

California: The Complete Worksheet Pack

Reading comprehension, geography, history and maths

Ages 11-13 · 14 worksheets · answer keys included

Fourteen printable worksheets built on one KidzFeed guide, for ages 11 to 13. Every answer can be found on the sheet it is asked on. The pack moves from finding facts, through explaining them, to checking a claim and arguing a case, and it finishes by asking the children to remember the lot. Answer keys for every sheet are at the back.

What is in this pack

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. California Fact File | Read the fact cards, then fill in the file. |
| 2. Word Work | The words this subject needs. |
| 3. Fact Finder | Can you tell what is true from what only sounds true? |
| 4. Facts That Are Wrong | Some were honest mistakes. Some were true once and quietly stopped being true. |
| 5. California by Numbers | Reading a scale, and working with the figures. |
| 6. Three Record Trees | No other place on Earth can claim even two of these. |
| 7. Redwoods and Sequoias | People mix these two up constantly. Here is the rule that sticks. |
| 8. Who Ruled California | Four groups in turn, and one very short republic. |
| 9. Both Halves of the Gold Rush | An honest account has to carry both. You will write one. |
| 10. The Ground Is Moving | Two inches a year, and it never stops. |
| 11. Word Search and Review | Find the words, then prove you know what they mean. |
| 12. Write About It | Plan first, then write. That is how good writing gets done. |
| 13. The Big Review | Everything in the pack, all at once. |
| 14. What I Learned | Look back at what you knew, and what you know now. |

How to use this pack

Fourteen worksheets, in order, but they do not have to be done in order or in one go.

- Worksheet 1 carries the fact cards the rest of the pack leans on. Do that one first.
- Every question after it can be answered from a fact card printed on the same sheet, so a child never has to remember something they were not given.
- Each worksheet takes about 20 to 30 minutes. Two or three a week works better than all of them at once, because the later sheets deliberately ask again about the earlier ones.
- Worksheets 4 and 9 are the ones to keep if you only have time for two: one teaches a child to check a fact that has gone out of date, the other asks them to write an honest account of the Gold Rush.
- Worksheet 9 covers the destruction of Native Californian communities. It is written plainly and without images, and it is the part of this subject most often left out. Read it before setting it.
- The answer keys are all at the back, so the pack can be handed out whole. Tear them off first.

Why the pack is built the way it is

Each choice below comes from teaching research, not from what looks busiest on a page.

- Answering from memory beats reading again. Sheets 11 and 12 ask about material from earlier sheets, on purpose, after a gap.
- Facts come back in a different shape each time: a fact file, then a true or false, then a chart, then a quiz.
- Every "what" question is followed by a "why" question, because explaining why a fact is true is what turns it into understanding.
- Words and pictures together carry more than either alone, so a chart, a Venn diagram and a cut-and-order timeline sit beside the writing.
- Writing frames come before free writing. A child plans in notes on worksheet 12, then writes from the plan.
- Worksheet 4 uses facts that were true once and stopped being true. Checking when a fact was last checked is a skill this age can learn and most adults do not have.

Where this pack maps onto the curriculum

A mapping offered in good faith, to save you the job. Check it against your own scheme of work.

Curriculum	Strand	Worksheets
US — CCSS ELA	RI.5.1 / RI.6.1 cite what a text says explicitly and by inference	1, 3, 6, 10, 11
US — CCSS ELA	RI.5.4 work out the meaning of words and phrases in a text	2
US — CCSS ELA	RI.6.8 tell claims supported by evidence from claims that are not	4, 9
US — CCSS ELA	W.5.1 / W.6.1 write an argument supported by reasons	9
US — CCSS ELA	W.5.2 / W.6.2 write to inform, grouped into sections	12
US — NCSS Geography	Places and regions: physical features and how they shape a place	1, 5, 7, 10
US — NCSS History	Multiple perspectives on a historical event	8, 9
US — CCSS Math	5.MD / 6.SP represent and interpret data on a scaled graph	5
US — CCSS Math	5.NBT / 6.NS multi-digit subtraction and percentage in context	5
UK — English KS2	Reading: retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction	1, 3, 10, 11
UK — English KS2	Reading: distinguish fact from opinion and check a meaning makes sense	4, 9
UK — English KS2	Writing: non-chronological report, planned then drafted	12
UK — English KS2	Writing: a balanced discussion of two points of view	9
UK — Geography KS2	Locational knowledge: North America, physical geography, land use	1, 5, 7, 10
UK — Geography KS2	Place knowledge: a region of North America compared with home	12
UK — Maths Y5/Y6	Statistics: interpret and present data with bar charts	5
UK — Maths Y5/Y6	Number: negative numbers in context, and percentages	5

California Fact File

Read the fact cards, then fill in the file.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

The basics

California's capital is Sacramento. It became the 31st state of the United States on 9 September 1850. Its nickname is the Golden State.

How many people

About 39.5 million people live in California, more than in any other state. That is roughly one in every eight Americans.

How big

California covers 163,696 square miles, the third biggest state after Alaska and Texas. It stretches about 800 miles from north to south.

The highest point

Mount Whitney reaches 14,505 feet. It is the highest point in the lower 48 states, not in the whole USA: Denali in Alaska is 20,310 feet.

The lowest point

Badwater Basin lies 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in North America. It sits only 84 miles from Mount Whitney.

National parks

California has nine national parks, more than any other state. No other state has more than eight.

Complete the Fact File

Use the fact cards above. Write short answers.

1. What is the capital?

2. When did it become a state, and which number was it?

3. What is its nickname?

4. About how many people live there?

5. How big is it, and where does that rank?

6. How high is Mount Whitney?

7. How low is Badwater Basin?

8. How many national parks?

Word Work

The words this subject needs.

Name _____

Date _____

A. Match the word to its meaning

Write the letter of the matching meaning next to each word.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|--|
| 1. Contiguous | _____ | A. A settlement built by Spanish priests |
| 2. Paradox | _____ | B. Joined together, sharing a border |
| 3. Fault | _____ | C. All the money a place earns and spends |
| 4. Mission | _____ | D. Something that seems to contradict itself but is true |
| 5. Extinct | _____ | E. Gone for ever, with none left alive |
| 6. Economy | _____ | F. A crack in the Earth's crust where two slabs meet |

B. Use each word

Write a sentence about California using each word.

Word	My sentence about California
Paradox	
Fault	
Extinct	

Fact Finder

Can you tell what is true from what only sounds true?

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

The highest point

Mount Whitney reaches 14,505 feet. It is the highest point in the lower 48 states, not in the whole USA: Denali in Alaska is 20,310 feet.

The lowest point

Badwater Basin lies 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in North America. It sits only 84 miles from Mount Whitney.

The hottest day

On 10 July 1913 a thermometer in Death Valley read 134 degrees Fahrenheit, the hottest air ever officially recorded on Earth. Some scientists doubt that reading, so the undisputed record is 130 degrees, reached in 2020 and again in 2021.

National parks

California has nine national parks, more than any other state. No other state has more than eight.

Three things people get wrong

California is not the Sunshine State; that is Florida. The Golden Gate Bridge is not gold; it is painted International Orange. California no longer has more people than Canada, which passed 41.6 million around 2023.

The bear that is gone

The grizzly on the state flag is extinct. The last one was killed in 1922 and the last confirmed sighting was in 1924. The bear on the modern flag was drawn from a real grizzly named Monarch.

A. True or False?

Read each statement. Tick one box.

	True	False
1. Mount Whitney is the highest mountain in the whole United States.	☐	☐
2. Mount Whitney is the highest point in the lower 48 states.	☐	☐
3. Badwater Basin is below sea level.	☐	☐
4. Death Valley holds the record for the hottest air ever officially measured.	☐	☐
5. California has more national parks than any other state.	☐	☐
6. California is nicknamed the Sunshine State.	☐	☐
7. The Golden Gate Bridge is painted gold.	☐	☐
8. The grizzly bear on the state flag is extinct.	☐	☐
9. California has more people than Canada.	☐	☐
10. Mount Whitney and Badwater Basin are hundreds of miles apart.	☐	☐

B. Circle the Best Answer

Circle one letter for each question.

1. The capital of California is...
A. Los Angeles B. Sacramento C. San Francisco
2. California became a state in...
A. 1850 B. 1776 C. 1911
3. Denali in Alaska is...
A. shorter than Mount Whitney B. about the same C. nearly 6,000 feet taller
4. The undisputed hottest reading in Death Valley is...
A. 104 degrees B. 130 degrees C. 200 degrees
5. California is the third biggest state after...
A. Texas and Florida B. Alaska and Texas C. Alaska and Nevada
6. Roughly one in every how many Americans lives in California?
A. eight B. fifty C. two
7. The Golden Gate Bridge is painted...
A. International Orange B. gold C. grey
8. California has how many national parks?
A. three B. nine C. forty

Facts That Are Wrong

Some were honest mistakes. Some were true once and quietly stopped being true.

Name

Date

Read this first

The highest point

Mount Whitney reaches 14,505 feet. It is the highest point in the lower 48 states, not in the whole USA: Denali in Alaska is 20,310 feet.

Three things people get wrong

California is not the Sunshine State; that is Florida. The Golden Gate Bridge is not gold; it is painted International Orange. California no longer has more people than Canada, which passed 41.6 million around 2023.

The first European

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay in 1542. Older books call him Portuguese, but documents found in 2015 showed he was Spanish, and California changed the record in 2018.

A very large economy

California's economy is worth about \$4.1 trillion. If it were a country it would be the fourth richest on Earth, having passed Japan in 2025.

How many people

About 39.5 million people live in California, more than in any other state. That is roughly one in every eight Americans.

A. Correct the record

Read what people often say. Use the fact cards to write what is really true.

What people often say	What is really true
"Mount Whitney is the highest point in the USA."	
"California is the Sunshine State."	
"The Golden Gate Bridge is gold."	
"Cabrillo was Portuguese."	
"California has more people than Canada."	
"California has the fifth biggest economy in the world."	

B. Think like a fact-checker

Answer in full sentences.

1. Two of the statements above were true once and stopped being true. Why does that make fact-checking harder than simply knowing the right answer?

2. A website says "Mount Whitney is the highest mountain in America". One word has been dropped. Which word, and why does it matter?

California by Numbers

Reading a scale, and working with the figures.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

The biggest cities

Los Angeles has 3,898,747 people, San Diego 1,386,932, San Jose 1,013,240, San Francisco 873,965, Fresno 542,107 and Sacramento 524,943. San Francisco is only fourth because it is crammed onto about 47 square miles.

The highest point

Mount Whitney reaches 14,505 feet. It is the highest point in the lower 48 states, not in the whole USA: Denali in Alaska is 20,310 feet.

The lowest point

Badwater Basin lies 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in North America. It sits only 84 miles from Mount Whitney.

A coast with two lengths

Draw a smooth line down California's coast and it measures 840 miles. Follow every bay and rock and it measures 3,427 miles. It is the same coast; the second measurement uses a smaller ruler. Mathematicians call this the coastline paradox.

The San Andreas Fault

California sits on a crack in the planet about 800 miles long, where two slabs of the Earth's crust grind past each other. They move roughly two inches a year. Los Angeles is on one slab and San Francisco on the other.

What the farms grow

California grows about half of all the fruit, nuts and vegetables produced in the United States. Its farms produced \$61.2 billion of food in 2024. It grows roughly 80 per cent of the world's almonds and nearly all of America's processing tomatoes.

A. Draw the bar chart

Use the "biggest cities" card. Draw a bar for each city. The scale is in thousands of people.



B. Number problems

Show your working.

1. Mount Whitney is 14,505 feet above sea level. Badwater Basin is 282 feet below it. What is the difference in height between them?

2. California's coast measures 840 miles one way and 3,427 miles the other. What is the difference?

3. The two slabs of the San Andreas Fault move about two inches a year. How far do they move in 100 years?

4. San Francisco grew from about 1,000 people to 25,000 in two years. How many times bigger is that?

5. California grows about 80 per cent of the world's almonds. Out of every 10 almonds in the world, how many are Californian?

Three Record Trees

No other place on Earth can claim even two of these.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

Three record trees

The biggest tree on Earth is a giant sequoia called General Sherman, about 275 feet tall. The tallest is a coast redwood called Hyperion, over 380 feet. The oldest are bristlecone pines, over 4,800 years old.

Redwood or sequoia?

Redwoods are the tall ones and they live in the coastal fog. Sequoias are the wide ones and they live up in the mountains.

A. Match the record to the tree

Write the letter of the matching description next to each record.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| 1. The biggest tree | _____ | A. A coast redwood standing over 380 feet |
| 2. The tallest tree | _____ | B. A giant sequoia about 275 feet tall |
| 3. The oldest trees | _____ | C. The name of the tallest tree |
| 4. General Sherman | _____ | D. Bristlecone pines, over 4,800 years old |
| 5. Hyperion | _____ | E. The name of the biggest tree |

B. Think about it

Use the fact cards.

1. The exact place where Hyperion grows is kept secret. Give a reason why that might protect the tree.

2. Bristlecone pines were already growing before the pyramids were built. Write one sentence that helps someone picture how old that is.

Redwoods and Sequoias

People mix these two up constantly. Here is the rule that sticks.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

Three record trees

The biggest tree on Earth is a giant sequoia called General Sherman, about 275 feet tall. The tallest is a coast redwood called Hyperion, over 380 feet. The oldest are bristlecone pines, over 4,800 years old.

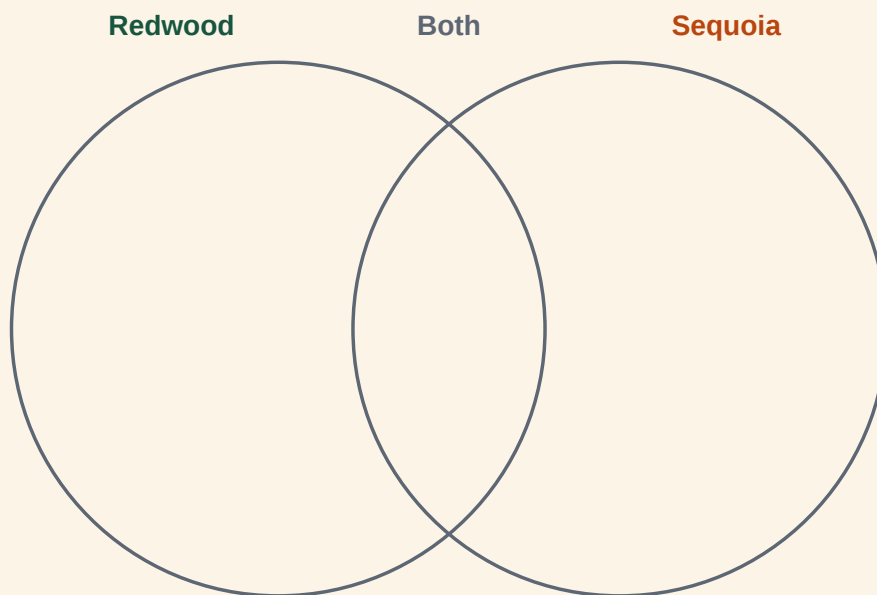
Redwood or sequoia?

Redwoods are the tall ones and they live in the coastal fog. Sequoias are the wide ones and they live up in the mountains.

A. Sort the facts

Each fact is true of redwoods, of sequoias, or of both. Write its number in the right part of the diagram.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. It grows in California. | 5. It grows up in the mountains. |
| 2. It is the tallest kind of tree on Earth. | 6. The record holder is called General Sherman. |
| 3. It is the biggest kind of tree on Earth. | 7. The record holder is called Hyperion. |
| 4. It grows in the coastal fog. | 8. It holds a world record. |



B. Say it in one line

Answer in your own words.

1. Write a one-sentence rule that would stop a friend mixing up redwoods and sequoias.

Who Ruled California

Four groups in turn, and one very short republic.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

Four rulers in turn

Native peoples were there for at least 13,000 years. Spain arrived in 1769 and built 21 missions. Mexico took over in 1821. The United States gained the territory in 1848.

The first European

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay in 1542. Older books call him Portuguese, but documents found in 2015 showed he was Spanish, and California changed the record in 2018.

A flag made from a petticoat

In June 1846 settlers at Sonoma cut up a petticoat and painted a grizzly bear on it with blackberry juice and brick dust. Their California Republic lasted 25 days. The flag became official in 1911.

The Gold Rush

On 24 January 1848 a carpenter named James Marshall saw something shiny at a sawmill he was building for John Sutter. Within two years about 300,000 people arrived. San Francisco grew from about 1,000 people to 25,000 in two years.

The basics

California's capital is Sacramento. It became the 31st state of the United States on 9 September 1850. Its nickname is the Golden State.

A. Put the history in order

Cut out the six cards, work out the order, then stick them in the boxes below.

Mexico

Mexico takes over California in 1821, after winning independence from Spain.

Native peoples

Native peoples have lived in California for at least 13,000 years.

Statehood

California becomes the 31st state on 9 September 1850.

Cabrillo

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sails into San Diego Bay in 1542.

Gold

Gold is found at Sutter's sawmill on 24 January 1848.

Spain

Spain arrives in 1769 and begins building 21 missions.

1

2

3

4

5

6

B. Two questions

Use the fact cards.

1. California skipped the usual stage of being a territory first. What had happened that made it fill up so quickly?

2. The California Republic lasted 25 days, but its flag is still flying today. Explain how both of those can be true.

Both Halves of the Gold Rush

An honest account has to carry both. You will write one.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

The Gold Rush

On 24 January 1848 a carpenter named James Marshall saw something shiny at a sawmill he was building for John Sutter. Within two years about 300,000 people arrived. San Francisco grew from about 1,000 people to 25,000 in two years.

The other half of that story

Native peoples had lived in California for at least 13,000 years, about 300,000 of them speaking roughly 100 languages. The Gold Rush destroyed that world. Their population fell from about 150,000 in 1848 to around 30,000 by 1870. In 2019 the Governor of California formally apologised.

A. Sort what happened

Read both fact cards. Write each thing that happened in the right column.

What the Gold Rush brought some people	What it cost Native Californians

B. Write the honest account

There is no right answer here, only a well-argued one.

1. Some books tell only the exciting half of the Gold Rush. Why do you think that happens, and what is lost when it does?

2. In 2019 the Governor of California formally apologised. Do you think an apology 150 years later matters? Give a reason either way.

C. Check your writing

Tick each box when your answers above do it.

In my answers I...	Yes	Not yet
used a number or a fact from the reading	☐	☐
gave a reason, not just an opinion	☐	☐
said what somebody who disagreed might say	☐	☐
wrote about the people it happened to, not only the events	☐	☐

The Ground Is Moving

Two inches a year, and it never stops.

Name _____

Date _____

Read this first

The San Andreas Fault

California sits on a crack in the planet about 800 miles long, where two slabs of the Earth's crust grind past each other. They move roughly two inches a year. Los Angeles is on one slab and San Francisco on the other.

A coast with two lengths

Draw a smooth line down California's coast and it measures 840 miles. Follow every bay and rock and it measures 3,427 miles. It is the same coast; the second measurement uses a smaller ruler. Mathematicians call this the coastline paradox.

The hottest day

On 10 July 1913 a thermometer in Death Valley read 134 degrees Fahrenheit, the hottest air ever officially recorded on Earth. Some scientists doubt that reading, so the undisputed record is 130 degrees, reached in 2020 and again in 2021.

Explain it

Use the fact cards. Answer in full sentences.

1. What is the San Andreas Fault, and what is happening along it?

2. Los Angeles and San Francisco are on different slabs. What will slowly happen to the distance between them?

3. The coast measures 840 miles and also 3,427 miles. Explain to a younger child how both answers can be correct.

Word Search and Review

Find the words, then prove you know what they mean.

Name _____

Date _____

A. Find the ten words

Words run across, down, diagonally, and some run backwards.

T	D	E	N	I	M	B	S	B	R	C	N	P
W	H	S	W	N	G	N	A	T	I	L	M	S
Y	H	A	D	R	W	I	T	G	R	T	I	F
L	O	C	N	M	G	E	Y	P	P	O	P	F
L	R	R	G	R	I	Z	Z	L	Y	G	D	U
S	Y	A	D	O	O	W	D	E	R	G	M	B
G	U	M	O	S	S	G	N	I	D	I	H	N
N	H	E	C	L	U	I	W	O	D	L	O	G
E	E	N	Q	R	O	O	N	R	T	M	U	I
N	B	T	U	A	S	E	Q	U	O	I	A	Y
B	U	O	A	S	U	R	F	I	N	G	A	W
B	E	N	I	T	O	I	T	E	F	I	Y	P
C	F	A	L	C	D	M	M	P	P	A	O	G

Find these words

SACRAMENTO
REDWOOD
GRIZZLY
BENITOITE
QUAIL

SEQUOIA
POPPY
DENIM
SURFING
GOLD

B. Quick recall

Cover the earlier worksheets first. Answer from memory, then go back and check.

1. What is the state flower?

2. What is the state fabric?

3. What is the official state sport?

4. What is the state fossil?

5. What is the state gemstone?

Write About It

Plan first, then write. That is how good writing gets done.

Name _____

Date _____

A. Plan your report

Write notes, not sentences. You will turn them into sentences afterwards.

Section	My notes
Where it is and how big	
Its record-breaking places	
How it became a state	
What it grows and earns	
One thing people get wrong	
Why I would visit	

B. Now write it

Use your plan. Write in full sentences, in your own words.

1. Write a short report about California for someone who has never been there. Use at least five facts from your plan, and include one thing people often get wrong.

The Big Review

Everything in the pack, all at once.

Name _____

Date _____

A. Ten questions

Circle one letter for each. Try it without looking back first.

1. California became the...
A. 31st state B. 1st state C. 50th state
2. Badwater Basin is...
A. 282 feet below sea level B. 282 feet above sea level C. at sea level
3. The tallest tree on Earth is a...
A. giant sequoia B. coast redwood C. bristlecone pine
4. The oldest trees on Earth are over...
A. 480 years old B. 4,800 years old C. 48,000 years old
5. California was named after...
A. a Spanish king B. an island in a novel C. a gold mine
6. The Gold Rush began in...
A. 1848 B. 1769 C. 1911
7. Native Californian population fell from about 150,000 in 1848 to about...
A. 30,000 by 1870 B. 140,000 by 1870 C. 300,000 by 1870
8. California grows roughly what share of the world's almonds?
A. 8 per cent B. 80 per cent C. 100 per cent
9. If California were a country its economy would rank...
A. fourth B. fortieth C. first
10. The bear on the state flag is...
A. extinct B. common in California C. imaginary

B. The last question

This one is worth more than all ten above.

1. Which fact in this pack surprised you most, and why?

What I Learned

Look back at what you knew, and what you know now.

Name _____

Date _____

A. Before and after

Fill in the first column before you start the pack, and the last column when you finish it.

What I already knew	What I wanted to find out	What I know now

B. I can...

Tick one box for each line.

I can...	Yes	Not yet
say why Mount Whitney is not the highest mountain in the USA	☐	☐
explain why the coastline has two different lengths	☐	☐
tell a redwood from a sequoia	☐	☐
give both halves of the Gold Rush story	☐	☐
read a fact from a bar chart	☐	☐
spot a fact that has gone out of date	☐	☐

Answer keys — for the grown-up

Tear these pages off before the children start.

Worksheet 1 — California Fact File

Complete the Fact File: 1. Sacramento · 2. 9 September 1850, the 31st state · 3. The Golden State · 4. About 39.5 million, more than any other state · 5. 163,696 square miles, third after Alaska and Texas · 6. 14,505 feet · 7. 282 feet below sea level · 8. Nine, more than any other state

Worksheet 2 — Word Work

A. Match the word to its meaning: 1-B, 2-D, 3-F, 4-A, 5-E, 6-C

B. Use each word: Accept any sentence that uses the word correctly, for example: "The coastline paradox means the coast has two different lengths." / "The San Andreas Fault runs 800 miles through California." / "The grizzly bear on the state flag is extinct."

Worksheet 3 — Fact Finder

A. True or False?: 1-False, 2-True, 3-True, 4-True, 5-True, 6-False, 7-False, 8-True, 9-False, 10-False

B. Circle the Best Answer: 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-A, 7-A, 8-B

Worksheet 4 — Facts That Are Wrong

A. Correct the record: It is the highest in the lower 48; Denali is nearly 6,000 feet taller. · That is Florida. · It is painted International Orange. · Documents found in 2015 showed he was Spanish, and the record was changed in 2018. · Canada passed 41.6 million and the two swapped places around 2023. · Fourth, since it passed Japan in 2025.

B. Think like a fact-checker: 1. A fact can go out of date without anyone noticing, so a source that was correct when it was written can be wrong now. You have to check when a fact was last checked, not just whether it looks reasonable. · 2. The word is "contiguous" or "lower 48". Without it the claim ignores Alaska, where Denali is nearly 6,000 feet taller.

Worksheet 5 — California by Numbers

A. Draw the bar chart: Bar heights: Los Angeles 3899 thousands · San Diego 1387 thousands · San Jose 1013 thousands · San Francisco 874 thousands · Fresno 542 thousands · Sacramento 525 thousands

B. Number problems: 1. 14,787 feet (14,505 + 282). · 2. 2,587 miles. · 3. About 200 inches, which is a little over 16 feet. · 4. 25 times bigger. · 5. 8 of every 10.

Worksheet 6 — Three Record Trees

A. Match the record to the tree: 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-E, 5-C

B. Think about it: 1. Enough visitors walking around it would trample and pack down the soil over its roots, which could kill it. · 2. Open-ended — accept any answer the child can explain.

Worksheet 7 — Redwoods and Sequoias

A. Sort the facts: Redwood only: 2, 4, 7. Sequoia only: 3, 5, 6. Both: 1, 8.

B. Say it in one line: 1. Redwoods are the tall ones in the coastal fog; sequoias are the wide ones in the mountains.

Worksheet 8 — Who Ruled California

A. Put the history in order: Correct order: Native peoples > Cabrillo > Spain > Mexico > Gold > Statehood

B. Two questions: 1. The Gold Rush brought about 300,000 people in two years, so it had enough people to become a state straight away. · 2. The republic ended quickly, but people liked the flag, and in 1911 it was adopted as the official state flag.

Worksheet 9 — Both Halves of the Gold Rush

A. Sort what happened: Brought: about 300,000 arrivals in two years; San Francisco grew from 1,000 to 25,000; some people got rich, most reliably those selling shovels, boots and jeans. Cost: Native Californians were driven off their land and killed; a population of about 150,000 in 1848 fell to around 30,000 by 1870; a world of roughly 100 languages was destroyed.

B. Write the honest account: 1. Open-ended — accept any answer the child can explain. · 2. Open-ended — accept any answer the child can explain.

C. Check your writing: A self-check. The third and fourth lines are what separate a good answer from a strong one.

Answer keys — for the grown-up (continued)

Worksheet 10 — The Ground Is Moving

Explain it: 1. It is a crack about 800 miles long where two slabs of the Earth's crust grind past each other, moving roughly two inches a year. · 2. They are slowly moving towards each other, so in millions of years they will end up close together. · 3. It depends on the size of the ruler. A straight line down the coast misses all the bays and rocks; measuring around every one of them makes the same coast much longer.

Worksheet 11 — Word Search and Review

A. Find the ten words: SACRAMENTO (row 2, column 3, down) · SEQUOIA (row 10, column 6, right) · REDWOOD (row 6, column 10, left) · POPPY (row 4, column 12, left) · GRIZZLY (row 5, column 4, right) · DENIM (row 1, column 2, right) · BENITOITE (row 12, column 1, right) · SURFING (row 11, column 5, right) · QUAIL (row 9, column 4, down) · GOLD (row 8, column 13, left)

B. Quick recall: 1. The California poppy · 2. Denim · 3. Surfing · 4. The saber-toothed cat · 5. Benitoite

Worksheet 12 — Write About It

A. Plan your report: Notes only. Look for facts drawn from the pack rather than full sentences, and a different fact in each row.

B. Now write it: 1. Open-ended — accept any answer the child can explain.

Worksheet 13 — The Big Review

A. Ten questions: 1-A, 2-A, 3-B, 4-B, 5-B, 6-A, 7-A, 8-B, 9-A, 10-A

B. The last question: 1. Open-ended — accept any answer the child can explain.

Worksheet 14 — What I Learned

A. Before and after: The child's own record. The middle column is the useful one: a question nobody answered is a good place to take the class next.

B. I can...: A self-check. Any "not yet" points straight at the worksheet to go back to.

Learning objective: Children retrieve information from a non-fiction text, explain physical and human geography, read and draw a scaled chart, tell a claim supported by evidence from one that is not, weigh two sides of a historical account, and plan and write a report.

Source: KidzFeed.com — "California Facts for Kids". <https://kidzfeed.com/california-facts-for-kids/>

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