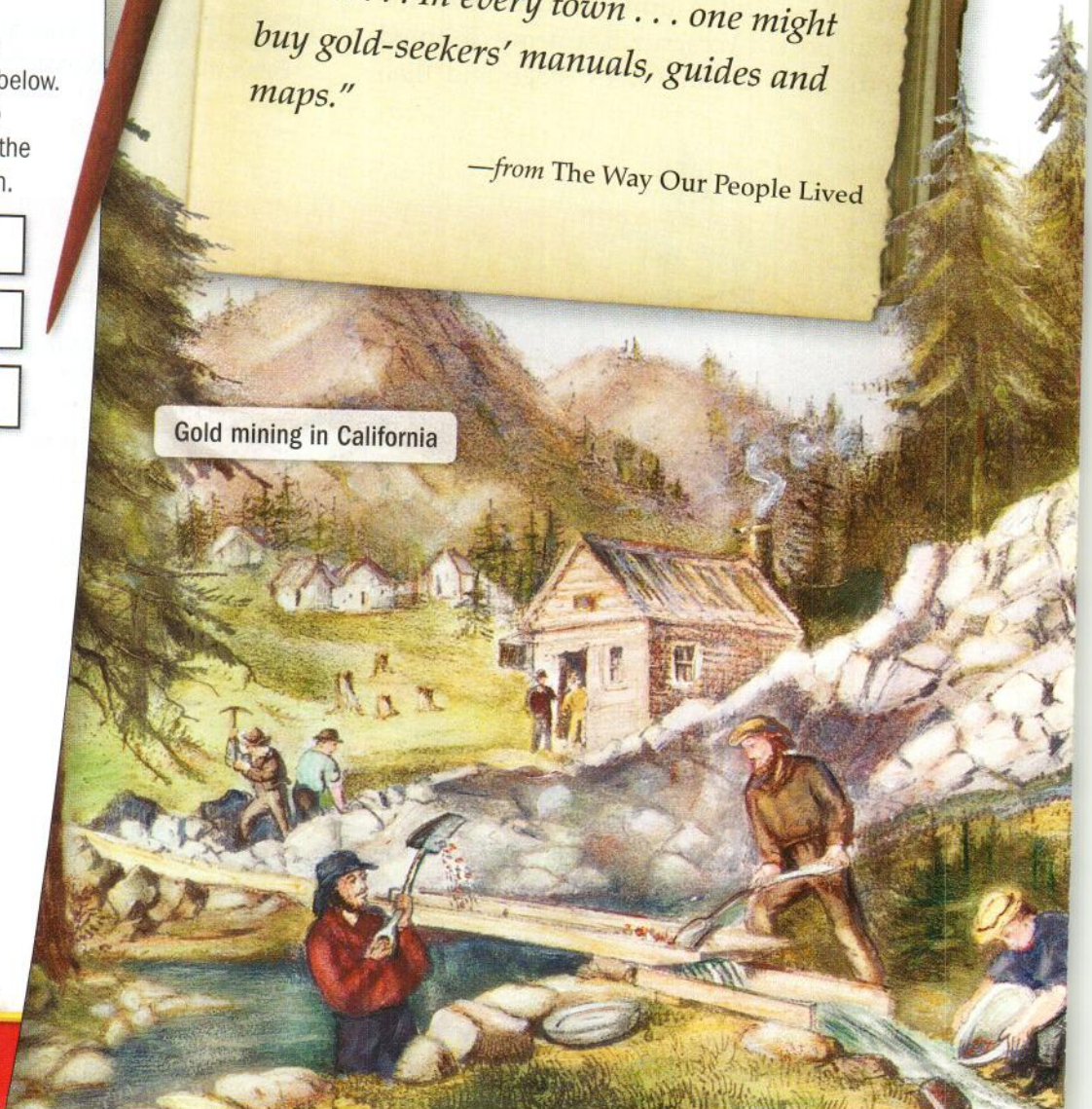
Forty-niners:	→	Role:
Mormons:	→	Role:
Brigham Young:	→	Role:

American Diary

From early 1848—when John Sutter discovered gold in California—until late 1849, the population of California increased from 15,000 to more than 100,000. Wild-eyed prospectors came from all over the world. “Farmers left their fields untilled and went off. . . . Workmen quit their jobs without notice. . . . In every town . . . one might buy gold-seekers’ manuals, guides and maps.”

—from *The Way Our People Lived*

Gold mining in California



INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS

People from all over the world traveled to California in search of gold.

- 1. Interpreting** Describe how people in the cartoon acted as they left for California.
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** Do you think the cartoonist views the California Gold Rush as favorable? Why or why not?



Most forty-niners had no experience in mining. Whenever they heard that gold had been discovered at a particular site, they rushed to it and attacked the hillsides with pickaxes and shovels. They spent hours bent over streambeds, “washing” or “panning” the water for gold dust and nuggets.

The California Gold Rush more than doubled the world’s supply of gold. For all their hard work, however, very few forty-niners achieved lasting wealth. Most found little or no gold. Many of those who did lost their riches through gambling or wild spending.

Boomtown merchants, however, made huge profits. They could charge whatever they liked for food and other essential items because there were no other nearby stores that sold these products. For example, an immigrant named **Levi Strauss** sold the miners sturdy pants made of denim. His “Levi’s” made him rich.

Gold Rush Society

Mining camps contained men of all backgrounds, but few women. Lonely and suffering hardships, many men spent their free

hours drinking, gambling, and fighting. Mining towns had no police or prisons. As a result, citizens formed committees of groups known as **vigilantes** (vih•juh•LAN•teez) to protect themselves. Vigilantes took the law into their own hands and acted as police, judge, jury, and sometimes executioner.

Economic and Political Progress

The Gold Rush had lasting effects on California. Agriculture, shipping, and trade grew to meet the demand for food and other goods. Many people who had arrived looking for gold stayed to farm or run a business.

Rapid growth brought the need for better government. In 1850, Californians applied for statehood and wrote a **constitution**—a list of laws to support the government. The constitution’s ban on slavery, however, caused a crisis in Congress. Southern states opposed California’s admission. California did not enter the Union until a compromise was reached later that year.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why did the forty-niners travel to California?

California Gold Rush

Main Idea The discovery of gold led to rapid growth and eventual statehood for California.

History and You Do you think searching for treasure would be an exciting life? Read what life was like during the California Gold Rush.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848, people from all over the world traveled to the region in search of riches. Those who arrived in 1849 were called **forty-niners**. As one official reported, “the farmers have thrown aside their plows, the lawyers their briefs, the doctors their pills, the priests their prayer books, and all are now digging gold.” Many people arrived by sea. Others traveled on the Oregon Trail or the Santa Fe Trail.

Americans made up about 80 percent of the forty-niners. Others came from Mexico, South America, Europe, and Australia. About 300 men arrived from China, the first large group of Asian immigrants to settle in America. Although some eventually returned to China, others remained and established California’s Chinese American community.

The Californios

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war with Mexico and made Californios citizens of the United States. The treaty also guaranteed them the rights to their lands. The Land Law of 1851, however, established a group of reviewers who examined the Californios’ land rights. When a new settler claimed a Californio’s land, the two parties would go to court, and the Californio had to prove that he or she owned the land. Some Californios were able to prove their claims. Many, however, lost their land.

Life in California

As people rushed to a new area to look for gold, they built new communities, called **boomtowns**, almost overnight. At one site on the Yuba River where only two houses stood in September 1849, a miner arrived the next year to find a town of 1,000 people “with a large number of hotels, stores, groceries, bakeries, and . . . gambling houses.”

Cities also flourished during the Gold Rush. As ships arrived daily with gold seekers, San Francisco grew from a tiny village to a city of about 20,000 people.

By the Numbers Gold Rush Prices

Costs Miners might mine \$10 worth of gold one day but \$2,000 the next day. Even though their income was unpredictable, miners still had to buy supplies. What did goods cost in San Francisco in 1849?



Item	Cost
Flour	\$18 per pound
Coffee	\$16 per pound
Butter	\$1 per pound
Rice	\$10 per pound
Wood	\$20 per cord
Sleeping Room	\$12 per week
Labor (earned money)	\$6-10 per day

Critical Thinking

Analyzing San Francisco’s prices were 20 times higher than those in the rest of the country. Why would miners pay high prices?

A Religious Refuge in Utah

Main Idea The Mormons settled in Utah.

History and You Think about how you would plan to build a city in a desert. Learn how the Mormons created a thriving city in the harsh terrain of a desert.

A visitor to the Utah Territory in the 1850s wrote admiringly: "The whole of this small nation occupy themselves as usefully as the working bees of a hive." This account described the **Mormons**, or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mormons settled in Utah to fulfill their vision of the godly life.

The First Mormons

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was among a number of religious movements that sprang up during the religious awakenings of the 1830s and 1840s. The founder of the Mormon Church was **Joseph Smith**, a New Englander living in western

New York. Smith claimed that he had received visions that led him to build a new Christian church. He began preaching Mormon ideas in 1830.

Smith published *The Book of Mormon* that year, announcing that it was a translation of words written on golden plates that he had received from an angel. The text told of the coming of God and the need to build a kingdom on Earth to receive him.

Smith hoped to use his visions to build an ideal society. He believed that property should be held in common. He also supported polygamy, the idea that a man could have more than one wife. This angered a large number of people. Mormons eventually gave up this practice.

Smith formed a community in New York, but unsympathetic neighbors disapproved of the Mormons' religion and forced them to leave. The Mormons eventually settled in Illinois. In 1839 they bought the town of Commerce, Illinois, and renamed it Nauvoo. Nauvoo became a prosperous community.

Primary Source The Mormons

West to Utah Strong anti-Mormon feelings in the United States convinced Brigham Young to lead Mormons west. Young hoped to settle in a place where his people could live and worship freely.

Mormons gave people carts to help them carry their possessions on the journey west. By 1860, about 40,000 Mormons had settled in the Utah Territory. ▼



"In our Mountain home we feel not the withering sources of influence of political or even fashionable [tyranny]. . . . I have found the satisfaction of having been [very] successful, and peace again smiles upon all our settlements, and that too without a resort to arms."

—Brigham Young



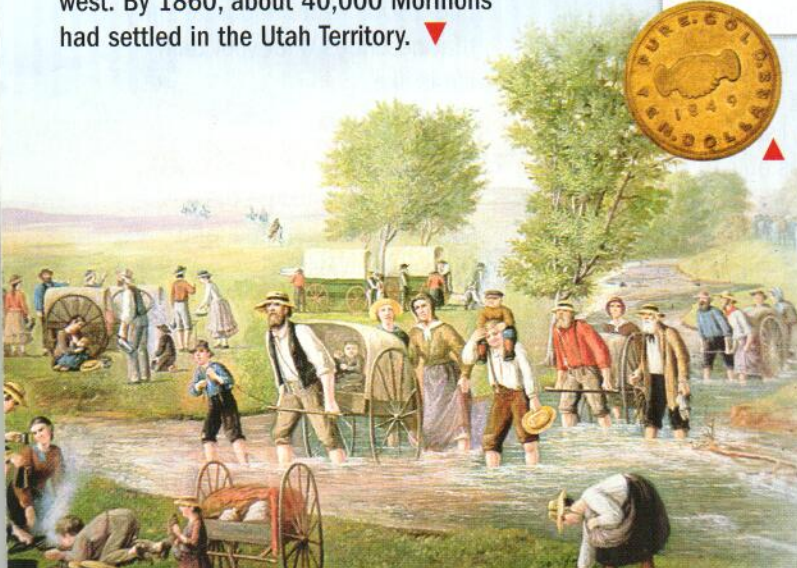
▲ Mormons minted coins and issued paper money in the 1840s and 1850s.

The Mormon Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah ▼



Critical Thinking

Analyzing Why did Young feel satisfied after the Mormons' journey west?



Persecution of the Mormons, however, continued. In 1844 a mob of local residents killed Joseph Smith. After Smith's death, **Brigham Young** took over as head of the Mormons. Young decided that the Mormons should move again to escape persecution and find religious freedom. This time, the Mormons would move west to the Great Salt Lake in present-day Utah. Although part of Mexico at the time, no Mexicans had settled in the region because of its harsh terrain.

A Haven in the Desert

The Mormon migration began in 1846. About 12,000 Mormons made the trek. It was the largest single migration in American history. The Mormons forged their way along a path that became known as the Mormon Trail. Like the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail served as a valuable route into the western United States.

In 1847 the Mormons finally reached the Great Salt Lake. It was there that Young declared that the Mormons would build a new settlement. The land was dry and wild. Nevertheless, the Mormons staked a claim on the land they called Deseret. Soon they had set up farming communities.

At first life was difficult for the settlers. The Mormons, however, made Deseret flourish because of their hard work and determination to succeed. They planned their towns, such as Salt Lake City, carefully and built irrigation canals to water their farms. Property was taxed, and the use of water, timber, and other natural resources was regulated. Mormons also founded industries so they could be self-sufficient. Mormon merchants sold supplies to the forty-niners who passed through Utah on their way to California.

In 1848 the United States acquired the Salt Lake area as part of the settlement with the war with Mexico. In 1850 Congress established the Utah Territory. President Millard Fillmore made Brigham Young the governor of the Utah Territory.

By 1860 there were numerous Mormon communities throughout the Utah region. Utah was not easily **incorporated**, or included, into the United States. The Mormons often had conflicts with federal officials. In 1857 and 1858, war almost broke out between the Mormons and the United States Army. Utah did not become a state until 1896.

 **Reading Check** **Identifying** Who founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Section 4 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

1. Define each of the following terms and use them in a paragraph about the California Gold Rush: **forty-niner**, **boomtown**, **vigilante**, **constitution**, **incorporate**.

Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** Why was California's entry into the Union delayed?
3. **Explaining** Why did the Mormons leave New York?

Critical Thinking

4. **Making Connections** How did the Gold Rush affect California's population?
5. **Organizing** In a diagram like the one below, list the reasons Deseret was able to flourish.



6. **Creative Writing** You are living in a California boomtown in the mid-1800s. Write a journal entry that describes what your daily life is like.

7. Answer the Essential Question

What factors affected the settlement of California and Utah in the West?