

Daily Geography

Three in a Row

For this team game, a three-by-three square grid (like tic-tac-toe) should be drawn on the chalkboard or whiteboard. A bank of 15 to 20 questions should be prepared about major topics in the unit. Refer to the next page for a sample list of questions.

Remind students that CA is the postal abbreviation for California. To play the game, divide the class into two groups – the “C” group and the “A” group. Each group should assign a spokesperson to answer questions.

To maximize student participation in this game, have each student number a sheet of notebook paper from 1 to 20. As questions are asked, each student writes down his/her answer before the team “huddles” together to discuss the answer.

Begin by asking a question to the “C” group. The group should be given one minute to confer before giving their answer. If the answer is correct the “C” group earns the chance to put a “C” in one of the squares in the grid on the board. If the answer is incorrect the “A” group gets a chance to steal the answer and put an “A” in one of the squares. As the correct answer is revealed, students may cross out any incorrect answers on their individual answer sheet and write the correct answer.

The goal of the game is to get three letters in a row on the board. If no group is able to get three in a row then the group with the most letters on the board wins.

The teacher may wish to only ask a few questions each day. If so, keep the grid on the board and have students keep their answer sheets in their desk until all questions have been covered.

VARIATIONS

California Trivia

Divide the class into two groups. Give each student in each group a number. To maximize participation, have all students keep an answer sheet and write down the answer to each question before the student contestant answers. Call up the number ones from each group. Ask each student a question. For each correct answer, give the team one point. If a student answers incorrectly, no points are gained or lost. Continue until everyone has had a turn to attempt to answer a question. At the end of the game, tally up the points; the team with the most points wins.

Teams Write the Questions

As students get more proficient in California geography and history, allot the groups 5-10 minutes to formulate their own questions. After the questions have been written, collect the questions from both groups. Ask each team a question written by the opposing group. For each correct answer, give the team one point. If a team answers incorrectly, no points are gained or lost. Alternate teams and continue until all questions have been asked. At the end of the game, tally up the points; the team with the most points wins.

Daily Geography Standard 4.3

1. Jedediah Strong Smith, James Ohio Pattie, and Joseph Reddeford Walker all took routes to the West that others followed. What term describes these men? (trailblazers)
2. Which regions did Jedediah Strong Smith cross to become the first American to travel over land from the United States to Mexican California? (the Mojave Desert and the Sierra Nevada – accept either answer)
3. Was Joseph Reddeford Walker traveling from the East of the West when he crossed the Sierra Nevada? (from the East)
4. Which two rivers join at Sutter’s point? (the American and Sacramento Rivers)
5. Which route did the Bartleson-Bidwell expedition follow to make the overland trip to from Missouri to California? (the Oregon Trail)
6. What environmental factor caused the Donner Party to get trapped in the Sierra Nevada? (snow)
7. What was the name of the idea behind the United States’ expansion from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean? (manifest destiny)
8. Soon after he took office in 1845, President James K. Polk offered Mexico \$40 million for a region that is now made up of which three states? (California, Arizona and New Mexico)
9. In which town did the Bear Flag Revolt begin? (Sonoma)
10. Where in California was gold first discovered? (Coloma)
11. On which River was Sutter’s Mill located? (the American River)
12. What narrow piece of land connecting North America and South America did some forty-niners cross to get to the Pacific Coast? (the Isthmus of Panama)
13. What was the busiest port in California during the California gold rush? (San Francisco)
14. What mining method used water-power to separate dirt and rocks from gold? (hydraulic mining)
15. Where did delegates meet for the convention to write the first California constitution? (Monterey)
16. What natural features form the eastern border of California? (Sierra Nevada and the Colorado River)
17. Which city became the capital of California in 1854? (Sacramento)