

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. As the correct answer is revealed, students may cross out any incorrect answers and write the correct answer on their sheet.

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.

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 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 Unit 4.2

1. Present-day California was part of what European country? (Spain)
2. Why were Spanish explorers trying to find what they called the Strait of Anian? (It would shorten the trip to Asia.)
3. Hernando Cortes thought Baja California was an island, but it is really a peninsula. What is the difference between an island and a peninsula? (an island is land entirely surrounded by water; a peninsula is land that has water almost all around it)
4. What did the Spanish call the area explored by Juan Rodriguez Carillo in 1542? (Alta California)
5. What body of water did Sir Francis Drake sail through to reach the Pacific Ocean from the Atlantic Ocean? (Strait of Magellan)
6. In the 1560s Spain sent trading ships from New Spain to the Philippine Islands. What ocean did the ships cross? (Pacific Ocean)
7. Which place in Alta California did the Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino describe as a very good port, and well protected from all winds? (Monterey)
8. Where did Father Junipero Serra build the first mission in Alta California? (San Diego)
9. What kinds of animals were brought to Mexican California by missionaries and colonists from Mexico? (cattle, horses and mules)
10. What was the name of the road built by Spain to link its settlements in Alta California? (El Camino Real)
11. Near which body of water was the first presidio in Alta California built? (San Diego Bay)
12. Alta California's first pueblo grew into which present-day city? (San Jose)
13. From which country did Mexico want to be independent? (Spain)
14. What is a *diseno*? (a hand-drawn map that showed the boundaries of a land grant)
15. Near which bay did the Russians build Fort Ross? (Bodega Bay)
16. What products did Californios get from cattle? (tallow and hides)