



CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH WEBSITES

Links to web resources and lesson plans related to the California Gold Rush.

American Experience: “The Gold Rush”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/goldrush/index.html>

This companion website for the AMERICAN EXPERIENCE film tracks the evolution of the Gold Rush from the easy riches of the first few months to the fierce competition for a few good claims, told through the stories of a small group of diverse characters — Chinese and Chilean, Northerner and Southerner, black and white. The site includes the film transcripts, a Teacher’s Guide with resource list, and special features highlighting Native Stories, People & Events, Timelines and Maps of the Gold Rush.

American Experience’s Wayback: US History for Kids “The Gold Rush”

This PBS Kids Go! website includes the feature stories, “The Californios,” “Journey of the Forty-niners,” and “Gold Fever.”

California State Library: “California as We Saw It: Eploring the California Gold Rush”

<http://www.library.ca.gov/goldrush/index.html>

Website for the California State Library exhibit providing an overview of the Gold Rush, based on the Library's collection.

Oakland Museum of California: “California’s Untold Stories: Gold Rush!”

<http://museumca.org/goldrush/>

This website is a virtual tour of a real exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California, jointly organized with the Crocker Art Museum.

Exhibit categories include:

“Gold Fever,” features the art of the Gold Rush with an index of paintings.

“Silver and Gold,” daguerrotype images from the Gold Rush.

“Natives & Immigrants,” illustrates how different cultures experienced the Gold Rush: the California Indian, African American, Chinese, and Californio/Latino.

Online Archive of California: The Society of California Pioneers

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/Society+of+California+Pioneers>

The Society of California Pioneers is California's oldest historical organization, founded in 1850 by pre-Gold Rush pioneers. The Society's original aims were "...to collect and preserve information connected with the early settlement and conquest of the country, and to perpetuate the memory of those whose sagacity, enterprise, and love of independence induced them to settle in the wilderness..." The Society of California Pioneers “Collection of Autobiographies and Reminiscences of Early Pioneers” includes downloadable scans of 153 documents about early pioneer life during the Gold Rush.

The Sacramento Bee: “Gold Rush: The Series”

<http://www.calgoldrush.com/>

Three part newspaper series about Sacramento and the California Gold Rush.

The Society of California Pioneers “The Lawrence & Houseworth Albums”

<http://www.californiapioneers.org/lh/>

The Society of California Pioneers database of 1,495 historical photographs of California and Nevada reproduced from three catalog albums created during the 1860s by the renowned stereoview publishing firm of Lawrence & Houseworth.

State of California Department of Conservation: “California Geological Survey – Gold”

http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/geologic_resources/gold/Pages/Index.aspx

Learn everything that you need to know about gold, the California State mineral, including a classic account of the early discovery of gold written in celebration of the Centennial of the Discovery of Gold in California, 1848 -1948, by Donald C. Cutter. Includes information on prospecting, and mining, with maps of active California gold mines and historic gold mine photos.

Striking Gold: Mining the Resources of the Crocker Art Museum

<http://education.digitalcrocker.org/index.php>

An arts education resource for grades 4 through 12. Striking Gold enables educators to utilize artwork in the Crocker Art Museum’s permanent collection to teach the California State Content Standards in history, language arts and visual and performing arts. This site is designed to provide access to lesson plans, virtual tours of the Museum’s galleries, and activities such as ecards and zoomable images.

UC Berkeley Library: “I am bound to stick awhile longer” The California Gold Rush Experience

<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/Goldrush/introduction.html>

Through journals, letters, emigrant guides and other early accounts of the gold fields, photographs, lettersheets, sheet music, maps, lithographs, drawings and other pictorial materials, the exhibit presents the experience of those affected by the gold rush during the early years of discovery and first diggings, 1848 through 1853.

The Virtual Museum of San Francisco: “San Francisco – Gold Rush”

<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist1/index0.1.html#gold>

Includes firsthand accounts, diary excerpts and recollections from the Gold Rush.

Wells Fargo: Guided by History “Towers of Gold”

http://blog.wellsfargo.com/GuidedByHistory/2008/11/towers_of_gold.html

Guided by History blog by Frances Dinkelspiel, the author of *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*. It tells the story of Frances' great-great grandfather, one of the premier financiers of the Pacific Coast, and the president of Wells Fargo Bank from 1905 to 1920.

Women in the Gold Rush

<http://www.goldrush.com/~joann/>

This webpage is sponsored by award-winning author and recognized authority on women in the gold rush, JoAnn Levy, whose book, *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*, was praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “one of the best and most comprehensive accounts of gold rush life to date.”