

Chapter 1 : How to Get Free Land in the USA: 12 Steps (with Pictures)

*Settlers on Certain Lands in California. (Laguna De La Marced) [California]] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Only a few hundred Americans lived in either territory, and most were scattered among the Mexican settlers. However, due to the constant stream of favorable reports sent back east, the s saw a dramatic increase in white American settlers in the Far West. Most California settlers headed for the Sacramento Valley, where they lived apart from the Mexicans. Oregon drew many settlers from the Mississippi Valley with the promise of fertile farmland. To some, Oregon was even more attractive a destination than California and New Mexico, and the s saw rapid settlement there as well. Settlers of the Far West faced a four-month journey across little-known territory in harsh conditions. They prepared for the rigors of travel in jump- off towns like St. Joseph and Independence, Missouri, which prospered from the growth of the outfitting industry. There, settlers purchased Conestoga wagons for the journey and stocked up on supplies like food, weapons, and ammunition. Due to fictional stories about the savage Indians that travelers would face along their way, travelers on the overland trails often overstocked guns and ammunition at the expense of other more necessary items. Once they embarked, settlers faced numerous challenges: Trails were poorly marked and hard to follow, and travelers often lost their way. Guidebooks attempted to advise travelers, but they were often unreliable. In , the Donner Party set out from Illinois armed with one such guidebook, which gave them such poor advice that the party found itself snowbound in the High Sierra. The group finally reached its destination in California only after turning to cannibalism in order to survive. There were many trails leading to the Far West. Southwestern travelers more often than not used the Santa Fe Trail to move westward. Routes to the Northwest varied, but the Oregon Trail became the best known and most often followed pathway to the northwest. Though it was commonly traveled, settlers still faced difficult journeys westward. Travelers along these overland trails survived by cooperating with each other in wagon trains. Though many brought a liberal spirit to the West, firmly entrenched traditions dictated the operations of the wagon trains. Women packed and unpacked the wagons, cooked, milked cows, tended to children, and aided in childbirth. Men were responsible for yoking and unyoking the oxen, driving the wagons, and making up hunting parties. Between and , an estimated 11, followed the overland trails to Oregon, and nearly 3, reached California. Commentary Settlers flocked to the Far West for many reasons. They sought adventure, farmland, an escape from the constraints of civilization, and new starts. California was attractive because of its climate and the fact that the Spanish and Mexicans had begun to organize the territory through the mission system. However, Oregon proved far more attractive to many settlers. Discovered and explored by the British, Oregon was jointly occupied by the British and Americans, who, though they had not yet settled the territory, had set the stage for settlement by sending white missionaries and drawing maps. Oregon seemed more likely than California to be annexed by the United States, thus settlers who desired stability and wanted to maintain a close link with their home country chose Oregon over California, leading to its more rapid development. The Willamette Valley offered fertile farmland and the assured company of other American settlers, whereas the Sacramento Valley was less well known and put the white settlers in geographic proximity to the Mexican settlers, who many Americans found distasteful. It was not purely the uncertain promise of fertile land that provoked Americans to make the long journey from the Midwest across the Rocky Mountains. Constant news sent east fueled the fire of expansion to a great extent. Many of these reports simply stated the facts, that there was a vast amount of unclaimed land in the far west, and that with a lot of hard work and a little luck, an American settler could be successful in farming. However, the effect on the American psyche of elaborate fictions about the West cannot be underestimated. During the s the legend of the West began to unfold itself in earnest. One story told of a year-old man who lived in California who had to leave the bounteous region when he wanted to die. Other stories told of feats of great daring and bravery on the part of western settlers, and advanced notions of geographical wonders and trees that grew higher than the eye could see. These stories produced the desired effect of stimulating interest in the West, and on top of the factual promise of open land and a new beginning, convinced many to undertake

the perilous journey. Throughout the long process of settling the American West, the legend of the West would grow and become a symbol of the rugged adventurousness of western settlers. Despite the many reasons to migrate westward, the numbers that amassed in Oregon and California were modest, and migration was concentrated between and . Even so, small numbers had a large effect on the Pacific coast. The British were unable to settle Oregon, and thus the concentration of Americans in the Willamette Valley boded well for the prospect of American annexation. In California, the Mexican population was small and scattered. They had gradually lost their allegiance to the Mexican government as it had gradually lost touch with them. This created a situation in which American settlers carried great clout in the development of the settled regions, and in effect the American government many fiercely loyal agents throughout the Southwest.

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: Westward Expansion (): Settling California, New Mexico, and Oregon

16) *In his popular Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California ()*, Lansford Hastings A) defended the rights of Native Americans to certain lands of the Northwest. B) maintained that California belonged rightfully to the United States rather than Mexico.

Two hundred head of cattle arrived by overland routes during Starrs. Additional missions followed in rapid succession and by , a chain of 21 missions extended along the coast from San Diego to Sonoma. Missions were colonizing agents of the Spanish government, and were not intended to be permanent. Mission ranches occupied most of the lands in the coastal region held by the Spaniards, about one-sixth of the total area of the state. Burcham, citing Robinson, estimated that more than , cattle, 61, horses and , sheep grazed on the pastoral empire of the missions. The Spanish never extended their livestock husbandry into the Central Valley of California, but the local Indians acquired animals from the missions and drove them into the San Joaquin Valley. By , they were breeding their own stock McCullough. Many of these animals escaped, resulting in large feral herds. McCullough cites numerous reports that sighted herds of wild cattle and horses in the Sacramento Valley in ; the area around Petaluma in ; and other parts of Sonoma County in. Mexican Era Mexico achieved independence from Spain in , and California came under control of the Mexican government. The Mexican Colony Law established rules for petitioning for land grants in California; and by , the rules for establishing land grants were codified in the Mexican Reglamento Regulation. These Acts sought to break the monopoly of the missions and also paved the way for additional settlers to California by making land grants easier to obtain. The Mexican Governors of Alta California gained the power to grant state lands, and many of the Spanish concessions were subsequently patented under Mexican law. Through the Secularization Act of , the Mexican government repossessed most of the lands provided to the missions by the Spanish crown. Secularization was implemented between and. A commissioner would oversee the crops and herds, while the land was divided up as communal pasture, a town plot, and individual plots for each Indian family. Although the original intent of the secularization legislation was to have the property divided among former mission Indians, most of the grants were made to influential Californios of Spanish background. The Mexican grants were provisional. The boundaries had to be officially surveyed and marked. The grantee could not subdivide or rent out the land. The land had to be used and cultivated. A residential house had to be built within a year. Public roads crossing through the property could not be closed. From to more than grants of land were made by the Mexican government. About 20 percent of the land grants went to foreigners who facilitated a land boom that foreshadowed the boom that was to come Starrs. During June and July of a small group of American settlers rebelled against the Mexican government and proclaimed California an independent republic. The republic was short lived as the U. California joined the union in. California would change dramatically as , immigrant miners and fortune seekers poured in from all over the world during the first 20 months. By the mids more than ,00 people had arrived. The population of San Francisco and Sacramento increased and turned these cities into boomtowns. This burgeoning population needed food, creating an enormous demand for beef, causing California cattle numbers to quadruple and sheep numbers to increase more than 60 fold between and Burcham. Large quantities of meat were now in demand at various mining communities and in the rapidly growing metropolitan centers of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton. This strong demand for meat, in conjunction with an extremely limited local supply of cattle, resulted in large numbers of livestock moving into California from Mexico, Texas, and other southwestern states. Demand for beef resulted in an abrupt shift from the Hispanic pastoral system to single-purpose American entrepreneurism. Prior to California cattle were commercially valuable only for their hides and tallow, and the average price of full-grown steers seldom rose above four dollars a head. An enormous and ever-expanding demand for beef raised the price of cattle to levels never before dreamed of in the isolated territory, destroying the existing balance of economic and cultural values, and transforming the ungainly Spanish black cattle into four-legged gold nuggets. In response to the urgent demand for livestock in the mines and the new cities of San Francisco and Sacramento, the custom of slaughtering cattle for their hides and tallow immediately gave

way to the more profitable practice of driving the animals to market to sell as beef on the hoof. Tens of thousands of cattle were driven up the coast valleys and the San Joaquin Valley to market, until the extension of Southern Pacific rail lines to southern California made the practice obsolete. The cattle lived off the country they traveled through, usually after the completion of winter rains when the new grass was well established. The average herd of to 1, animals might be a month on the trail from the southern ranchos, traveling about 10 or 15 miles a day. The owner might lease land near the market area where the stock could rest and fatten at the conclusion of the drive, or would sell cattle to agents or buyers who traveled out from the larger cities to inspect and purchase entire herds at the point of departure. Cattle prices rose immediately in response to the unprecedented demand, and continued to rise for nearly seven years. Newcomers told of the extravagance with which the Californios disposed of their new-found wealth, and expressed shock and dire warnings that their improvidence in failing to restock their herds would cause them grief in the near future. In fact, the Californio corner on the beef market was soon disrupted with the arrival of Midwestern and eastern beef brought in from Missouri by entrepreneuring young drovers. By the end of , 62, head had entered the state over the main immigrant roads, and were pastured in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys while awaiting market. The sheep industry also grew during this period. By the cattle prices were declining in part because of the growth of the sheep industry in California. Rancheros found themselves heavily in debt and totally unprepared for the staggering interest rates charged by American lenders. Mortgaged ranchos were lost, and the Hispanic identity of California diminished as the subdivided ranchos changed in character to predominantly New England style farmsteads. The intolerable economic situation was worsened by a succession of disastrous seasons bringing unprecedented floods and killing droughts. California was ideal cattle country, with unending miles of green grass carpeting the hills with the annual winter rains. When the rains ceased in April, cattle found an abundance of nutritious pasture in the dry alfalfa and burr clover that covered the ranges. Beginning in , however, a series of climatic misfortunes paved the way for a major revolution in the dominant economy of the state. The loss of cattle throughout the state ran to about , When the rains finally ceased, they had produced a rich and luxuriant pasturage that fattened cattle and increased stock in an already overburdened market. The great flood, however, was followed by two years of unparalleled drought. A few months later, cattle were routinely slaughtered for the trifling value of their horns and hides. In the beginning the gold panning was the main method of finding gold but by the end of the gold rush in panning had been replaced by industrial methods. The gold rush was over and many weary miners headed home but others liked what they saw and stayed. California, with its diverse population, achieved statehood in , decades earlier than it would have been without the gold. Many established themselves in agriculture and some were build empires. Probably none were more successful than Hugh Glenn and Henry Miller. Hugh Glenn came to California from Missouri to find his fortune in the gold fields but immediately realized there was greater fortune to be had by providing goods and services to the miners. Hugh Glenn ran a livery stable in Sacramento and delivered goods to miners. Glenn eventually raised cattle on a ranch in Yolo County along the north side of Putah Creek but in he purchased 45, acres and began cultivating grain on acres, earning him the nickname of the Wheat King of California. Glenn County bears his name Scheuring Henry Miller arrived in San Francisco in and started a butcher business, eventually going into partnership with Charles Lux in The operation was headquartered in Los Banos and played a major role in the development of the San Joaquin Valley in the late s and early s. Miller figured out that putting up vast amounts of hay was crucial to surviving the periodic drought in California. Buying up ranchos devastated by floods, droughts and low cattle prices allowed Miller and Lux to become one of the largest cattle producers in California and one of the largest landowners in the United States. They owned 1,, acres of cattle and farmland in California, Nevada and Oregon Scheuring The livestock census in documented there were only about a quarter of a million cattle in the state. However, by , over one million cattle were present with about 40 percent in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. The gold boom brought an increase in sheep from 1 million in to 4. Beef cattle number were about 1 million in , dropped to , in and rose to 1. Flooding was common in the Central Valley with major floods devastating Sacramento as early as Flooding also occurred along rivers flowing from the Sierra due to hydraulic mining at locations in the foothills. The entire Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys were inundated for an extent of miles km ,

averaging 20 miles 32 km in breadth. State government was forced to relocate from the capital in Sacramento for 18 months in San Francisco. An estimated , cattle died in the flood. Even with these large and small dams flooding has continued to occur into the s and 90s. In , it was determined that Sacramento had both the least protection against and nearly the highest risk of flooding. Following the floods of were two years of unparalleled drought. Cattle prices dropped lower and lowers as the drought progressed. Later into the drought cattle were slaughtered for the value of their horns and hides. Some estimate that a million animals may have lost from the flood of and the drought that followed. Only those who had the means to drive cattle to the Sierra Nevada or to Oregon were spared nearly absolute losses. Droughts that exceed three years are uncommon, though occurrences in the past century include , , and While only two years in length the drought of and was one of the driest on record. In addition, flooding and drought so affected the cattle industry that many turned to sheep production, feeling that this class of livestock was better suited to the semi-arid climatic conditions. However, these catastrophes also had positive effects. Ranchers now had a better understanding of range feed for livestock production, and a demand for pasture improvement grew. Forages, especially alfalfa, were planted to supplement the natural vegetation. Great acreages of valley land were diverted from range to wheat production. As settlement of the state proceeded and emphasis on farming increased, the era of cheap, free range for livestock ended in the valleys and certain portions of the foothills of California. The pastoral industry shifted to the upper margins of the grasslands and the woodland ranges of the foothills, and to the plateau and mountain portions of the state, where it became essentially stabilized. Ranchers were left to drive their animals to mountain ranges to find summer pasture Burcham Agriculture continued to increase with the conversion of native grasslands, and this resulted in fence laws.

Chapter 3 : Settler - Wikipedia

Land Types. Most of the lands that the Commission receives inquiries about fall into one of four categories: sovereign state-owned lands, lands sold directly to settlers from the federal government, lands granted to the state for sale or use, and lands granted by a prior sovereign, i.e. rancho and pueblo lands.

Chilean settlers in Baker River , One can witness how settlers very often occupied land previously residents to long-established peoples, designated as indigenous also called "natives", "Aborigines" or, in the Americas , "Indians". In some cases such as Australia , as colonialist mentalities and laws change, the legal ownership of some lands is contested by indigenous people, who either claim or seek restoration of traditional usage, land rights , native title and related forms of legal ownership or partial control. The word "settler" was not originally usually used in relation to a variety of peoples who became a part of settler societies, such as enslaved Africans e. In the figurative usage, a "person who goes first or does something first" also applies to the American English use of "pioneer" to refer to a settlerâ€”a person who has migrated to a less occupied area and established permanent residence there, often to colonize the area; as first recorded in English in In Canada , the Indian Act , passed in , created a fundamental division between First Nations peoples and all others, who are termed Settlers. A family of Russian settlers in the Caucasus region, circa In Imperial Russia , the government invited Russians or foreign nationals to settle in sparsely populated lands. Although they are often thought of as traveling by seaâ€”the dominant form of travel in the early modern eraâ€”significant waves of settlement could also use long overland routes, such as the Great Trek by the Boer - Afrikaners in South Africa , or the Oregon Trail in the United States. Anthropological usage[edit] Anthropologists record tribal displacement of native settlers who drive another tribe from the lands it held, such as the settlement of lands in the area now called Carmel-by-the-Sea , California where Ohlone peoples settled in areas previously inhabited by the Esselen tribe Bainbridge, Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. December Early North American settlers from Europe often built crude houses in the form of log cabins In the Middle East , there are a number of references to various squatter and specific policies referred as "settler". Israel â€” Israelis who moved to areas captured during the Six-Day War in are termed Israeli settlers. However, this has caused political unrest and many settlers are forcibly removed from their settlements by the Israeli government. Syria â€” In recent times, Arab settlers have also moved in large numbers to ethnic minority areas, such as northeast Syria. Women and children experience violence in these highly dangerous areas because of the conflict. Many natives face displacement when new settlements are established. During Palestine war , in which Israel was created, over , Palestinians were displaced from their homes and not allowed to return. Settlements can make it very difficult for native people to continue their work. For example, if the settlers take part of the land which the olive trees grow on then the natives no longer have access to those olive trees and their livelihood is compromised. Political migration The reasons for the emigration of settlers vary, but often they include the following factors and incentives:

Chapter 4 : Wild Pig Management Program

These ranchos, at one time, covered some of the most fertile land in California. To say that the cities of Pasadena, Huntington Beach, San Clemente, Oakland, and many others, are on land once part of a Spanish land grant is a historical statement.

Recent Legislation Land Types Most of the lands that the Commission receives inquiries about fall into one of four categories: In some instances, determining the answer to this initial question can be very time consuming. Below is a description of the primary land classifications for which the Commission receives inquiries.

Proprietary Lands In addition to sovereign land, the Commission regularly comes across certain proprietary lands. The key difference between sovereign lands and proprietary lands is that proprietary lands are not subject to the constitutional prohibition on sales. The others are all in private ownership.

School Lands School lands were granted by the United States to California in to benefit public education. They included the 16th and 36th sections of every township. In some cases, the 16th or 36th sections were exempted from the grant because of prior claims or other reasons. In these cases, California was given the right to select other federal lands as compensation. These other lands are known as in-lieu or indemnity lands. Today, the federal government owes California approximately 51, acres of indemnity lands.

Swamp and Overflowed Lands Under the Arkansas Swamplands Act of September 28, , Congress granted to all states the swamp and overflowed lands within their respective borders. Swamplands are lands requiring drainage to make them fit for cultivation. Overflowed lands are subject to periodic overflow and flooding and typically required levees to keep the water out so that the land could be tilled. While the effective date of the transfer of title is September 28, , legal title was not perfected until after the United States agreed that the lands were properly identified as swampland or overflowed lands.

Other Federal Land Grants to California In addition to the swamp and overflowed lands and school lands, Congress did four other land grants to California. The documents related to these grants are available in the records of the State Lands Commission except for the Agricultural and Mechanical College Grant. These records are in the custody of the Regents of the University of California. These four other grants are: This treaty was the basis for the United States to validate land title within the conquered territories. There are four presidios, four pueblos, 21 Catholic missions, along with over ranchos to private individuals that were subject to the treaty obligations. The United States created the federal Board of Land Commissioners that heard the claims and either confirmed or denied the claim. Although these land claims originated either from the Spanish Empire or the Mexican Republic, the controlling patents are those that were issued by the United States. Because these lands never passed through state ownership, neither the Commission nor the State Surveyor-General was involved in the issuance of these patents. Additional information on Rancho, Pueblo, Presidio and Mission lands

Sovereign Lands When California become a state on September 9, , it inherited all the natural, navigable waterways, and tide and submerged lands within its boundaries. These lands are what are referred to as sovereign lands and total about 4 million acres. Unlike other types of land, there is no document that shows what sovereign lands California received. The Commission is not in charge of the water, only the land below the water. Sovereign lands are held in a trust, with the beneficiaries being Californians. As part of the trust, sovereign lands can never be sold and can only be used for public purposes consistent with the provisions of the common law Public Trust Doctrine such as fishing, water dependent commerce and navigation, recreational purposes, ecological preservation and scientific study. Generally, the landward boundary of sovereign lands is the ordinary high water mark for tidal waterways and the ordinary low water mark for navigable non-tidal waterways. The area between the ordinary low water mark and the ordinary high water mark at navigable non-tidal waterways, like the California side of Lake Tahoe or Clear Lake, are subject to the Public Trust Easement even though the fee is privately owned. As is typical for lands burdened with an easement, the Commission does not issue leases for land where it does not own the fee. However, and again as is typical for land burdened by an easement, the fee owner cannot do anything within the area burdened by the Public Trust Easement that is inconsistent with the Public Trust Easement. In other states, like Oregon, the area between the vegetation line and the ordinary high water mark

on beach is also burdened by the Public Trust Easement. This is not the case in California. Tidelands
Tidelands are one type of sovereign land held by California. These are the lands that are lyrically described as those covered and uncovered by the ebb and flow of the tides. Practically, tidelands are those lands situated between the ordinary high water and ordinary low water mark of tidal waters. In California, some of the tidelands are in private ownership. Those that are were authorized to be sold by the Legislature. Illinois both that made clear that sovereign lands cannot be sold. Submerged Lands Submerged lands are one of the other types of sovereign lands. These lands reach from the ordinary low water mark out to the state-federal fixed boundary three geographic miles offshore. The main type of projects that get proposed for submerged lands are resource development projects such as a wave energy project that would utilize the infrastructure from an offshore oil platform.

Chapter 5 : California Gold Rush - HISTORY

Since towns on the California frontier were expected to supply food to the presidio, the Army plaid an important role in the governing of the town. These lands.

California was one of the last of these Spanish territories to be occupied. The first Spanish colony to be established in California was the mission and presidio at San Diego. From this first settlement, the Spanish and Mexican governments founded four presidios, four pueblos, and 21 Catholic missions, along with granting vast amounts of rancho lands to private individuals. When talking about this early Spanish California, the missions, pueblos, and presidios are invariably remembered. Almost everyone has visited or read about the old town or pueblo of San Diego, the missions at Santa Barbara or Monterey, the presidio at San Francisco, and the pueblo of Los Angeles. These places have become famous historical landmarks. The remnants of these landmarks at San Diego, San Francisco, and other cities are real: These are objects we can see and touch and visit on vacations or holidays: It is much easier to conjure up the picture of Franciscan monks or Spanish soldiers when we are standing inside the missions or presidios. One segment of this pastoral era of California history, which is not as easily remembered, is the Spanish and Mexican ranchos. These ranchos, at one time, covered some of the most fertile land in California. To say that the cities of Pasadena, Huntington Beach, San Clemente, Oakland, and many others, are on land once part of a Spanish land grant is a historical statement. This, however, is not a statement verifiable by the present reality. We cannot stand in downtown Pasadena and physically touch or see the old ranchos. There is no visible evidence of these large ranchos with their adobe houses. Whatever brings to mind these early Spanish influences, it must be remembered that a majority of the fertile land in California, at one time, was influenced by this Spanish legacy. Land title problems can still be traced back to the government patents for these lands. An awareness of California history might entail the solving or reassessment of land title problems in particular situations. Private Land Claims in California At the time of Spanish colonization in California, all land title was vested in the Spanish Empire by virtue of discovery. Private land claims in California emanated from the Spanish. When the presidios and pueblos were being established, the commandants of the presidios and the Alcaldes of the pueblos were given the authority to grant lots of land within their jurisdiction. From these presidial and pueblo lots evolved the granting of lands outside of these jurisdictions. These grants of land are known as Rancho Grants, and were granted in order to encourage agriculture and industry, reward soldiers, and to provide for settlers who held no property. These land grants were limited to a maximum size of eleven square leagues. Most were smaller and a few were larger. The Spanish government required the compliance of the following four steps for the granting of rancho lands. The first step was the submitting of a petition by an applicant, containing the name, religion, residence occupation, and the size of the family. Along with a land description and, at times, a map of the tract diseno. The diseno map and land description were usually very vague, calling to sloughs, trees, hills, and other features which were not very permanent. The second step was the inquiries by officials into the availability of the land, the character of the applicant, and the posting of the petition in case another party had objections to the approval of the application. This third step usually entailed the actual grant of land or refusal of the grant of land The fourth and final step was the confirmation of the grant by the Viceroy. This final step made the title to the land perfect. During the Mexican era, these four steps were also used with minor alterations. Of the plus rancho grants made, the Spanish government granted approximately The remainders were granted by the Mexican Government. The United States war with the Mexican Republic and eventual conquest of the southwest territories culminated in the year with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo. This treaty was the basis for establishing the rights of Mexicans to land title within the conquered territories. Within Article VIII of the treaty, the following is stated, "In the said territories, property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract shall enjoy ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States. The following enactments are contained within this Act: While these procedures discouraged the filing of fraudulent claims, the valid claims were encumbered by the costly lawyers, the

difficulty of finding absolute proof of ownership and the different laws, customs, and languages involved. Added to these difficulties was the time involved for the landowners to receive a final patent to their land. The average length of time for a final patent to be issued, after the filing of an original petition, was seventeen years, some took as long as, thirty-five to forty years. The cost of this litigation and confirming process was charged to the applicant. The Board of Land Commissioners tenure was extended to five years and the Board adjourned on March 1, In these five years, cases involving private land claims were heard by the Commission; claims were confirmed; rejected; and the rest were withdrawn. Of these cases, only three were decided by the Board; the rest were appealed to the District Court and then a majority of these were finally decided by the Supreme Court. The initial confirmation of a private land claim by the Commissioners was only a small step towards the issuing of a final patent. Once confirmed by the courts, a survey of the land was performed. Sometimes, either because of objections by adjacent landowners or because of discrepancies within the survey, more than one survey was needed. The survey costs were at the expense of the claimant. When these survey costs were paid and the survey advertised in the newspaper, per the Act of Congress approved July 1. Because of the time and money involved, the original confirnee was sometimes forced to sell the property. Consequently, in some cases, the individual who eventually received the final patent was not the original petitioner, or confirnee. The process of land confirmation of private land claims by the United States was tenuous at best. Arguments against the process have been submitted by historians and scholars. The most persistent argument being the criticizing of the undue hardships that applicants endured in order to receive confirmation to land they already owned. In retrospect, the confirmation of the private grants could have been made easier and less expensive for the landowners. However, one must realize that at the time of these confirmation hearings, the mood of the country was that of the conquering warriors. Mexico had just been defeated in a war and the United States was not about to give away land that it had just fought for. Consequently, the burden of proof was placed onto the Mexicans and naturalized citizens of conquered Mexico. The grant name, confirnee, and condition of title was shown on this list, which included all the confirmed grants within California. This report was still incomplete because, under "condition of title," final patent dates for some ranchos were still not entered. The successor to the abolished office is the California State Lands Commission. Commission staff has compiled the following update to the listing of "Grants of Land in California made by Spanish or Mexican Authorities" , as published in the "Report of the Surveyor-General of the State of California, from August 1, to August 1, ". One reason for this update is to enter the patent dates omitted in the report. In some instances, ranchos were confirmed by the Land Commissioners and the courts and the necessary surveys were performed: These unpatented ranchos were included in the report. The format for this new listing is alphabetically by county name, which differs from the Surveyor-Generals listing, which is alphabetically by rancho name. This list of confirmed and patented private land claims ranchos gives only the name of the final patentee. Public records have been researched to ascertain the correct dates of patent, acreage, and township, range and meridian. When there was a conflict of facts, the records of the Bureau of Land Management were used as the final authority. The listing is included as an appendix. Comprised of a religious, military, and civil format. The first and second stages consisted of the concurrent establishment of missions to civilize the native Indians and military reservations, called presidios, to guard the missions and settlers against hostiles. The third stage was the civil portion, consisting of the establishment of farming communities called pueblos. They were founded between the years through , by the Franciscan monks from the College of San Fernando in Mexico, and under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. To understand the influence of the missionary system in California, one must realize that, within the Spanish Empire, religion and culture were inseparable. The Catholic monarchs specifically decreed the conversion to Catholicism of natives in newly discovered lands. This conversion fulfilled all the requisites for their incorporation into the Spanish Empire. They were instructed in religion and learned the language, customs, economics, and skills of the Spaniards. By this process, the inhabitants of newly discovered and conquered lands were assimilated into the Spanish regime. The mission sites were established with the following particular considerations: The missions were constructed similar to a small Spanish village. The dominant building being the church proper, which also served as a defensive fortification at times of hostile

attack. Along with the church were quarters for priests, soldiers, married neophytes, dormitories for single males and single female neophytes. Other buildings and barns which were necessary for self-sustenance were incorporated within the mission site. Apart from the mission site were the mission lands which were used for farming and livestock grazing. These mission lands usually extended from one mission to the lands of adjacent missions. A total of 21 missions were established by the Catholic Church. The Board of Land Commissioners regarded these missions as private land claims and, at the time of the confirmation hearings, was subjected to the same process of confirmation and patenting as the ranchos. During the confirmation arguments, a distinction was made between the terms "mission" and "mission lands. The term "mission lands" being the lands adjacent and appurtenant to the missions. The Board refused to grant "mission lands" in their confirmation procedures; consequently, the land eventually granted to the missions was far less than they had petitioned for. In , at their zenith, the missions were a thriving concern. They claimed over four hundred thousand cattle, sixty thousand horses, over three hundred thousand sheep, goats, and swine. Wheat, maize, beans, and other staples were grown, with a combined annual product of one hundred and twenty-thousand bushels. Wine, brandy, soap, leather, hides, wool, oil, cotton, hemp, linen, tobacco, salt, and soda were also produced. The missions annual production was estimated at two million dollars.

Chapter 6 : Calisphere: Early California Exploration and Settlement

The story of California can be told in terms of its land. Better still, it can be told in terms of men and women claiming the land. These men and women form a procession that begins in prehistory and comes down to the present moment.

Rafael was a "Soldier of the Guard" and was part of the Alta California expedition in headed by Don Gaspar de Portola together with Blessed Junipero Serra who was in charge of the missionaries. More information about the Spanish expedition to California can be found in missiontour. It is interesting to note that the first attempt to land a settlement group in California was done on October 18, A group that went to shore included "Luzon Indios". The group was attacked by native Indians after two days. One of the Filipino crewman was killed and the attempt to explore and establish a settlement in that area was called off. It was the first time a Filipino landed in California. The expedition consisted of 3 ships namely: Upon landing at San Diego, the expedition proceeded northward while travelling near the coast. The first mission site in California was established on July 16, near the Indian village of Cosoy. Members of this expedition started the first settlement in Alta California. One of the camps that was established in San Luis Obispo was the "Villa Creek" which was named after the family name of Rafael de Jesus Acebedo Villavicencio who was one of the members of the expedition. To view the map of the Portola Expedition, click on: Manuel had Spanish parents but he was born in in Guadalajara, Mexico. Manuel was a "Soldier of the Guard" at Loreto. Rafael had a sibling named Gertrudis Maria. Buenaventura Sitjer at the Mission of San Antonia. Out of this union bore eight children and included: Jose Maria Teodoro was the second son of Rafael. Their union bore five children and they moved to San Geronimo where they built a large adobe home. For their living, they raised cattle and sold the hides. Roberto Villavicencio married Maria Guadalupe Higuera. Roberto shortened his family name to "Villa". Their family moved to Cayucos and went into the trucking business. Rafael died in Below is the family tree of Manuel Villavicencio 1. Manuel Villavicencio married Gertrudis Acebedo in Out of this union bore 2 children: Out of this union bore eight children: He received the Land Grant for San Geronimo. Out of this union bore five children: Higuera in at Mission San Luis Obispo. He inherited most of Rancho San Geronimo. Roberto shortened his family name to "Villa" 1. His descendants are listed below:

Chapter 7 : Settlers on the California Frontier (Part 1) | The California Frontier Project

California has always been a place of cultural interaction. Early California evolved and changed with each new group of settlers. These images depict the developing interconnectedness of California's early cultures.

View all About the Images California has always been a place of cultural interaction. Early California evolved and changed with each new group of settlers. They also underscore the importance of movement and later settlement of peoples in California. Overview In the late 18th century, the Spanish in California were joined by other European groups. Russian settlements in northern California shown in the two images of Fort Ross connected Russia to its other sea otter trade routes, were places to grow food for their Alaskan settlements, and served as bases for trade with Californians. Before the Louisiana Purchase in , the French controlled much of what would border both Spanish territory on the West Coast and the newly formed United States to the east. The ink drawing shows a French diplomat being received at Mission Carmel in The numbers of European and Native American men appear relatively equal in this early engraving; but the ravages of disease from exposure to Europeans would decimate Native American populations by the mid- to late 19th century. The Russian sketch of mules and an Indian boy, and the illustration of the padrone and the Indian boy, show the cultural contact and adaptations underway by the early 19th century. Natural harbors and waterways made San Francisco an early site for the rapid influx of people and settlements. The painting shows the view toward the San Francisco Presidio with the Bay and one ship in the far distance. As late as , the print of the view towards the San Francisco Presidio from the ships entering the Bay still show very few settlements in the distance. By the time of the lithograph dated one year after California joined the United States, and two years after the Gold Rush , San Francisco is teeming with buildings, tents, people, and livestock, and the Bay is clogged with arriving ships. Military presence was central to the success of each new settlement. Each shows the walls and soldiers meant to provide shelter and protection to the surrounding farms. The sketches and paintings by early 19th-century Russian artist Ludwig Choris show his interest in Native American arms and utensils, dance performances, and portrait heads. But as the Spanish mission system expands, and immigrants from the Gold Rush crowd California, artists begin to reflect the power of Manifest Destiny. Their emphasis shifts to documenting "modern" progress in the construction of buildings, forts, and migration routes like the Overland Route. The Chicano mural depicting a fight between a Spanish conquistador and an Aztec eagle knight underscores the central role European conquest played in shaping California. Go to first item Note about picture captions The original captions on some of the historical photographs may include racial terms that were commonplace at the time, but considered to be derogatory today. Originally a 19th-century political catch phrase, Manifest Destiny eventually became a standard historical term. It is sometimes used as a synonym for the expansion of the United States across the North American continent which the belief inspired or was used to justify. You are free to share and adapt it however you like, provided you provide attribution as follows: Please note that this license applies only to the descriptive copy and does not apply to any and all digital items that may appear.

Chapter 8 : California History

California's history is unique. It has been shaped, in part, by its geography. California has four main regions. The temperate coastal region, the Central Valley, once an inland sea, the desert, and the mountain region.

The primary means of Spanish control, the missions, were dismantled in a process known as secularization. By 1825, this process was complete, with the vast tracks of mission land being divided up among Mexican landowners. A handful of powerful families were given control of most of the land. Relying on the hide and tallow trade, the Californios were content to import the manufactured goods they needed from abroad. American settlers, who began to arrive by the 1840s, had a variety of opinions about life in Mexican California. These opinions were divided among two groups: The maritime traders populated the coastal towns of Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Diego and catered to the trading needs of the locals. Due to their economic interaction, they often had an understanding of Spanish, married Californio wives, and were generally accepted by the locals. The Overland settlers were the American fur trappers and farmers who settled in the Sacramento Valley. They often held the Californios in contempt, seeing their lifestyle as an affront to the Puritan work ethic. This viewpoint was articulated by men such as Thomas Jefferson Farnham, who in his book, *Travels in the Californias*, described the Californios as having, "the dull suspicious countenance, the small twinkling piercing eye, the laxness and filth of a free brute, using freedom as a mere means of animal enjoyment, dancing and vomiting as occasion and inclination appears to require. Contrasting the Californios with Anglo-Americans, Farnham described pioneer Issac Graham as, "a stout sturdy backwoodsman, of a stamp which only exists on the frontiers of the American States--men with the blood of the ancient Normans and Saxons in their veins--with hearts as large as their bodies can hold, breathing nothing but kindness till injustice shows its fangs, and then, lion-like, striking for vengeance. Comparisons such as these were widely read by Americans back east. Writers like Farnham helped to convince them that California needed to be inhabited by a people worthy of its plentiful natural resources and capable of exploiting them, namely the American frontiersman. By the start of the 1840s, Americans in California could see conflict between Mexico and the United States on the horizon. It was clear that California was the prize. The question was what role the Americans in California should play in the coming struggle. While the maritime traders sought a negotiated settlement in which the Californios could be peacefully brought into the expanded United States, the pioneers advocated an aggressive takeover similar to the Texas revolt. The arrival of John C. Fremont would help decide which course of action would be followed.

Chapter 9 : History of California before - Wikipedia

As news spread of the fortunes being made in California, the first migrants to arrive were those from lands accessible by boat, such as Oregon, the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii), Mexico, Chile.

Native inhabitants[edit] The most commonly accepted model of migration to the New World is that peoples from Asia crossed the Bering land bridge to the Americas some 16,000 years ago. The remains of Arlington Springs Man on Santa Rosa Island are among the traces of a very early habitation, dated to the Wisconsin glaciation the most recent ice age about 13,000 years ago. In all, some 30 tribes or culture groups lived in what is now California, gathered into perhaps six different language family groups. These groups included the early-arriving Hokan family winding up in the mountainous far north and Colorado River basin in the south and the recently arrived Uto-Aztecan of the desert southeast. This cultural diversity was among the densest in North America, and was likely the result of a series of migrations and invasions during the last 10,000 years. Coastal tribes were a major source of trading beads, produced from mussel shells using stone tools. The acorns from these trees were pounded into a powder, and the acidic tannin leached out to make edible flour. The deserts of the southeast were home to tribes who learned to thrive in that harsh environment by making careful use of local plants and living in oases and along water courses. The indigenous people practiced various forms of forest gardening in the forests, grasslands, mixed woodlands, and wetlands, ensuring that desired food and medicine plants continued to be available. The Native Americans controlled fire on a regional scale to create a low-intensity fire ecology which prevented larger, catastrophic fires and sustained a low-density "wild" agriculture in loose rotation. A form of fire-stick farming was used to clear areas of old growth to encourage new in a repeated cycle; a primitive permaculture. Slave-trading and war among tribes alternated with periods of relative peace. The total population of Native California is estimated, by the time of extensive European contact in the 18th century, to have been perhaps 1 million. Before Europeans landed in North America, about one-third of all natives in what is now the United States were living in the area that is now California. The first European explorers, flying the flags of Spain and of England, sailed along the coast of California from the early 16th century to the mid-18th century, but no European settlements were established. The most important colonial power, Spain, focused attention on its imperial centers in Mexico and Peru. Confident of Spanish claims to all lands touching the Pacific Ocean including California, Spain sent an exploring party sailing along the California coastline. The California seen by these ship-bound explorers was one of hilly grasslands and wooded canyons, with few apparent resources or natural ports to attract colonists. The other colonial states of the era, with their interest on more densely populated areas, paid limited attention to this distant part of the world. It was not until the middle of the 18th century that both Russian and British explorers and fur traders began establishing stations on the coast. The Spaniards conjectured that these places may be one and the same. An expedition discovered a bay, most likely that of La Paz, before experiencing difficulties and returning. Francisco de Ulloa[edit] Also: He made it to the mouth of the Colorado River, then sailed around the peninsula as far as Cedros Island. The account of this voyage marks the first-recorded application of the name "California". He was either of Portuguese or Spanish background, although his origins remain unclear. He was a soldier, crossbowman, and navigator who sailed for the Spanish Crown. In 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo led an expedition in two ships of his own design and construction from the west coast of what is now Mexico. Cabrillo and his crew continued north and came ashore October 8 at San Pedro bay, later to become the port of Los Angeles, which he originally named the bay of smoke bahia de los fumos due to the many cooking fires of the native Chumash Indians along the shore. The expedition then continued north in an attempt to discover a supposed coastal route to the mainland of Asia. Drake held the first Protestant Christian service at Nova Albion. He ventured inland south along the coast and recorded a visit to what is likely Carmel Bay. Between 1563 and 1592, Spanish merchants out of Mexico City financed thriving trade between Manila, Acapulco and Callao. In Manila, they picked up cotton from India and silks from China. The Spanish Crown viewed too much imported Asian cloth to Mexico and Lima as a competitive threat to the Spanish American markets for cloth produced in Spain, and as a result, restricted the tonnage permitted on the ships from Manila to

Acapulco. Mexico City merchants in retaliation overstuffing the ships, even using the space for water to carry additional contraband cargo. As a result, the ships coming from Manila had enough water for two months, but the trip took four to six months. Hawaii was unknown to the Spanish navigators. The sea currents take ships sailing from Manila to Acapulco up north, so that they first touch land at San Francisco or Monterey, in what is now California. This was probably a stimulus for Spain to build presidios at San Francisco and Monterey in California. The British, too, stepped up their activities in the Pacific. They compiled an account of the Californian mission system, the land and the people. Traders, whalers and scientific missions followed in the next decades. The contraband might then have been shipped across the Gulf of California to enter mainland Mexico by way of Sonora, where the Jesuits also had missions and sympathies for their financial backers. A total of 30 Spanish missions in Baja California were established. During the last quarter of the 18th century, the first Spanish settlements were established in what later became the Las Californias Province of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. Reacting to interest by the Russian Empire and, later, Great Britain in the fur-bearing animals of the Pacific north coast, Spain further extended the series of Catholic missions, accompanied by troops and establishing ranches, along the southern and central coast of California. These missions were intended to demonstrate the claim of the Spanish Empire to what is now California. By 1791, 21 Spanish missions had been established in Alta California. Operations were based out of the naval base at San Blas and included not only the establishment and supply of missions in California, but a series of exploration expeditions to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The first quarter of the 19th century showed the continuation of the slow colonization of the southern and central California coast by Spanish missionaries, ranchers and troops. Outside of this zone, perhaps, to the north, Native Americans were continuing to lead traditional lives. First Spanish colonies[edit] Spain had maintained a number of missions and presidios in New Spain since 1563. The Crown laid claim to the north coastal provinces of California in 1769. Settlements in Loreto, Baja California Sur, were established in 1769, but it was not until the threat of incursion by Russian fur traders and potentially settlers, coming down from Alaska in 1791, that Spain, under King Charles III, felt development of more northern installations was necessary. Alta California was to be settled by Franciscan Friars, protected by troops in the California missions. Between 1769 and 1822, the Crown sent forth a number of expeditions to further explore and settle Alta California and the Pacific Northwest. Although they were looking for Monterey Bay, the group failed to recognize it when they reached it. Ironically, the Manila Galleons had sailed along this coast for almost 200 years by then, without noticing the bay. The group returned to San Diego in 1791.