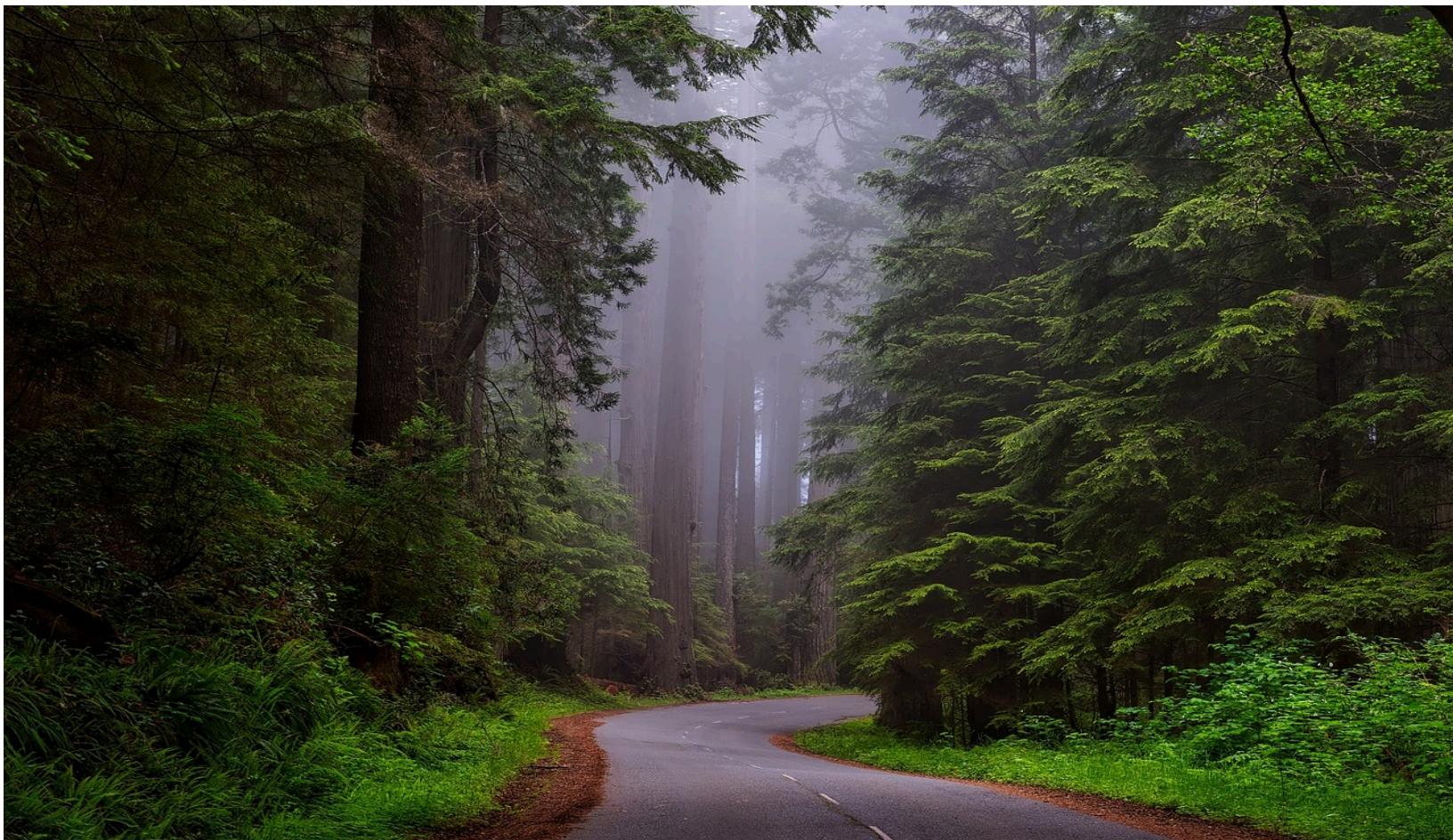


# CALIFORNIA ACTIVITY PACKET



Exclusively for members of MrNussbaum.com

<https://pixabay.com/users/jenteeisme-12760140/>



## California



Capital: **Sacramento**

Area: **163,707 sq. miles (3rd)**

Population: **39,560,000 (1st)**

Date of Union Entry: **9/9/1850 (35th state)**

State Bird: **California Quail**

State Flower: **California Poppy**

State Tree: **Redwood**

Highest Point: **Mt. Whitney – 14,495 feet**

Motto: **Eureka (I have found it!)**



## Fact or Fiction?

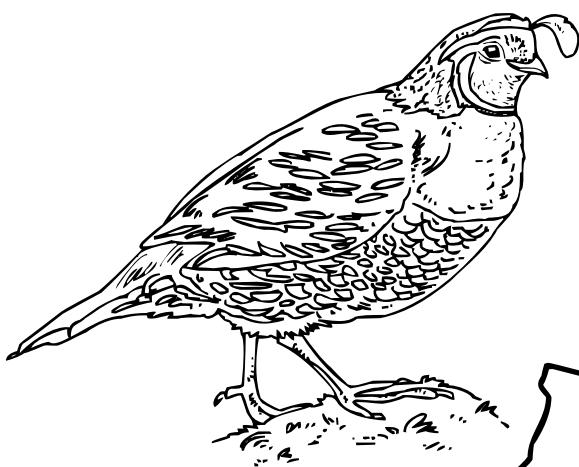
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



	FACT	FICTION
Nevada is EAST of California		
Anaheim is WEST of Palm Springs		
Redwood National Park is SOUTH of San Francisco		
Oakland is SOUTHEAST of San Francisco		
California is SOUTH of Oregon		
Oregon is NORTHWEST of Nevada		
Sequoia National Park is NORTH of Kings Canyon National Park		
San Diego is in the SOUTHWEST part of the state		

**Answers:**

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
Nevada is EAST of California	X	
Anaheim is WEST of Palm Springs	X	
Redwood National Park is SOUTH of San Francisco		X
Oakland is SOUTHEAST of San Francisco		X
California is SOUTH of Oregon	X	
Oregon is NORTHWEST of Nevada	X	
Sequoia National Park is NORTH of Kings Canyon National Park		X
San Diego is in the SOUTHWEST part of the state	X	



**California Quail**



**California Poppy**



**The Golden State**

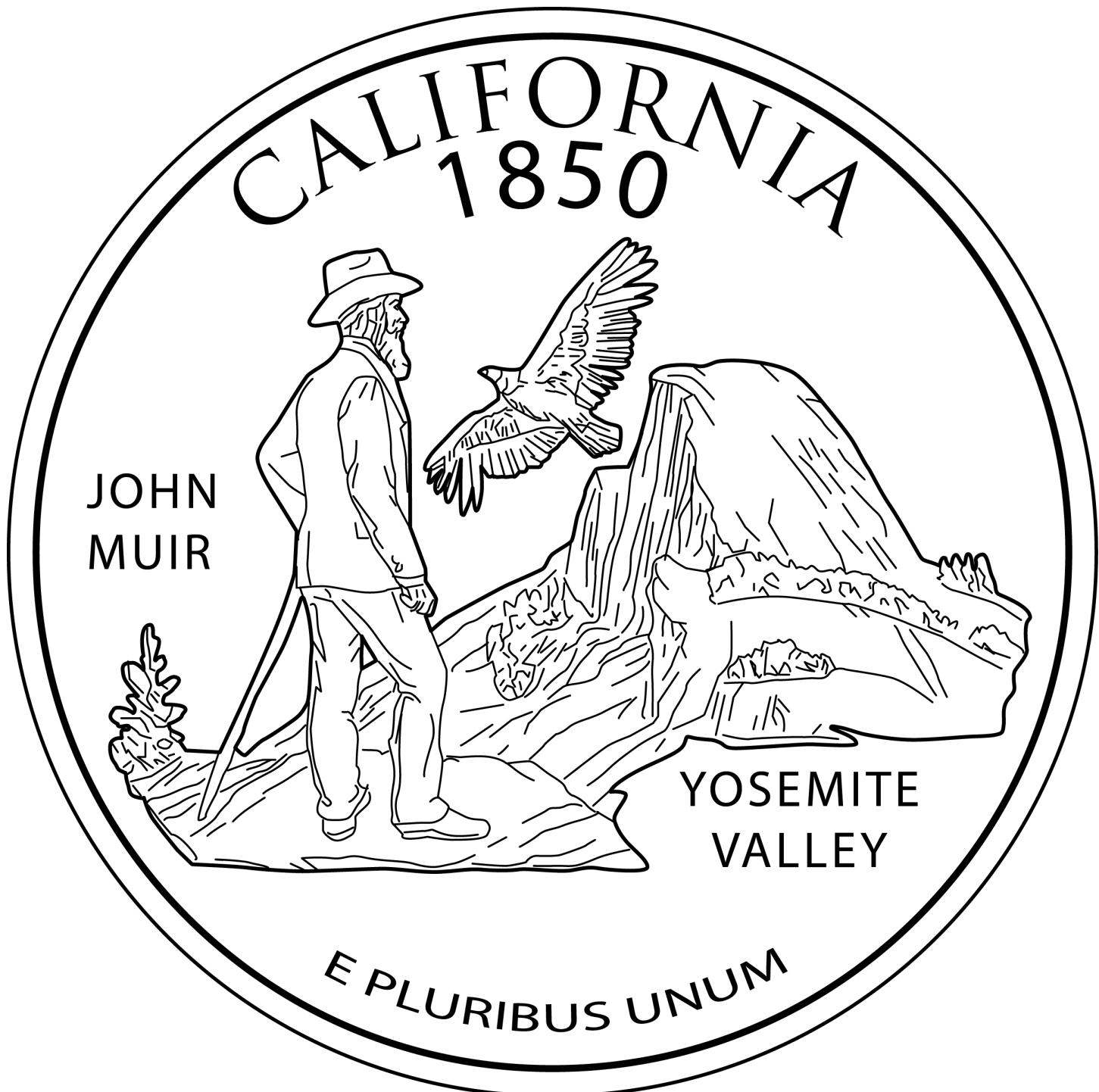


**Redwood**



**MRNUSBAUM**  
ATHOUSANDSITESINONE

California State Quarter



## Comparing and Contrasting California and Arizona

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### California

California, located along the west coast of the United States, became America's 31st state on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850, soon after gold was discovered at Sutter's Fort. California borders Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. The Pacific Ocean lies to its west. Its capital is Sacramento and largest city is Los Angeles. California has more people than any other state and has numerous attractions that bring people from all over the world such as Disney Land, Hollywood, Lake Tahoe, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. California also has vibrant cities such as San Francisco and San Diego. It has beautiful national parks such as Yosemite and Redwood, which feature the tallest trees in the world. California has snow-capped mountain ranges, volcanoes, deserts, and beautiful beaches.

### Arizona

Arizona, located in the southwestern portion of the United States, became a state on February 14, 1912. It was America's 48<sup>th</sup> state! It is one of the four corner states, and shares borders with California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. Arizona's capital and largest city is Phoenix, which has more than two million people. Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the nation's most popular natural attractions. The Grand Canyon was carved by the ancient Colorado River, which flows through the northern part of Arizona. Much of southern Arizona is covered by the Sonoran Desert, which includes groves of giant Saguaro cacti!

Which facts belong in each category?

**Borders more states**

**Home to the Grand Canyon**

**Has more people**

**Became a state first**

**Located in the Midwestern United States**

**Has deserts**

**Home to Yosemite National Park**

**Capital city and largest city are different**

**One of the four corner states**

**Has beaches**

**California**

**Both**

**Arizona**

**Neither**

**Answers:**

**California**

**Has more people  
Became a state first  
Home to Yosemite National Park  
Capital city and largest city are different  
Has beaches**

**Both**

**Has deserts**

**Arizona**

**Borders more states  
Home to the Grand Canyon  
One of the four corner states**

**Neither**

**Located in the Midwestern United States**

## Comparing and Contrasting California and Oregon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### California

California, located along the west coast of the United States, became America's 31st state on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850, soon after gold was discovered at Sutter's Fort. California, which is nicknamed the Golden State, borders Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. The Pacific Ocean lies to its west. Its capital is Sacramento and largest city is Los Angeles. California has more people than any other state and has numerous attractions that bring people from all over the world such as Disney Land, Hollywood, Lake Tahoe, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. California also has vibrant cities such as San Francisco and San Diego. It has beautiful national parks such as Yosemite and Redwood, which feature the tallest trees in the world. California has snow-capped mountain ranges, volcanoes, deserts, and beautiful beaches.

### Oregon

Oregon, located in the northwestern portion of the United States, became America's 33<sup>rd</sup> state on February 14, 1859. Over four million people live in Oregon, which is nicknamed the Beaver State. Oregon is bordered by California, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada. To its west is the Pacific Ocean. Oregon's capital is Salem. Its largest city is Portland. Oregon's most famous attraction is probably Crater Lake National Park, located in the southern part of the state. Crater Lake is a large deep lake that was formed when a volcano collapsed. The lake is unusually blue in color. Parts of the lake are more than 2,000 feet deep. Crater Lake National Park is also one of the snowiest places in the world. In an average winter, it receives up to 45 feet of snow!

Which facts belong in each category?

**Nicknamed the Golden State**

**Home to Crater Lake**

**Has more people**

**Became a state first**

**Located on the West Coast**

**Has volcanoes**

**The capital city is the largest city are the same**

**Borders Idaho**

**Has a national park**

**Borders a country**

**California**

**Both**

**Oregon**

**Neither**

**Answers:**

**California**

**Nicknamed the Golden State  
Has more people  
Became a state first  
Borders a country**

**Both**

**Located on the West Coast  
Has Volcanoes  
Has a national park**

**Oregon**

**Home to Crater Lake  
Borders Idaho**

**Neither**

**The capital city and largest city are the same**



**California - The Golden State**

MR. NUSSBAUM

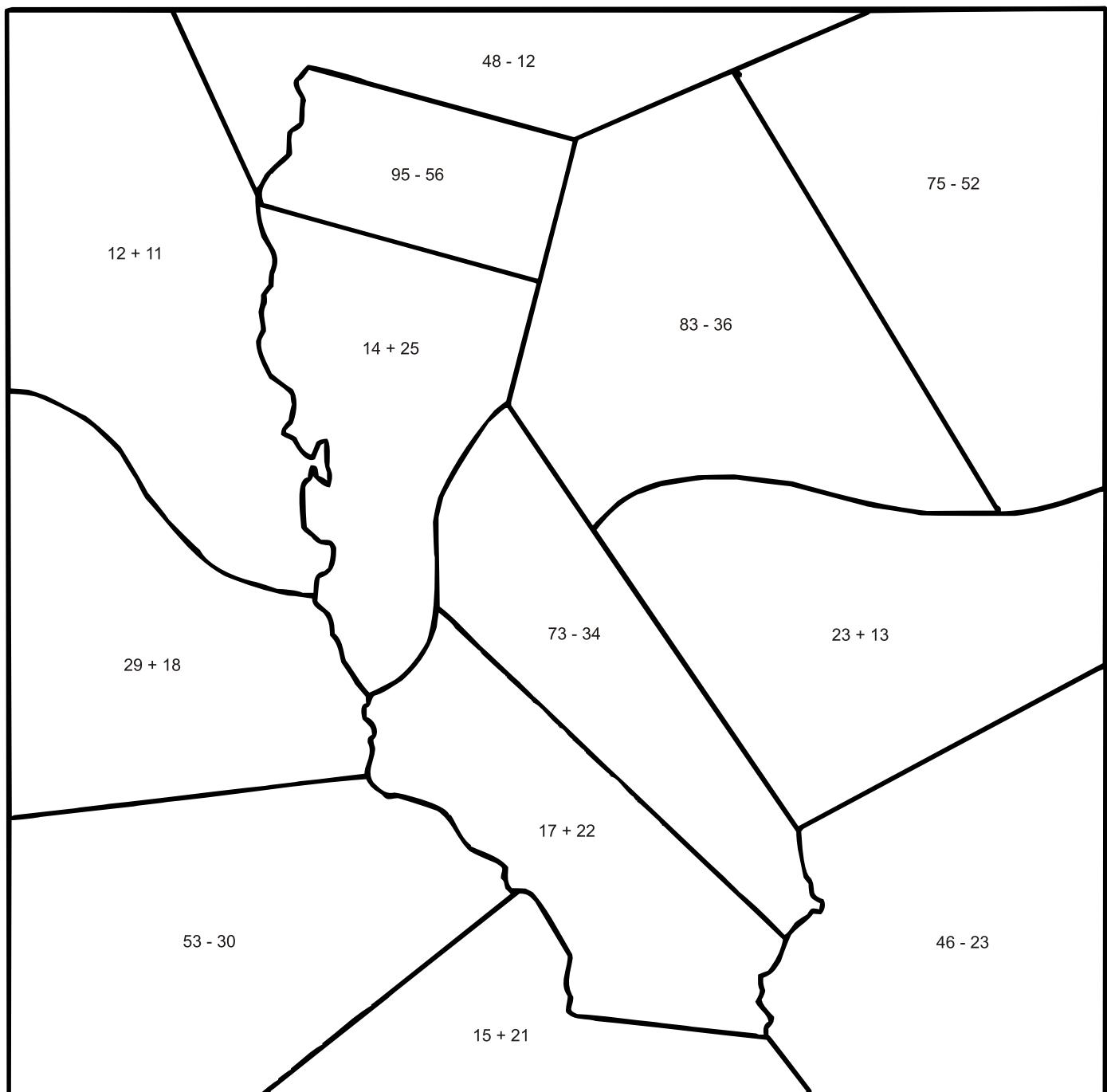
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California stamp

3 cents

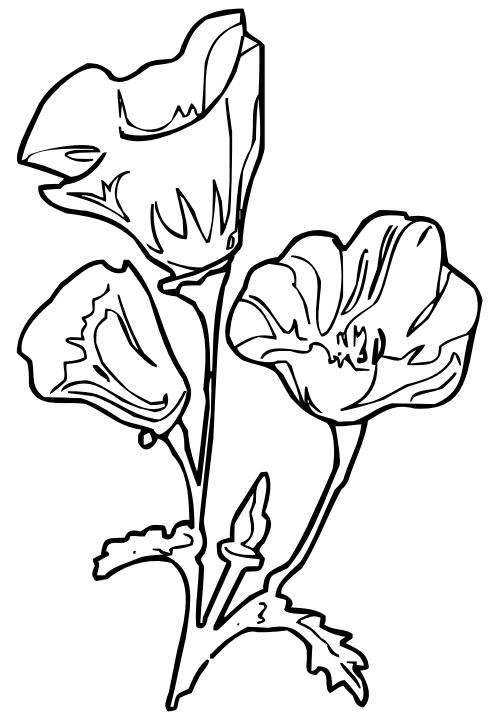


Do you know what state is pictured?

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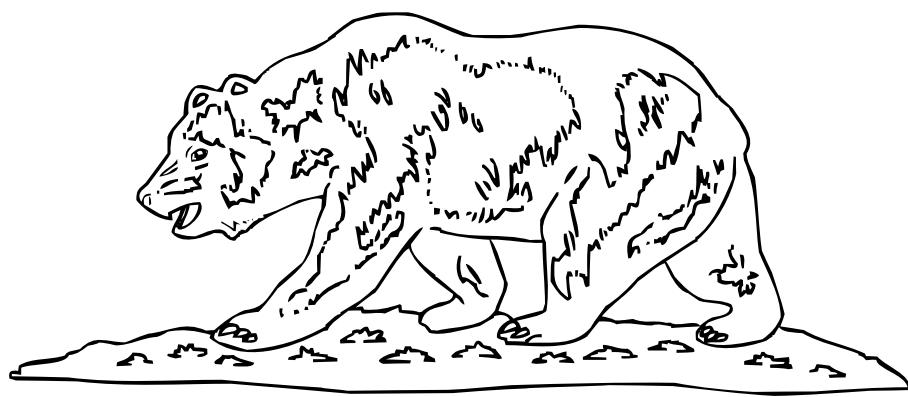
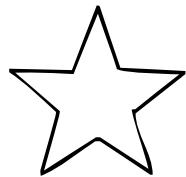
23 = Blue  
36 = Red  
39 = Yellow  
47 = White

Welcome to  
California



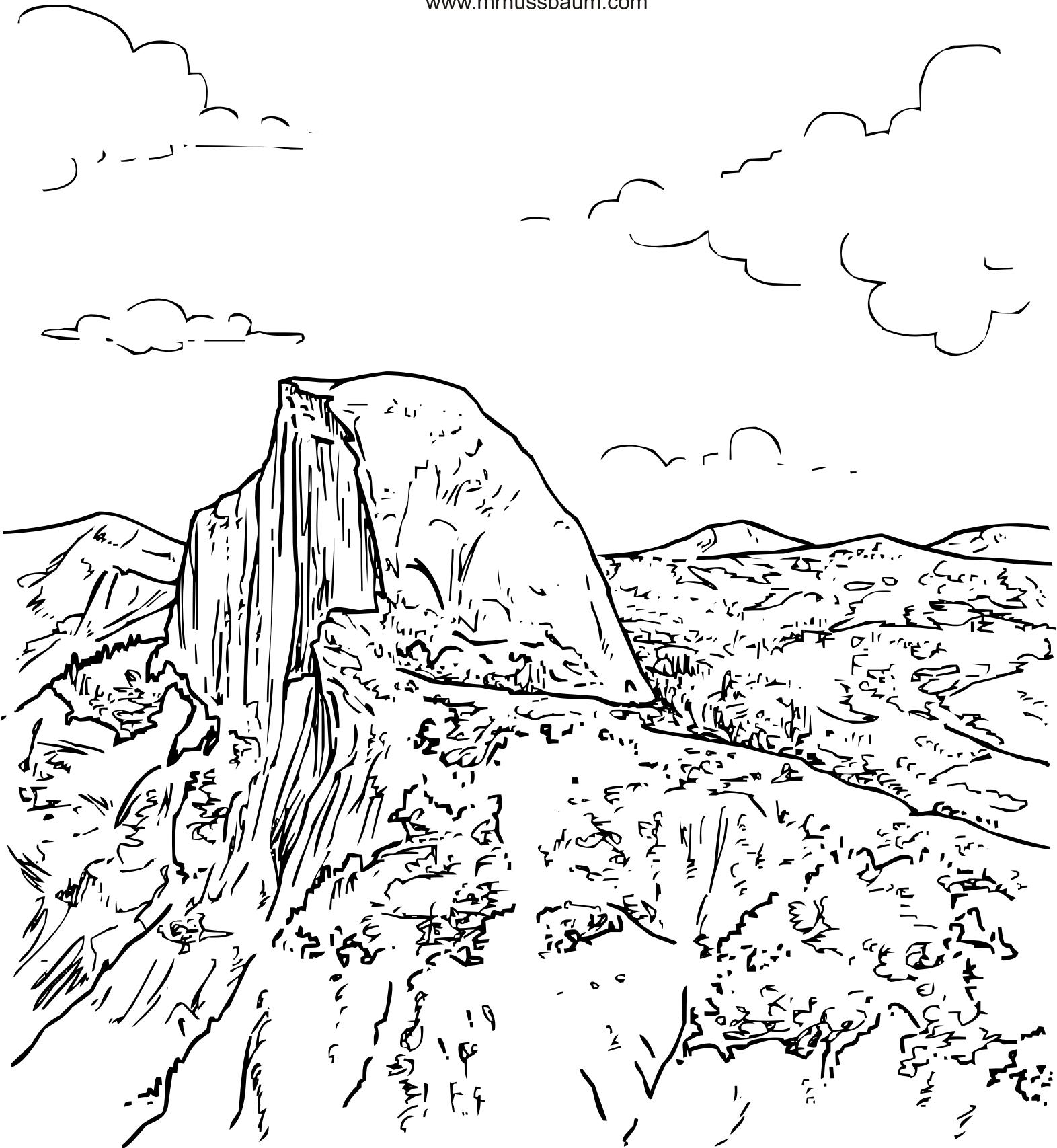
ENTERING PACIFIC TIME

CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

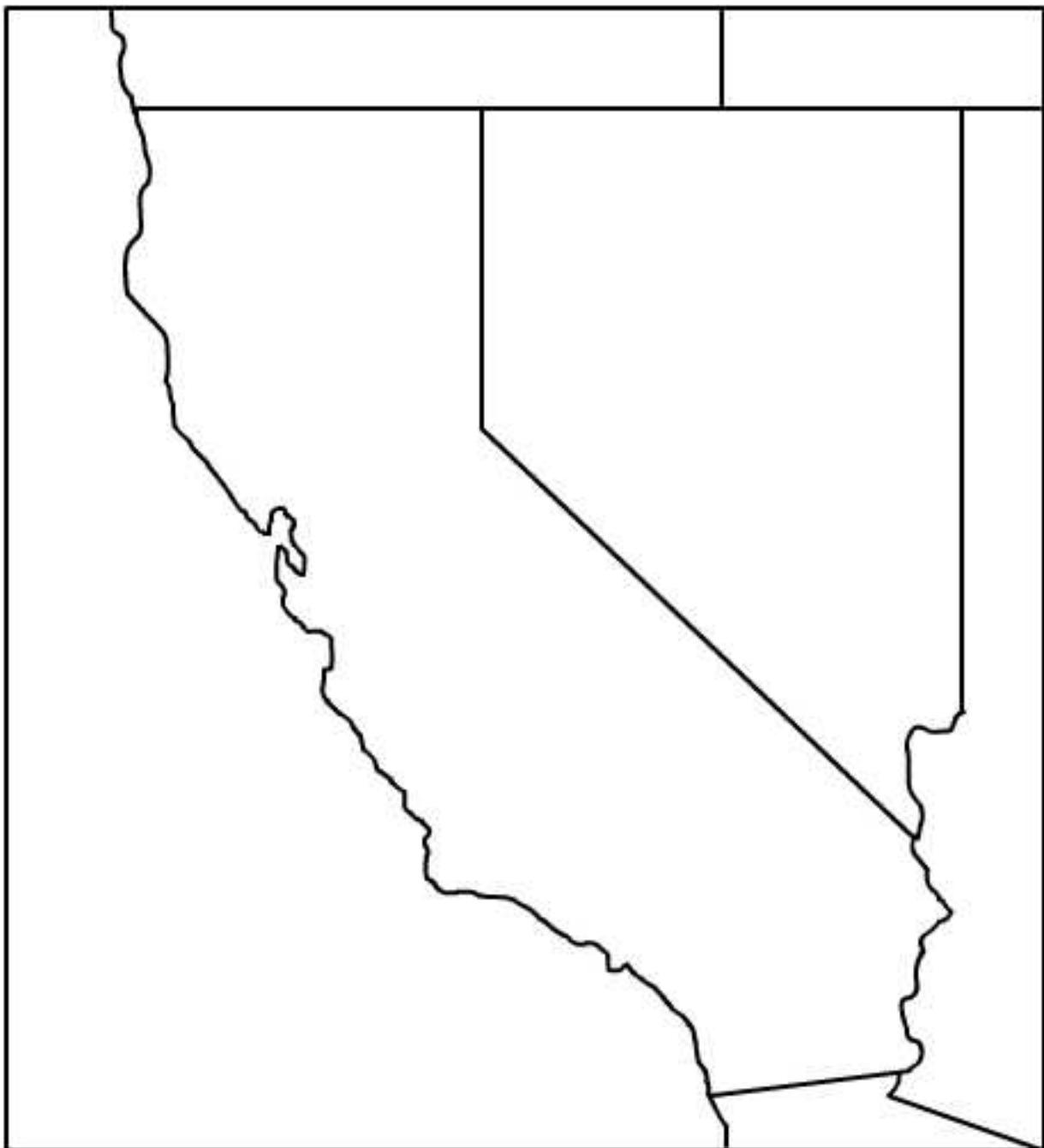
**CALIFORNIA**



Half Dome in Yosemite National Park

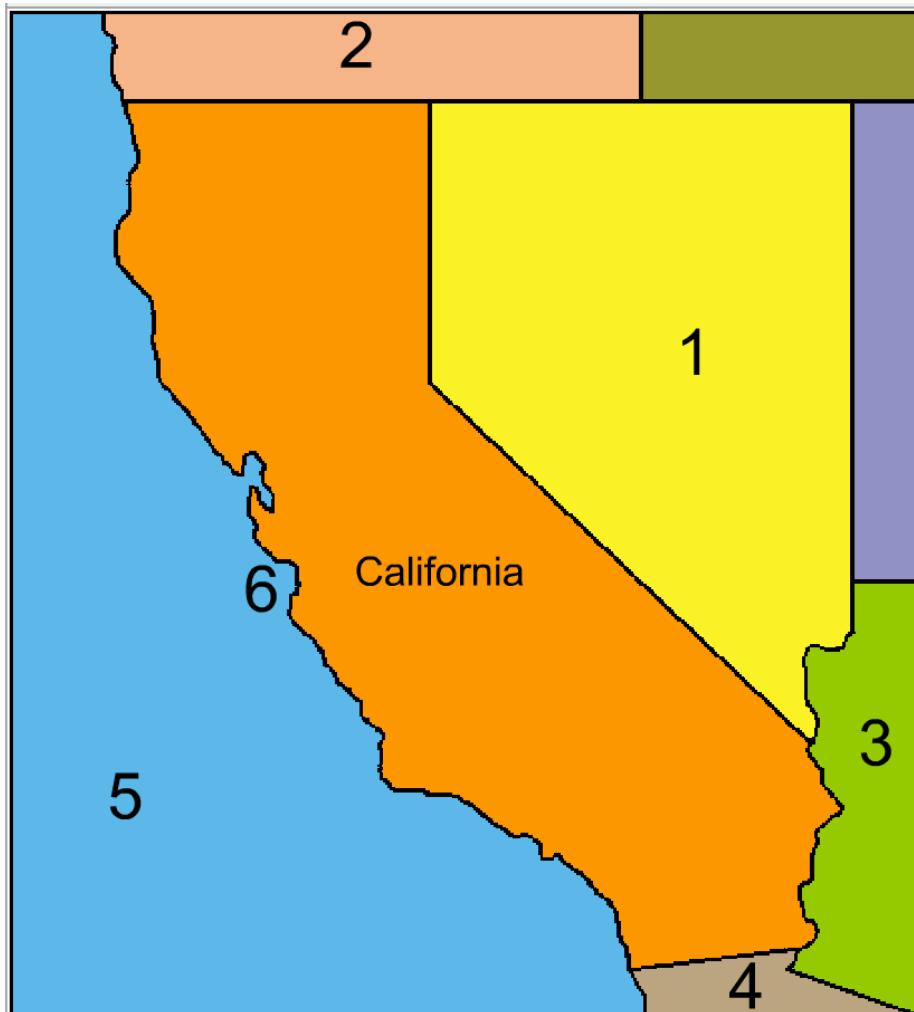


California Printable Outline Map





California Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water



California Labels

Monterey Bay

Oregon

Pacific Ocean

Mexico

Nevada

Arizona

Labels:

1.

2.

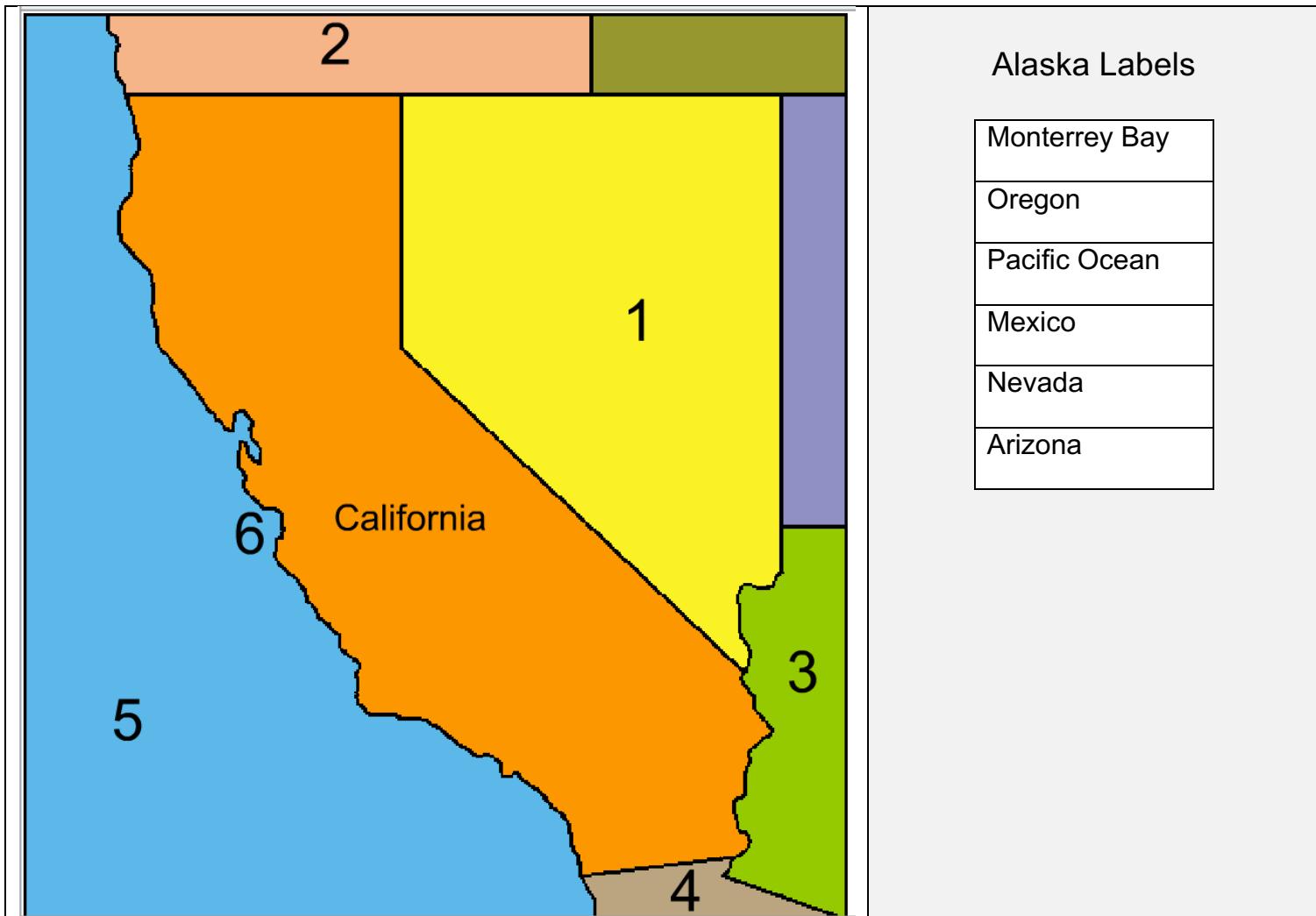
3.

4.

5.

6.

Alaska Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water



Labels:

1. Nevada
2. Oregon
3. Arizona
4. Mexico
5. Pacific Ocean
6. Monterey Bay

With a wingspan that can stretch to almost ten feet long, the California condor is the largest flying bird found in America. The huge condor is mostly black with big white wing patches. It has no feathers on its head. It is a scavenger, which means it eats dead animals like deer. Unlike its close relative, the vulture, the California condor finds food by sight rather than by smell.

The California condor is also an endangered species. This means it is rare and needs help to survive. These birds became rare because the dead animals they feed on often contain lead, a kind of metal, which is deadly to birds. Today, there are only about 230 California condors left in the wild. Scientists are working hard to make sure these birds survive.

**1. Which is NOT true about the California Condor?**

- A It has white wing patches
- B It eats dead animals
- C It finds food by smell
- D It has no feathers on its head

**2. Which of the following would a scavenger eat?**

- A A flying insect
- B A running squirrel
- C A dead rabbit
- D A hiding bird

**3. The California condor is rare. Which of the following is also rare?**

- A People
- B Cats
- C Diamond
- D Soda

**4. Why did the California condor become endangered?**

- A. It is too big
- B. It has no feathers on its head
- C. Lead is a kind of metal
- D. Because they ate lead

**5. Condors and vultures are close relatives. What does this mean?**

- A. They are very similar
- B. They are very different
- C. They both fly
- D. They are both very rare

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR Reading Comprehension

**Description:** The massive California condor is one of America's largest and rarest birds. The adult is mostly black with large white wing patches and a featherless head. The color of the head can vary from white, to pink, to orange, depending on the condor's emotional state. The male condor has a tuft of black feathers extending from the base of the neck. The condor's wingspan can exceed nine feet, and the average adult weighs in excess of 20 pounds.

**Diet:** The California condor eats carrion. It actually has no sense of smell and finds dead animals by observing the movements of vultures and eagles. They prefer to eat large mammals such as deer, goats, horses, sheep, and even bears. The huge condor dominates other birds at carcasses, except the golden eagle. Condors in the wild can go days or weeks without eating before gorging themselves on several pounds of dead animal.

**Reproduction:** The California condor's notoriously slow rate of reproduction has undoubtedly contributed to its population decline. Females become reproductively mature at age six and choose a mate for life. The simple nest is built in a cave or upon a cliff, and the female lays one or two eggs every other February or March. After about eight weeks, the eggs hatch. The young condor(s) can fly after about six months.

**Range/Habitat:** The California condor once roamed the entire American Southwest from Texas to California and into parts of northern Mexico. Today, it is restricted to designated habitats in Arizona (such as the Grand Canyon) and Southern California. California condors prefer dry, mountainous habitats with large trees and scrub growth.

**Status:** The California condor is one of America's most critically endangered animals. Today, there are about 300 individuals in existence, which is actually a significant improvement over the 22 individuals that were confirmed in existence in 1987. All 22 of those birds were captured and cared for in captivity that year for the purpose of saving the species from certain extinction. Although the condor was never common, populations of condors plummeted because of habitat destruction, pesticides, lead shot (which would contaminate carcasses), and electrical towers (which the birds would collide with). In a landmark effort, biologists from the San Diego Zoo initiated a captive breeding program with the condors and successfully increased their numbers to the point where some individuals could be re-released into the wild. Scientists took advantage of the condor's tendency to double clutch, or lay another egg, if the first is lost or destroyed. Newly released condors have been trained to avoid electrical towers and people. In 2003, the first young condor fledged in the wild since 1981. Furthermore, a female condor recently laid an egg in Mexico, marking the first time a condor has nested in Mexico since the 1930s.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1.) The wingspan of the California condor exceeds \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

- a.) nine
- b.) eight
- c.) ten
- d.) eleven

\_\_\_\_\_ 2.) How does the California condor find carrion?

- a.) its strong sense of smell
- b.) its strong sense of hearing
- c.) by following herds of deer and sheep
- d.) by following other vultures

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.) Which of the following is unlikely?

- a.) A California condor feeding on a bear carcass.
- b.) A California condor nesting on Valentine's Day.
- c.) A California condor that hasn't eaten in three days.
- d.) A California condor feeding on a squirrel carcass.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4.) In which of the following places would there probably have never been populations of California condors?

- a.) Alaska
- b.) Texas
- c.) Arizona
- d.) Mexico

\_\_\_\_\_ 5.) In which of the following habitats would it be unlikely to find a California condor?

- a.) swamplands
- b.) dry canyons
- c.) high mountains
- d.) scrublands

\_\_\_\_\_ 6.) How many California condors exist today?

- a.) It's hard to say.
- b.) 22
- c.) About 300
- d.) They are extinct.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7.) Select all of the following that have contributed to the condor's decline.

- a.) lead shot
- b.) wolves
- c.) habitat destruction
- d.) electrical towers

\_\_\_\_\_ 8.) Select the statement below that is true. Select only one.

- a.) California condors will not lay another egg if the first egg is lost or destroyed.
- b.) In 1987, all 300 California condors were taken from the wilderness.
- c.) At some points in the last 100 years, the California condor was common.
- d.) A, B, and C are all untrue.

## Donner Party Reading Comprehension

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Donner Party was a group of American explorers who planned a long migration journey in the mid-1840s—one that didn’t exactly end up going as planned. In spring of 1846, the party of 89 left Springfield Illinois, for the California Trail. Two brothers named Jacob and George were the leaders of the group, as well as for whom the party was named.

The party followed the California Trail at first, but not for long. A guidebook author named Lansford Hastings convinced the group to try a shortcut path that went through the Wasatch Mountains and the Salt Lake Desert of what is now Utah. Mountain man James Clyman warned the group not to follow Hastings’ advice, as not even Hastings had tried the path with the wagons used by the Party. The group, however, agreed to take the “shortcut,” and all 20 of their wagons were diverted to the path indicated by Hastings. The Donner group quickly learned that their new route was full of unforeseen hazard such as tall trees on the trail itself. Group members were forced to cut them down, which caused delays. While crossing the barren Salt Lake Desert, members of the group nearly died of thirst, others were severely weakened. All in all, Hastings’ supposed shortcut added almost a month to the Donner Party’s journey.

By the time Jacob and George’s wagons reached the Sierra Nevada mountains in November 1846, an enormous blizzard had covered the mountains in several feet of snow and blocked off all of the mountain trails. There was no way for the wagons to pass through the mountains, and they were therefore forced to spend the winter in the frigid mountain climate. The Party traveled to the nearby Truckee Lake to spend the winter in tents, having already lost much of their supplies and livestock. Over time, the conditions deteriorated, and the settlers began to starve. Their only option was to resort to cannibalism, so the members of the party began to eat others who had frozen to death or died of malnutrition. In December 1846, 15 of the ablest party members tried to travel past the mountains in search of help. Only seven of them reached a California ranch to coordinate a rescue; their journey became known as the Forlorn Hope. In February and March of 1847, rescue parties arrived to save the remaining 45 members of the Donner Party—only half of the original travelers. According to witnesses, the survivors looked like living skeletons.

**1. Which of the following was not an obstacle faced by the Donner Party?**

- a. Trees blocking their shortcut path
- b. Lack of water and danger in the desert
- c. Areas of quicksand on the path
- d. Cold blizzard conditions

**2. Which of the following was not a step on the Donner Party's journey?**

- a. The Salt Lake Desert
- b. The Sierra Nevada Mountains
- c. Truckee Lake
- d. The Mississippi River

**3. What was the problem in following Hastings' shortcut path for the Donner Party?**

- a. It had never been crossed before.
- b. It had never been crossed before with wagons.
- c. It was longer than the California Trail.
- d. It had no trees for cover or shade.

**4. Which of the following describes the Donner Party's ideal journey, and the one they actually ended up taking?**

- I. Illinois → California Trail → Wasatch Mountains → Salt Lake Desert → Sierra Nevada Mountains → California
- II. Illinois → California Trail → California
- III. Illinois → Wasatch Mountains → Sierra Nevada Mountains
- IV. Illinois → Sierra Nevada Mountains → Salt Lake Desert → California Trail → California

- a. Ideal: II      Actual: I
- b. Ideal: II      Actual: III
- c. Ideal: IV      Actual: II
- d. Ideal: III      Actual: I

**5. About what percentage of travelers on the Donner Party made it to their final destination?**

- a. 25%
- b. 50%
- c. 75%
- d. 100%

**6. The 15 settlers' journey in search of help for the Donner Party is known as the Forlorn Hope. Given the following dictionary definition for *forlorn*, identify the type of figurative language present in the term "forlorn hope."**

***Forlorn:*** (of an aim or endeavor) unlikely to succeed or be fulfilled; hopeless.

- a. Simile
- b. Metaphor
- c. Oxymoron
- d. Onomatopoeia

**7. Which of the following best describes the Donner Party's trip?**

- a. Shortcuts were taken in order to turn a long, harsh journey into a more bearable one.
- b. Total death occurred due to careless navigation and poor leadership.
- c. Extreme measures were taken due to harsh circumstances in order to survive a perilous journey.
- d. A large migration occurred with no casualties due to perseverance, determination, and strategy.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world. It is so large that all of the land on Earth could fit inside of it. In addition, it contains more than fifty percent of the world's water - more water than all of the lakes, rivers, and other oceans combined. Finally, this vast ocean also contains the world deepest point, the Marianas Trench (35,979 feet).

The Pacific Ocean was named by explorer Ferdinand Magellan who called it "mar pacifico" or, the peaceful sea. As he sailed through terrible sea storms on his way to Asia, he realized he gave the huge ocean the wrong name!

**1. All the land on Earth...**

- A. is the deepest part of the ocean.
- B. is larger than the Pacific Ocean.
- C. is the same size as the Pacific Ocean.
- D. can fit inside the Pacific Ocean.

**2. Why did Ferdinand Magellan name the ocean "Pacific"?**

- A. Because when first sailing into the ocean, it seemed peaceful
- B. Because he realized he had made a great discovery
- C. Because of the terrible storms he sailed through
- D. The passage does not tell

**3. Which is NOT true about the Pacific Ocean?**

- A. It contains more than 50% of the world's water
- B. It contains the world's deepest point
- C. It has more water than all other lakes, oceans, and rivers combined
- D. It is the world's most peaceful ocean.

**4. What is the author's purpose in the first paragraph?**

- A. To describe the Marianas Trench
- B. To describe how large the Pacific Ocean is
- C. To describe the lakes and rivers on Earth
- D. To describe how the Pacific Ocean got its name

## The Pacific Rim of Fire Reading Comprehension

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Pacific Rim of Fire is a horseshoe shaped region along the shores of the Pacific Ocean named for its numerous active volcanoes. It is the most volcanically active location in the world, and is home to 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes. It is also where 80% of the earth's earthquakes occur. California, Mexico, Alaska, Canada, Russia, Japan, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile are among places within the Pacific Rim of Fire. Of the 25 largest volcanic eruptions to have occurred in the last 11,700 years, 88% of them occurred within the Pacific Rim of Fire. The 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, in 1980, within the Pacific Rim of Fire, was the most powerful and deadliest volcanic eruption in American history. The South American nation of Bolivia is home to the world's greatest number of active volcanoes. In 1991, the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines was so powerful that its effects were felt around the world. It was the second most powerful eruption in modern history.

The volcanoes at the Pacific Rim of Fire are formed where giant oceanic plates meet and collide with continental plates. The movements and collisions of these massive plates is called plate tectonics. When these plates collide, one of them goes underneath the others. Since the Pacific Plate is older, colder, and denser than the surrounding plates, it subducts (goes underneath) the other plates during this process. When this happens, the Pacific Plate brings a lot of water down into the earth with it, making the crust and upper part of the mantle easier to melt. This molten rock (magma) then rises through the earth's crust and creates volcanoes! This process also creates a lot of earthquakes as the Pacific Plate scrapes against the plates it subducts.

**1. Which question is NOT answered?**

- a. What is the shape of the Pacific Rim of Fire?
- b. Why do earthquakes occur in the Pacific Rim of Fire?
- c. What was the most recent eruption that occurred in the Pacific Rim of Fire?
- d. Do major volcanic eruptions actually occur in the Pacific Rim of Fire?

**2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the first paragraph?**

- a. Currently and historically, the majority of the world's volcanic eruptions and major volcanic eruptions occur within the Pacific Rim of Fire
- b. Currently and historically, a portion of the world's volcanic eruptions occur within the Pacific Rim of Fire
- c. Although most of the world's volcanic eruptions historically occurred within the Pacific Rim of Fire, currently only a small portion of such eruptions occur there
- d. Currently, most of the world's major volcanic eruptions occur within the Pacific Rim of Fire, but there is no evidence that most of the world's past eruptions occurred there

**3. How are plate tectonics related to volcanic eruptions?**

- a. Plate tectonics result from volcanic eruptions
- b. Volcanoes are a cause of plate tectonics
- c. Volcanoes are formed through plate tectonics
- d. Eruptions are measured through plate tectonics

**4. What was the effect of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991?**

- a. It changed the Philippines forever
- b. It was the second largest eruption in modern history
- c. It effected the region's plate tectonics
- d. The passage doesn't specify, but there were "effects" felt worldwide.

**5. Which of the following could be considered a "side-effect" of the creation of volcanoes?**

- a. earthquakes
- b. hurricanes
- c. subduction
- d. plate tectonics

**6. Which of the following sentences describes a contrast?**

- a. The Pacific Rim of Fire is a horseshoe shaped region along the shores of the Pacific Ocean named for its numerous active volcanoes.
- b. California, Mexico, Alaska, Canada, Russia, Japan, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile are among places within the Pacific Rim of Fire.
- c. In 1991, the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines was so powerful that its effects were felt around the world. It was the second most powerful eruption in modern history.
- d. Since the Pacific Plate is older, colder, and denser than the surrounding plates, it subducts (goes underneath) the other plates during this process.

**7. Which of the following best explains the formation of volcanoes in the Pacific Rim of Fire?**

- a. Volcanoes in this region are formed when a continental plate slips beneath an oceanic plate, causing magma to rise through the surface
- b. Volcanoes in this region are formed when an ocean plate slides underneath a continental plate causing magma to rise through the surface
- c. Volcanoes in this region are formed when a continental plate rises above an oceanic plate, causing magma to rise through the surface
- d. Volcanoes in this region are formed when an oceanic plate rises above a continental plate, causing magma to rise through the surface

Western States Label Map

