History: CH 13, Section 4-California Gold Rush

*Study Guide*

**1848:** The year in which gold was discovered in California along the American River.

**James Marshall:** He discovered gold in California along the American River in the mid-1800s.

**John Sutter:** He was the person who owned the land where the great discovery of gold was made.

**San Francisco:** The California city which grew to be a center of banking and trade during the “gold rush”.

**Cattle ranching:** This was a major industry of California before the Gold Rush.

**Sacramento:** This California city became known as the center of a rich farming region in the 1840s.

**Foreign miners:** Foreign miners were driven out of mining because they were taxed for being foreign.

**Chinese immigrants:** They were the group of miners who would own many businesses in San Francisco.
- The nationality of one in ten foreign immigrants who worked the “played—out” gold were Chinese.

**California:** This state was admitted as a free state into the United States in 1850.

**Gold:** Gold fever drew people from more than five foreign countries throughout the world to California.

**Women:** Women were not a common sight among the “diggings” of California.

**Mariano Vallejo:** At the end of the gold rush in California, Mariano Vallejo’s ranch did not remain the same size.

**Gold Miners:** Most of the gold miners that traveled to California were from the United States.

**Forty-Niners:** It was the name given to people heading west to find gold a year after it was discovered in California.

**Migration:** Large scale movement of people from one locality to another over a long time.
**Californios:** Name given to native Californians of Hispanic (Mexican or Spanish) descent.

*Essay Options:*

Describe the various options that a person from the east had to arrive safe to the gold mines of California. Be sure to describe the potential dangers with each mode of transportation.

Or

Describe the effect of the California Gold Rush on California in the 1850s. You may want to think about the effects on the various people and population in general.