

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do new ideas change the way people live?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did the discovery of gold help California?*
2. *Why did the Mormons settle in Utah?*

Terms to Know

forty-niner person who came to California to find gold in 1849

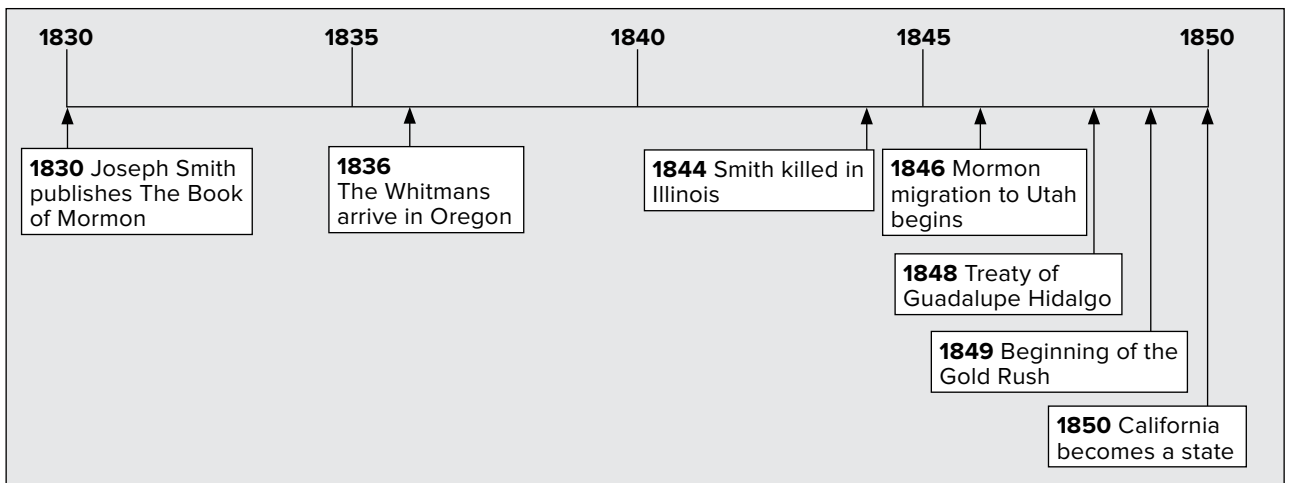
boomtown a fast-growing community

vigilante person who takes it on himself to bring law and order to a place

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah, *Continued*

California Gold Rush

Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848. The news traveled fast. Soon many people came to California to see if they could get rich.

Where did they come from?

- About 80 percent of these people were American.

Others were from:

- Mexico
- South America
- Europe
- Australia
- China

The 300 immigrants from China were the first large group of Asians to settle in America. Some of them started the Chinese American community in California.

Taken together, all these groups made up the **forty-niners**. That is because most got there in 1849.

The people already living in California were called Californios. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had ended the Mexican War. It said that the Californios were now citizens of the United States. The treaty said they had the right to keep their land. Then, the Land Law of 1851 passed. This law said that if a new settler claimed the land of a Californio, he had to go to court to prove the land belonged to him. Many Californios lost their land to newcomers because of this law.

When miners rushed to new areas to look for gold, they built new villages. These grew quickly into cities. Such places were called **boomtowns**.

Cities like San Francisco grew quickly. Ships arrived every day carrying people who wanted to search for gold. Before long, San Francisco had 20,000 people.

Most of the forty-niners had no experience mining. They rushed to any place that they heard had gold. They searched in streams and hillsides for gold.

Much gold was found. The California Gold Rush doubled the amount of gold in the world. Very few individuals got rich from gold mining, though. Most people did not find gold. Some found gold and spent it foolishly. Those who opened stores in the boomtowns did well, however.

Life in the boomtowns was hard. Mostly men lived there. There were no official laws or police. Sometimes people



Defining

1. Why were miners called *forty-niners*?



Mark the Text

2. Underline the sentence that explains the Land Law of 1851.



Analyzing

3. Why was life in a boomtown hard?



Reading Check

4. How did the California Gold Rush lead to the expansion of cities?

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah, *Continued*



Identifying

5. Who was Joseph Smith?

6. What happened to him in Illinois?



Reading Check

7. Why did the Mormons have to keep moving from one place to another?

formed groups of **vigilantes** to protect themselves. Vigilantes took the law into their own hands. They acted as police, judge, and jury.

The Gold Rush had many lasting effects:

- Agriculture, shipping, and trade grew.
- Many people who came to look for gold stayed.
- Those who stayed went into farming or business.
- In 1849 California asked to become a state.

Californians wrote a new constitution. The new constitution banned slavery. Southern states did not want California to join the Union. Congress wanted an equal number of slave states and free states. In 1850 a compromise was reached. California became a state.

A Religious Refuge in Utah

While the Gold Rush was taking place in California, change was also taking place in Utah. Mormons were building a new community there.

Joseph Smith founded the Mormon religion. He founded it during the religious awakenings that took place during the 1830s and 1840s.

Smith said he had visions that led him to build a church. He called it the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The religion is also known as the Mormon religion.

Smith began to preach his ideas in 1830. He published *The Book of Mormon* that year as well.

Smith wanted to build an ideal community. Mormons believed in hard work. They also believed that a man could have more than one wife. This belief made them unpopular wherever they went. They created a prosperous community named Nauvoo in Illinois. Then, in 1844, Joseph Smith was killed by an angry mob.

Brigham Young took over as leader of the Mormons. He decided that the Mormons should move again to find religious freedom. He led them westward to the Great Salt Lake. The territory was in present-day Utah. It was part of Mexico at the time. However, no Mexicans lived there. The land was dry and harsh.

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah, *Continued*

The Mormons built a successful community through hard work. They:

- planned their towns,
- built irrigation canals,
- taxed property,
- regulated natural resources,
- founded industries, and
- sold supplies to forty-niners who were on their way to California.

In 1850 Congress set up the Utah Territory. Brigham Young was named governor.

The Mormons often had conflicts with the U.S. government. Utah did not become a state until 1896.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

Check for Understanding

Read each statement. Write *T* if it is true. If it is false, write *F*.

___ Mormons worked hard to grow crops in Utah.

___ Utah became a state soon after it was settled.

In what ways did the Gold Rush affect California?



8. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Go West* on the anchor tab. Label the left tab *Gold Rush: California* and the right tab *Religious Refuge: Utah*. List what you remember about each and the movement west. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.