

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What did James Marshall do?
 - Ⓐ He ran a store near Sutter's Mill and sold tools.
 - Ⓑ He was the first person to find gold in California.
 - Ⓒ He made a deal with the Mexican government for land.
 - Ⓓ He kidnapped and enslaved Native people to work the land.
2. Why did John Sutter most likely want to keep the discovery of gold a secret?
 - Ⓐ to help the store owner sell goods
 - Ⓑ to test that what was found was actually gold
 - Ⓒ to make a deal with the Mexican government for land
 - Ⓓ to find as much gold as he could before others came to look
3. The way people searched for gold in California's rivers was called _____.
 - Ⓐ erosion
 - Ⓑ panning
 - Ⓒ prospector
 - Ⓓ placer miner
4. Why were the gold rush settlers called *forty-niners*?
 - Ⓐ California was the 49th state.
 - Ⓑ There were 49,000 settlers.
 - Ⓒ They moved to California in 1849.
 - Ⓓ By then, 49 people had found gold.

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5. How does the map on page 8 help the reader?
 - Ⓐ It shows the safest route for forty-niners to take.
 - Ⓑ It shows the reader how many people took each route.
 - Ⓒ It shows how many miles each route was that forty-niners could take.
 - Ⓓ It shows which routes were by wagon and which routes were by ship.

6. How was traveling by ship different than traveling by wagon?
 - Ⓐ Traveling by ship took less time.
 - Ⓑ Traveling by ship was much safer.
 - Ⓒ Traveling by ship faced bad weather.
 - Ⓓ Traveling by ship required buying tickets.

7. According to the book, how were miners from China treated badly?
 - Ⓐ They were taxed.
 - Ⓑ They were enslaved.
 - Ⓒ They were not allowed in California.
 - Ⓓ They were forced off their land.

8. According to the book, how did people make fortunes during the gold rush?
 - Ⓐ Many forty-niners made fortunes off gold they found.
 - Ⓑ Business owners made fortunes selling goods to forty-niners.
 - Ⓒ Travel companies made fortunes selling tickets to gold rush settlers.
 - Ⓓ Government officials made fortunes from land stolen during the gold rush.

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9. Why does the author believe California still lives up to its nickname?

- Ⓐ California has a huge economy today.
- Ⓑ Wealthy people chose to stay in California.
- Ⓒ White settlers benefited the most from the gold rush.
- Ⓓ Native peoples from California had a different experience.

10. Why was the gold rush appealing to settlers?

- Ⓐ Settlers wanted a safe route to travel across Native lands.
- Ⓑ The government had begun to take land and enslave people.
- Ⓒ The gold rush was an easy way to become wealthy and only required a few tools.
- Ⓓ Settlers wanted a quick way to make money since many workers only made a dollar a day.

11. **Extended Response:** Did life get easier for forty-niners when they finally made it to California? Why or why not? Use details from the text.

12. **Extended Response:** How did the gold rush affect Native peoples? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Main Comprehension Skill: Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions

1. (B) *Main Idea and Details*
2. (D) *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
3. (B) *Main Idea and Details*
4. (C) *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
5. (D) *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
6. (D) *Compare and Contrast*
7. (A) *Cause and Effect*
8. (B) *Cause and Effect*
9. (A) *Author's Point of View*
10. (D) *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
11. Answers will vary. Example:
Life did not get easier. Prospectors worked long days and lived in tents. They often got ill or starved. Goods cost more than people were used to spending and were hard to afford. Even if prospectors did find gold, it often was lost gambling or stolen.
12. Answers will vary. Example:
The Gold Rush deeply impacted Native peoples. Settlers stole land from Native peoples and attacked them. The forty-niners also brought diseases, which killed thousands of Native peoples. When California became a state, fear and hatred led to Native peoples becoming enslaved.