

# WEBQUEST COLLECTION

## WESTWARD EXPANSION

### AND THE OLD WEST



Contains the Following Webquests

WebQuest: The U.S Expands Westward

WebQuest: The Homestead Act and Land Rush

WebQuest: The California Gold Rush

## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST



The original thirteen colonies of the United States were settled along the east coast of North America. For many years, few colonists went beyond the Appalachian Mountains. However, as the country gained independence and continued to grow, more land was needed. The country began to expand into the western frontier. Using the web address below, read about this interesting and exciting time in the history of the United States.

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward\\_expansion/](http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/)

1. Describe the population change in the 13 colonies from 1700 to 1775.
2. Since people needed more land to hunt and farm, where did they begin to move?
3. One of the first areas settled was called the? List the five states carved from this large area of land.

## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST CONTINUES



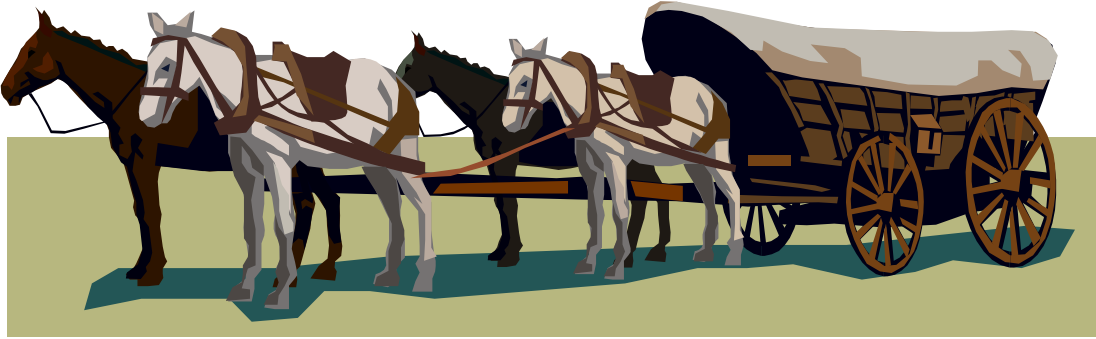
4. In 1803 what did Thomas Jefferson purchase from the French and for how much?

To see how much land was included in this purchase, click on the map to enlarge it. Look at the size of the newly acquired land with the label “Louisiana Purchase”. This purchase did nearly double the size of the young country.

**Using this enlarged view of the map, answer the next question.  
When you're done, click the back button to continue.**

There were 15 states created from the Louisiana Purchase. List any ten of them.


## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST CONTINUES



5. What did “Manifest Destiny” mean?

6. List three possible reasons pioneers and settlers moved out west.

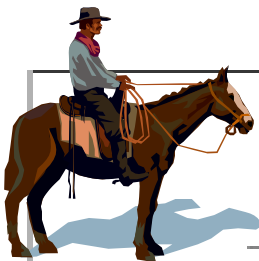
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7. What Chief reason do you think the wild west was wild?

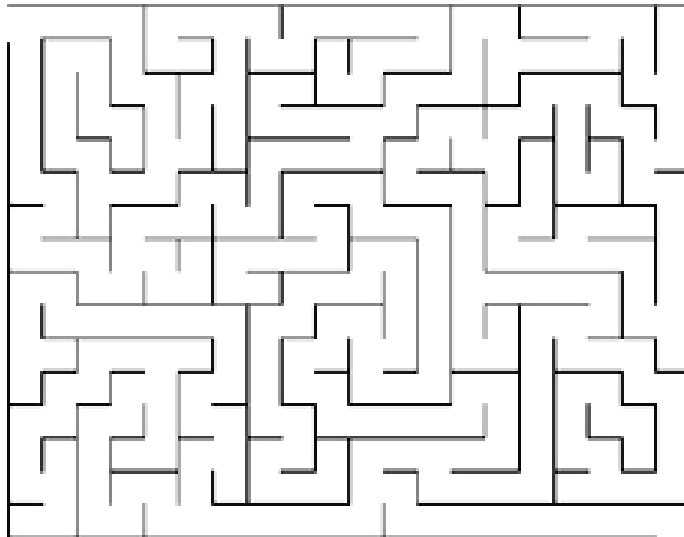
8. Westward Expansion had a large impact on the Civil War. Why?

Using the information you learned about Westward Expansion, write four sentences. Two should be facts and two should be opinions.


### Brain Break!



Help the cowboy get the rope.



## THE HOMESTEAD ACT AND LAND RUSH WEBQUEST



With much of the east coast of America already developed, the United States government wanted to encourage people to move out west. They decided to help people out by offering them free land through a law called the Homestead Act. Using the web address below, read about this act that would give so many people an opportunity to own their land.

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward\\_expansion/homestead\\_act\\_land\\_rush.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/homestead_act_land_rush.php)

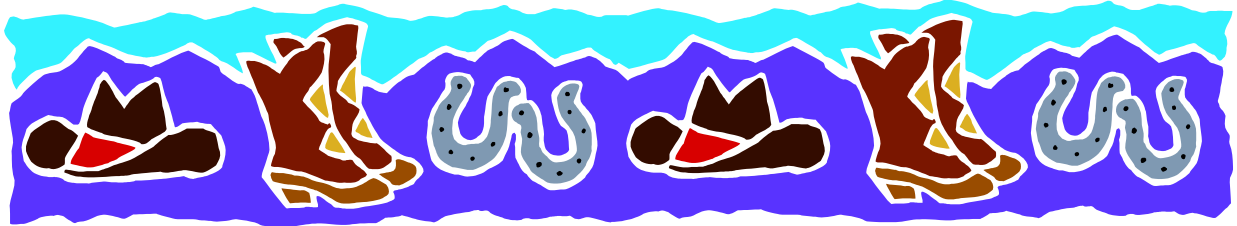
1. Which president signed the Homestead Act and when did it become law?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In your own words, tell about the law and what someone had to do to keep the land. Include where it had to be, how long they had to live on it, and what they needed to do.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. This was an amazing opportunity for so many people. Who could own land?

## THE HOMESTEAD ACT AND LAND RUSH WEBQUEST CONTINUES



4. Different areas of land would be open at different times. This would create a ?  
Why?
  
5. When did the major land rush occur in Oklahoma?
  
6. At this land rush the term, “sooners” was coined. What is a sooner-what did they do to earn the nickname?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How much was it to file an application to get a plot of land? When did Homesteading end-excluding Alaska?

Match the jumbled words to the correct one. The first is done for you.



Cosy bow

land

Lets rest

wagons

sthoeamed

sooner

Now gas

homestead

ewst

settlers

noosre

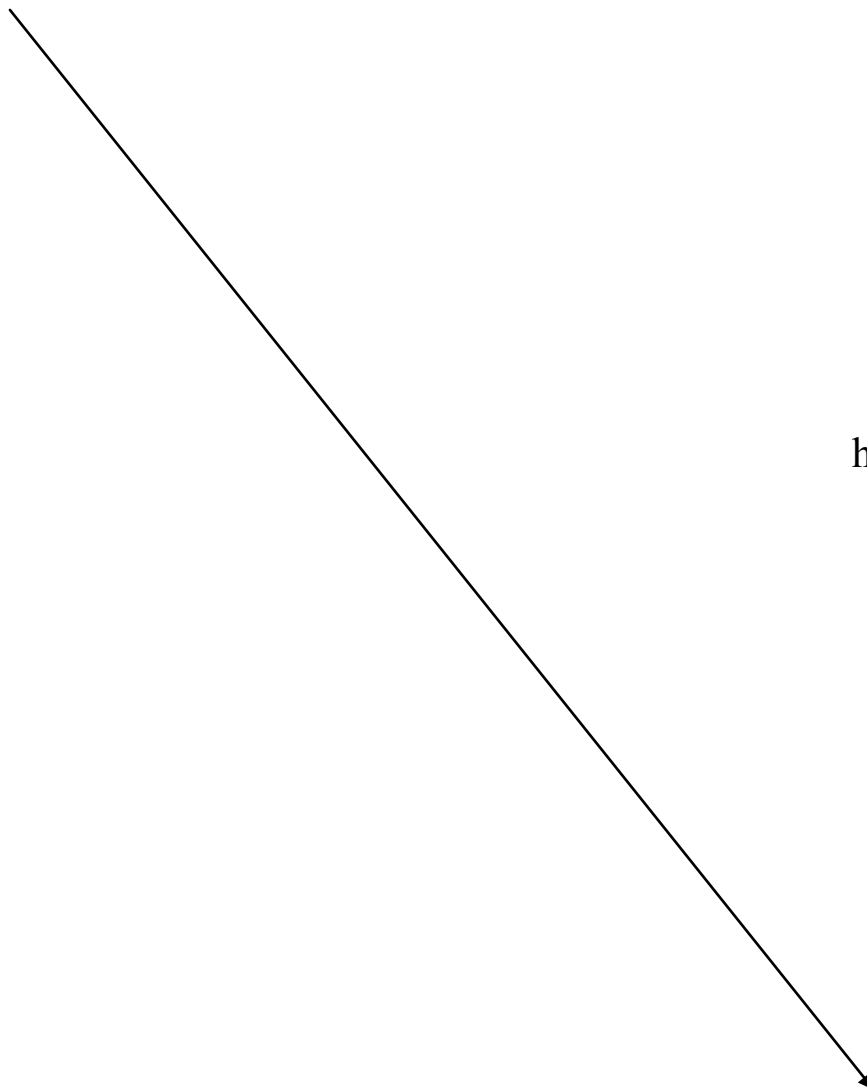
west

nald

horses

shores

cowboys





# THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH



The California Gold Rush took place between 1848 and 1855. During this time gold was discovered in California. Over 300,000 people rushed to California to find gold and "strike it rich".

Using the web address below, read about this exciting time and the impact it would have on California.

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward\\_expansion/california\\_gold\\_rush.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/california_gold_rush.php)

1. Who was James Marshall and what happened at Sutter's Mill?
2. In 1849 around 90,000 people arrived in California to search for gold. What were they called?
3. While many of the prospectors were American, list at least four other countries that were represented by people searching for gold.

## THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CONTINUES



4. One method miners used to find gold was “panning”. Describe this method.
5. Why were the stores and businesses that sold supplies frequently more wealthy than the miners that were buying their goods?
6. What is boomtown and how did it happen. Name two boomtowns that were created during the gold rush.
7. When the gold would run out and the miners would leave, what happened to some of the boomtowns?

# THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CONTINUES



Using the “Interesting Facts About the Gold Rush” portion, fill in the chart below.

## Interesting Facts About the Gold Rush

Question	Answer
San Francisco had 1,000 people when gold was discovered. How many residents just a few years later?	
California was admitted as the _____ state of the United States in _____ during the gold rush.	
Name 2 other gold rushes in the United States. Tell the date and their location.	
Historians estimate that around 12 million ounces of gold was mined during the gold rush. That would be worth around _____ using 2012 prices.	

Look for the words in the puzzle.  
They can be in any direction!



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

miner

pail

gold\*

gold rush

Columbia

pick

shovel

Marshall

\*gold can be several places

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## WESTWARD EXPANSION

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WebQuest: The California Gold Rush

**Key**

## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST



The original thirteen colonies of the United States were settled along the east coast of North America. For many years, few colonists went beyond the Appalachian Mountains. However, as the country gained independence and continued to grow, more land was needed. The country began to expand into the western frontier. Using the web address below, read about this interesting and exciting time in the history of the United States.

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward\\_expansion/](http://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/)

1. Describe the population change in the 13 colonies from 1700 to 1775.

250,000 colonists has increased to 2.5 million.

2. Since people needed more land to hunt and farm, where did they begin to move?

West of the Appalachians

3. One of the first areas settled was called the? List the five states carved from this large area of land.

Northwest Territory.

the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST CONTINUES



4. In 1803 what did Thomas Jefferson purchase from the French and for how much?

**Louisiana Territory for 14 million**

To see how much land was included in this purchase, click on the map to enlarge it. Look at the size of the newly acquired land with the label “Louisiana Purchase”. This purchase did nearly double the size of the young country.

**Using this enlarged view of the map, answer the next question.**

There were 15 states formed from the Louisiana Purchase. List any ten of them.

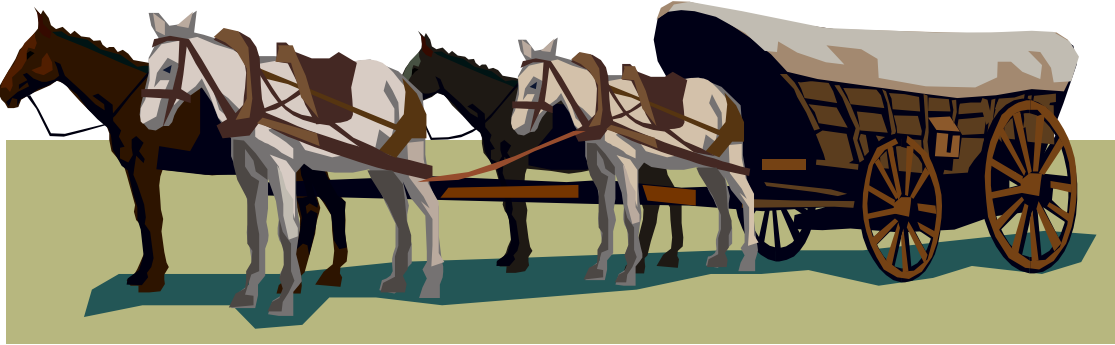
**Any 10 of the following:**

New Mexico  
Texas  
Montana  
Wyoming  
Colorado

Nebraska  
Minnesota  
North Dakota  
South Dakota  
Louisiana

Arkansas  
Missouri  
Iowa  
Oklahoma  
Kansas

## THE U.S. EXPANDS WESTWARD WEBQUEST CONTINUES



5. What did “Manifest Destiny” mean?

Many people in the United States believed it was the country's destiny to expand westward all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

6. List three possible reasons pioneers and settlers moved out west.

Some of them wanted to claim free land for ranching and farming from the government through the Homestead Act. Others came to California during the gold rush to strike it rich. Even others, such as the Mormons, moved west to avoid persecution.

7. What Chief reason do you think the wild west was wild?

Lack of government and law officials. People has to take care of themselves.

8. Westward Expansion had a large impact on the Civil War. Why?

The South wanted western states to be slave states while the North wanted slavery to be illegal in the new states.



## THE HOMESTEAD ACT AND LAND RUSH WEBQUEST



With much of the east coast of America already developed, the United States government wanted to encourage people to move out west. They decided to help people out by offering them free land through a law called the Homestead Act. Using the web address below, read about this act that would give so many people an opportunity to own their land.

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1. Which president signed the Homestead Act and when did it become law?

President Abraham Lincoln and it became law in 1862.

2. . In your own words, tell about the law and what someone had to do to keep the land. Include where it had to be, how long they had to live on it, and what they needed to do.

Under the new law a U.S. Citizen could get 160 acres of unoccupied land west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains. They could keep the land if they lived on the land for five years and made improvements to the land.

3. This was an amazing opportunity for so many people. Who could own land?

Anyone over 21 years old. This included women, former slaves, and immigrants.

## THE HOMESTEAD ACT AND LAND RUSH WEBQUEST CONTINUED



4. Different areas of land would be open at different times. This would create a ?  
Why?

This often created land rushes where people would race in to claim the best plots of land.

5. When did the major land rush occur in Oklahoma?

April 22, 1889

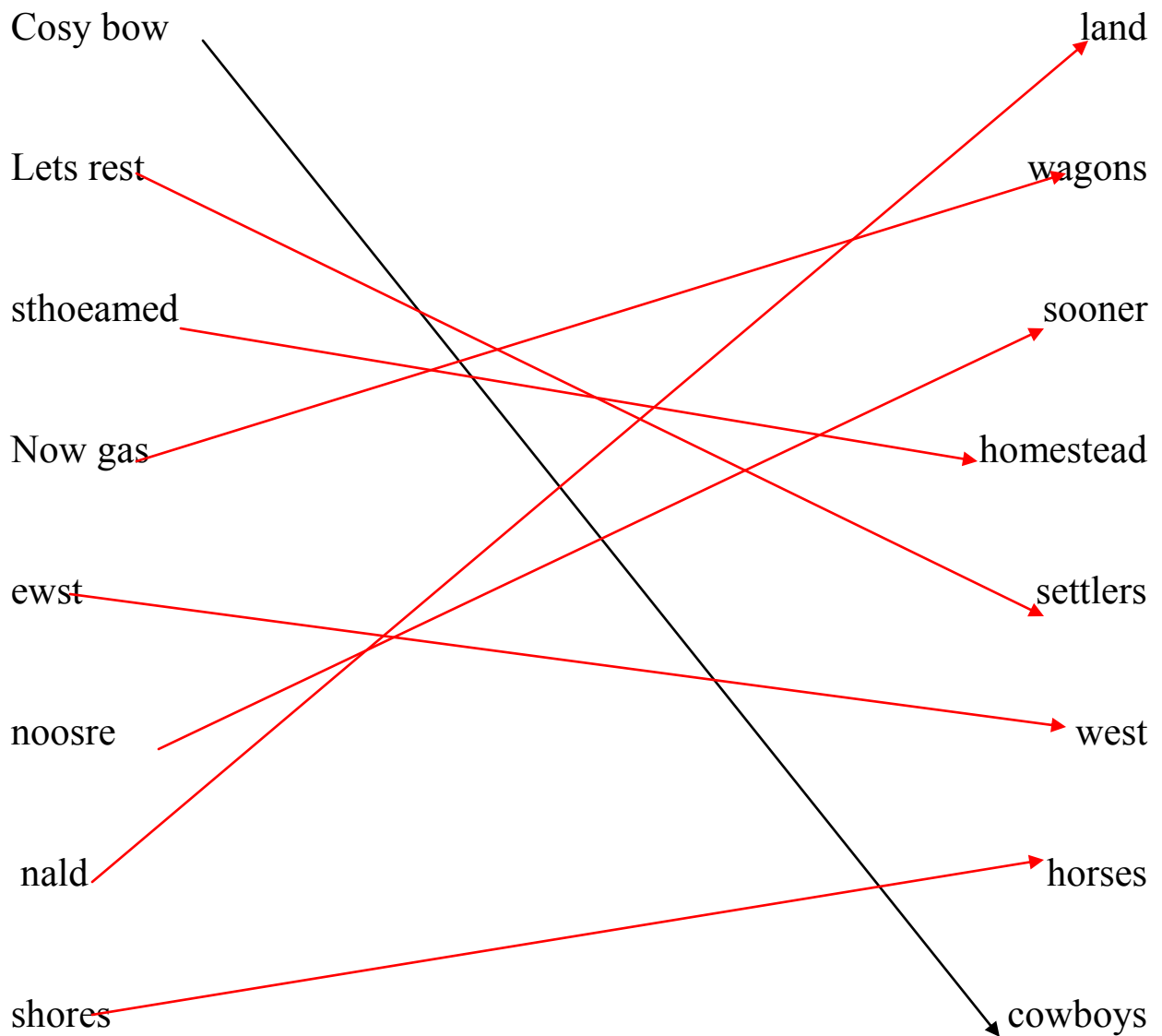
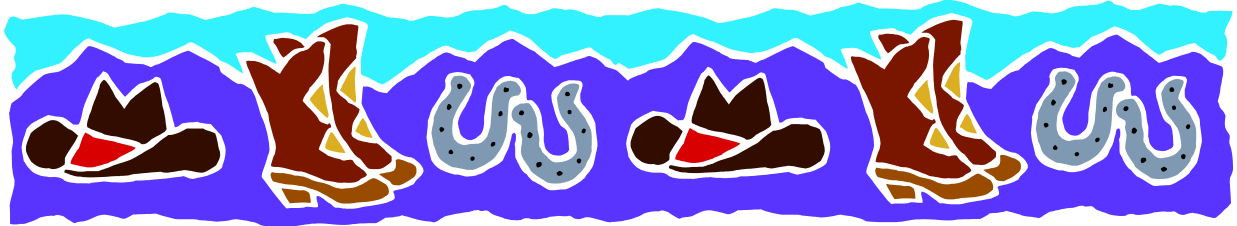
6. At this land rush the term, “sooners” was coined. What is a sooner-  
what did they do to earn the nickname?

Sooners were people that snuck on to the land to claim the best areas before the time was called to go and claim the land.

7. How much was it to file an application to get a plot of land? When did Home-  
steading end-excluding Alaska?

It was 18 dollars and it ended in 1976.

Match the jumbled words to the correct one. The first is done for you.



# THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH



The California Gold Rush took place between 1848 and 1855. During this time gold was discovered in California. Over 300,000 people rushed to California to find gold and "strike it rich".

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1. Who was James Marshall and what happened at Sutter's Mill?

He is credited with discovering gold in California where he was building a saw-mill at Sutter's Mill.

2. In 1849 around 90,000 people arrived in California to search for gold. What were they called?

Forty-niners

3. While many of the prospectors were American, list at least four other countries that were represented by people searching for gold.

China, Europe, Australia, and Mexico.

## THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CONTINUES



4. One method miners used to find gold was “panning”. Describe this method.  
When panning for gold, miners put gravel and water into a pan and then shook the pan back and forth. Because gold is heavy it will eventually work its way to the bottom of the pan. After shaking the pan for a while, the gold will be on the bottom of the pan and the worthless material will be at the top.

5. Why were the stores and businesses that sold supplies frequently more wealthy than the miners that were buying their goods?  
They were able to sell at very high prices and make a good profit.

6. What is boomtown and how did it happen. Name two boomtowns that were created during the gold rush.  
When gold was discovered , miners would move in quickly. The camps would swell and turn into towns They were called boomtowns. San Francisco and Columbia are two boomtowns.

7. When the gold would run out and the miners would leave, what happened to some of the boomtowns?  
They became ghost towns.

# THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH CONTINUES



Using the “Interesting Facts About the Gold Rush” portion, fill in the chart below.

## Interesting Facts About the Gold Rush

Question	Answer
San Francisco had 1,000 people when gold was discovered. How many residents just a few years later?	30.000 residents
California was admitted as the _____ state of the United States in _____ during the gold rush.	31st 1850
Name 2 other gold rushes in the United States. Tell the date and their location.	Comstock Rush in Colorado 1859 Klondike gold rush in Alaska in 1896.
Historians estimate that around 12 million ounces of gold was mined during the gold rush. That would be worth around _____ using 2012 prices.	\$20 billion

Look for the words in the puzzle.  
They can be in any direction!



miner

pail

gold\*

gold rush

Columbia

pick

shovel

Marshall

\*gold can be several places