

# CALIFORNIA STATE Capitol Museum SCHOOL PACKET

Student  
Edition

State Capitol  
SACRAMENTO

Pacific  
Ocean





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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

## California State Capitol Museum

# Student Workbook



### History, Politics, and Government in Action



**Dear Student,**

We look forward to your visit to the State Capitol!

If you keep your eyes open while you are here, you might just see some of California's past, present, and future (that's you!) come alive. The Capitol offers everything from historical offices and architecture to modern legislative chambers and even discussions for the future.

California's students have been coming on field trips to their State Capitol for decades. Now you, too, are an official part of our California State Capitol history. Please bring your curiosity, interest, and respect to the Capitol. It is a working Capitol where "inside voices" and respectful behavior are expected and required.

Thank you in advance, and **we'll see you soon!**

Sincerely,

California State Capitol Museum Staff



## Your Pathway to Sacramento

### Instructions

Use the map at the bottom of this page, or a map your teacher provides, to complete the activities and questions below.

1. Mark the route from \_\_\_\_\_ to Sacramento on the map.  
Your City
2. What direction is Sacramento from \_\_\_\_\_?  
Your City
3. If Sacramento is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles from your hometown, and the bus travels 55 miles per hour, how long will it take to get to Sacramento? Show your math!

4. List any rivers, mountains, lakes, or other geographic features you will pass or cross on your way to Sacramento.

5. Describe people's activities (jobs, hobbies, etc.) you might see along the way to Sacramento.

6. What geographical features do you think led to Sacramento (the "River City") becoming the State Capital?



## California Counties





## State Capitol Vocabulary

The words below are used at the Capitol. They will help you better understand your visit.

### Instructions

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words below. Some words have more than one meaning. Choose the meaning that most closely relates to the State Capitol. As an example, the first word is defined for you.

1.           **law** - A rule made by the state for the protection and benefit of the people.
2.           **capital** - \_\_\_\_\_
3.           **capitol** - \_\_\_\_\_
4.           **constitution** - \_\_\_\_\_
5.           **legislator** - \_\_\_\_\_
6.           **session** - \_\_\_\_\_
7.           **bill** - \_\_\_\_\_
8.           **governor** - \_\_\_\_\_
9.           **symbol** - \_\_\_\_\_
10.          **government** - \_\_\_\_\_

**State Legislature** - The lawmakers of a state. In California the legislature is made up of the State Assembly and the State Senate and meets in Sacramento.

**U.S. Congress** - The lawmakers of the United States of America. The U.S. Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate and meets in Washington, D.C.

11. Using the two definitions above, write what you think is the difference between the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

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## History of California and the State Capitol

- California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state on September 9, 1850.
- The first State Constitution was written in Monterey, but the first Legislature and the first Governor, Peter Burnett, met for the first time in San Jose.
- Between 1849 and 1854, San Jose, Vallejo, Benicia, and Sacramento briefly served as capital cities.
- Since 1854, Sacramento has been the capital of California.
- The present State Capitol was built from 1860 to 1874. All three branches of government moved into this building in 1869, eager to occupy the grand new Capitol.
- The Capitol has been remodeled many times to accommodate a growing government, and from 1975 to 1982, the building was restored to make it earthquake safe.
- The six-year restoration brought back the original elegance of the Capitol and established it as a working museum. It remains the primary workplace for our state government.
- Today, the Capitol houses the Legislative branch (Senate and Assembly) and the Executive branch offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

1. Where was the first Capital city of the state of California? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was California's first American elected governor? \_\_\_\_\_

3. On what date did California become a state? \_\_\_\_\_

4. California was the \_\_\_\_\_ state to join the Union (Hint: It's also the number of stars on the State Seal!)

### Challenge

Draw California's current Capitol building here. To see what it looks like, check out the next page!

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing of the California State Capitol building.

## History of the Capitals and Capitols



Monterey was the capital when California was part of Spain and Mexico. The first Constitutional Convention took place in Colton Hall, in Monterey, in 1849.



The first State Legislature and Governor met for the first time in San Jose in December 1849. A newly built hotel served as the first Capitol from 1849 to 1851.



Vallejo became the second state capital from 1852 to 1853. The land and money to build the Capitol were donated by General Mariano Vallejo.



Benicia became the third state capital from 1853 to 1854. A building newly constructed for Benicia's City Hall was given to the Legislature to use as the Capitol.



Sacramento became the permanent state capital in 1854. These are the first two Capitols in Sacramento from 1854 to 1869.



### Instructions

List the cities that served as California capitals below, in order.



The present Capitol was occupied in 1869.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## California's State Flag

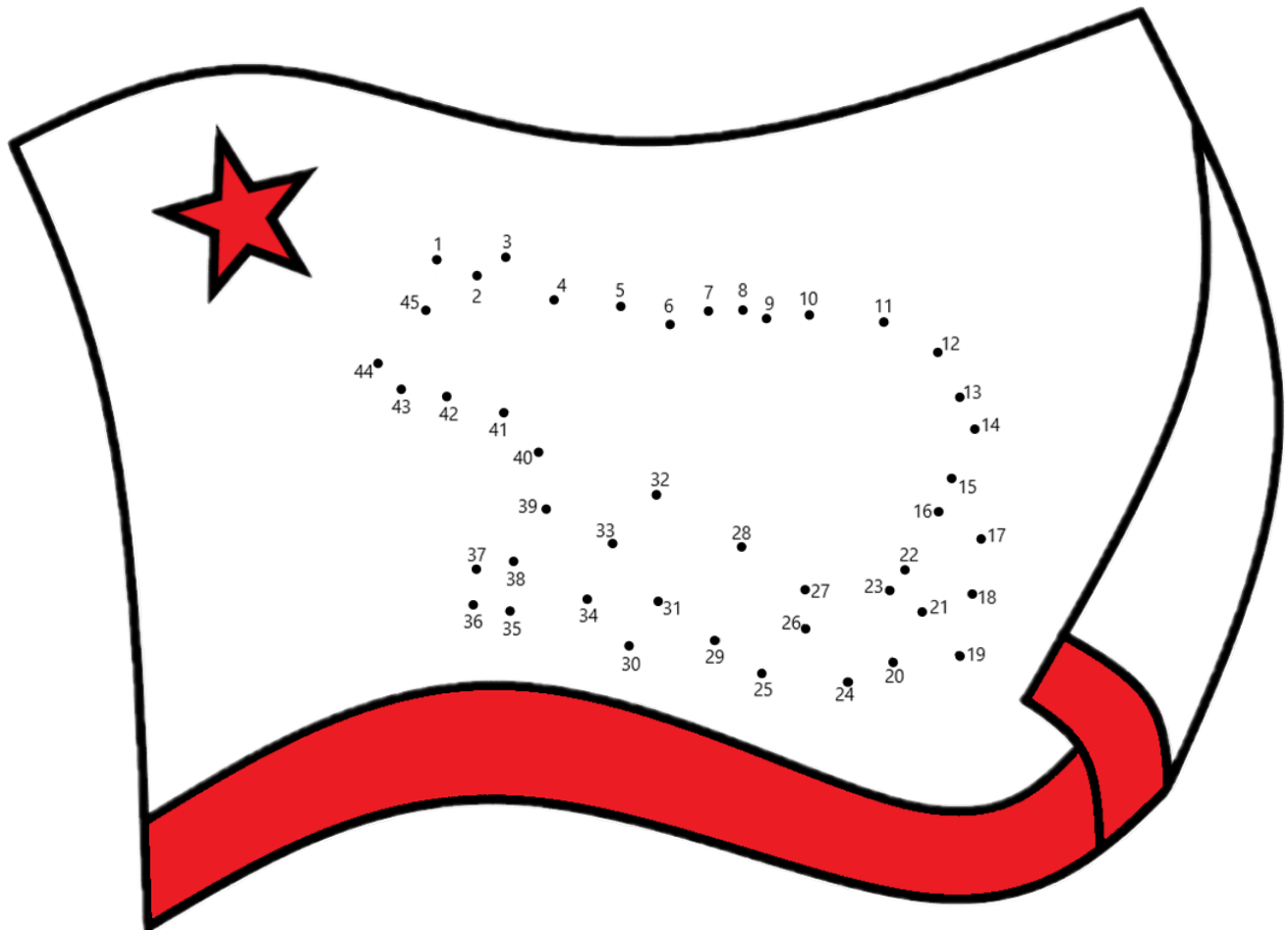
The “Bear Flag” was adopted as the official flag of the State of California in 1911. However, it was first raised during the Bear Flag Revolt in Sonoma in June 1846.

The colors and symbols of the flag were chosen for their meaning. The color white symbolized purity, and the red stands for courage. The grizzly bear is a symbol of strength and independence. The red star represents how California, like Texas, became a state without having been a territory first.

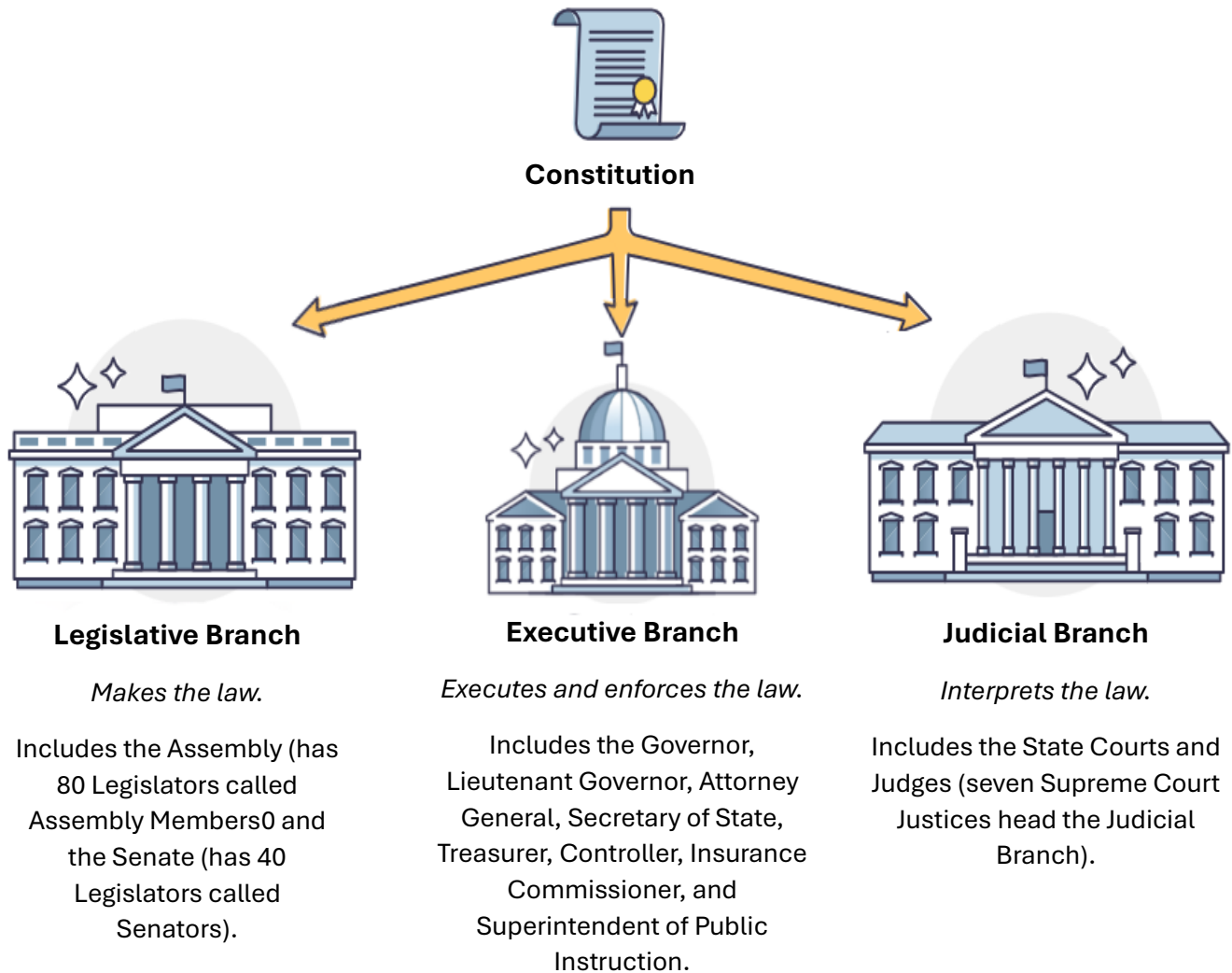


### Instructions

Connect the dots to complete the picture below. Add colors and more symbols to finish your state flag. Use your imagination and create new symbols for your state.



## The Three Branches of Government



### Instructions

Draw lines to match the seals with the correct branches of government.



Executive

Legislative

Judicial



## How an Idea Becomes a Law

### Instructions

Using the information on the next two pages, answer the questions below.

1. What is a state law? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a bill? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ideas for laws can come from:
  - a. only people born in California
  - b. anyone, whether a citizen or not
  - c. only citizens of the United States
4. Name the two houses (groups) of the Legislature of California.  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. After a bill passes both houses, it:
  - a. becomes a law
  - b. returns to committee
  - c. goes to the governor
6. The governor may choose to sign the bill or \_\_\_\_\_ it.
7. If the governor does not sign or veto the bill within 12 days, the bill:
  - a. returns to committee
  - b. becomes a law anyway
  - c. will not become a law
8. How old must you be to present an idea for a law to the state legislature?
  - a. 18 years or older
  - b. 21 years or older
  - c. any age
9. Most state laws take effect on:
  - a. the first day of the following year
  - b. the day the governor signs the bill
  - c. the same day the idea is presented to the Legislature
10. What idea do you have for a new state law? Write your idea below!  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. If you wanted to propose your idea, you could present it to the Assembly Member or Senator who represents your district. Write their names here:  
Assembly Member \_\_\_\_\_ Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Find your Senator or Assembly  
Member at:  
[findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov)



## How an Idea Becomes a Law: Vocabulary

The official steps of the process of how an idea becomes a law are more complicated than those shown on the next page, but these are the basic steps. Here are a few vocabulary words to help you understand these steps.

A **rule** tells us what people should or should not do.

A state **law** is a rule that all people in California must follow.

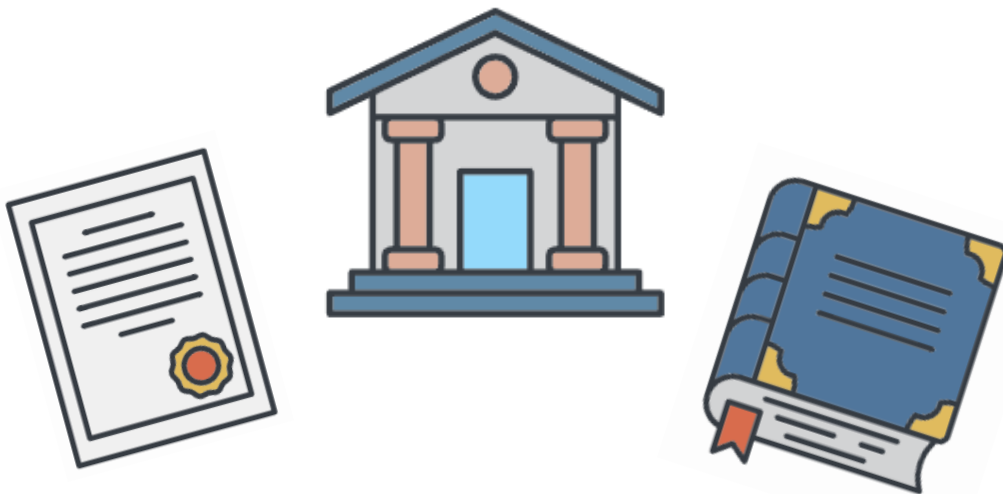
**Ideas** for laws can come from anyone, of any age, but a bill can only be taken through official steps by a legislator.

A **bill** is an idea for a law that has been written into legal language.

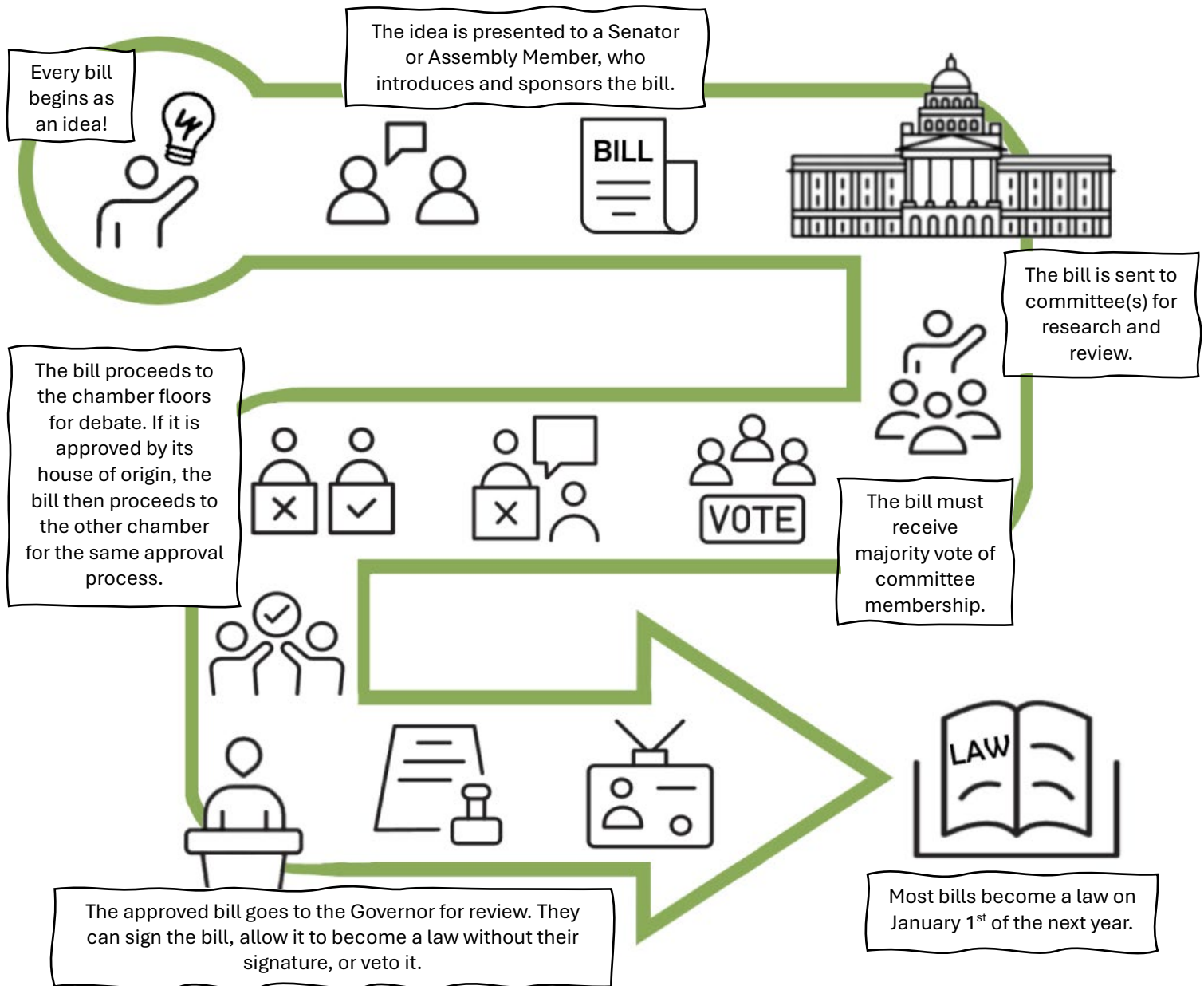
There are two groups, or houses, of legislators in California – **Senators** and **Assembly Members**.

A **committee** is a group of legislators who study the bill.

**Debate** is a discussion about the bill.



## How an Idea Becomes a Law: The Legislative Process





## California's State Seal

The State Seal was adopted in 1849, a year before California was admitted into the Union. The **31 stars** across the top represent each state, with California being the 31<sup>st</sup> in 1850. Beneath them appears the state motto, "**Eureka**," a Greek word meaning, "I have found it." The **Sierra Nevada Mountain Range**, as well as the **Pacific Ocean**, accent the natural beauty of California. The **ships** symbolize trade and commerce. The **miner** in the background represents the state's mining industry and the Gold Rush. The **agricultural wealth** of California is symbolized by a sheaf of wheat and clusters of grapes. Keeping watch over the Seal is the armored figure of the mythological **Goddess of Wisdom**, Minerva (in Roman mythology) or Athena (in Greek mythology), as the symbol of the political birth of the state – California became a state without first being a territory, as Minerva was born an adult and not as a baby. At her feet is the **California Grizzly Bear**, which is the state symbol of strength and independence.

### Instructions

Color the California State Seal below. Choose your own colors.





## Commemorative Seals of the State Capitol

The pictures on the Great Seal of California remind us of only a part of state's history. Two seals at the Capitol honor the California Indian and Spanish/Mexican people. These seals help to remind us of people who came before California's statehood. These people continue to have a great influence in California today.

### Instructions

Read the information and answer the two questions on these pages, using your knowledge of Native Californians and the Spanish and Mexican mission and rancho periods.

At the request of the Legislature, the new bronze seals were placed near the West Steps of the State Capitol on May 28, 2002. You will find them on either side of the State Seal.

### California Indian Seal

- 68 California Native tribes and languages represent the state's great diversity.
- The Native Californian woman with the child represents the importance of family unity and cultural continuity to Native peoples today and in the past.
- A basket, an oak tree, and several other images represent diverse aspects of Native Californian culture.
- Three planes represent Native American participation in the United States military.

What **symbols** on this seal do you recognize from your studies of Native Californians?

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### Spanish/Mexican Seal

- This seal honors the contributions and history of Spanish and Mexican California.
- The face in the center is actually three faces representing Spanish and Native peoples. A third face appears at center representing the melding of these cultures in California.
- The three rings around the center show familiar images from California's Spanish period, Mexican period, and statehood.



What **symbols** do you recognize from the Spanish and Mexican periods?

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## Design Your Own State Seal

### Instructions

You have read about the Great Seal of the State of California and the Commemorative Seals of the State Capitol. You have seen the symbols they contain. Now you can design a new seal of the California you know. What does California mean to you? What important symbols will you put on your seal? Use your imagination and creativity to design a seal that represents California today.



## California State Symbols

The following state symbols are the most recognized symbols of California.



### State Animal

The California grizzly bear became the State Animal in 1953, many years after it became extinct in California. This large and powerful carnivore once thrived throughout California's great valleys and mountains. Grizzly bears were last seen by hunters in the mid-1920s. The grizzly bear is the symbol of power and independence for California.



### State Bird

The California quail became the State Bird in 1931. Plump, multi-colored, and smaller than a pigeon, males also have a distinctive topknot feather. They are known for their hardiness, adaptability, and unique calls, as well as their abundance in California.



### State Flower

The California Poppy, also known as the golden poppy and the flame flower (for its brilliant color), became the State Flower in 1903. It grows wild throughout California. Every year, California Poppy Day is celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This flower reminds us of the gold found in California.



### State Tree

The California redwood became the State Tree in 1937. There are actually two species of California redwood: the coast redwood and the giant sequoia. The sequoia is one of the most massive trees in the world, with some measuring 30 feet in diameter. The coast redwood is the tallest tree in the world, with several growing over 360 feet high. Less than four percent of California's original "old growth" forests remain. Our state tree is native only to California and southern Oregon.



### State Fish

The golden trout became the state fish in 1947. It is native only to California. Historically, the species was found only in a few icy streams that feed into the Kern River, south of Mount Whitney. Non-native trout brought to many Sierra Nevada lakes have become a threat. There, they compete with the golden trout for food and territory. The Golden Trout Wilderness in the eastern Sierra Nevada was established to protect the habitat of California's State Fish.



### **State Marine Mammal**

The California gray whale became the State Marine Mammal in 1975. The whales migrate south each year along California's coastline to their breeding grounds in warmer waters (Mexico and Hawaii). After giving birth in March and April, the whales migrate north to the icy but food-rich waters off Alaska. This annual migration is watched by millions of people each year. The whales swim 12,000 miles roundtrip to make this journey.



### **State Insect**

The California dogface butterfly, or dog head, was designated the official State Insect in 1972. The butterfly is found only in California, from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the Coastal Ranges, and from Sonoma south to San Diego. The male has a yellow silhouette that resembles a dog's head on its wings. The female is usually entirely yellow with a black spot on the upper wings.

**Instructions**

The State Legislature names new state symbols by making new laws. For example, in 2002, the town of Bodie (a State Historic Park) was designated California's official Gold Rush Ghost Town. If you were going to propose a law to create a new state symbol, what would you choose? Draw a picture of your new symbol below.

My proposed new state symbol would be:





## California Facts

### Instructions

Look up the word below in the dictionary and write its definition on the line. Based on your definition of the word, discuss the facts below with your classmates. How do they demonstrate the ways in which California is **superlative**?

Superlative: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Land

- California is the third largest state in land area, with 155,973 square miles.
- Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet) is the highest peak in California and the lower 48 states.
- Death Valley has the lowest elevation (282 feet below sea level) in California and in the Western hemisphere.
- California produces more agricultural goods than any state in the Union.

### The People

- California has the largest population of any state, with over 37 million people. California has the largest Mexican population outside Mexico.
- California has the largest population of Native Americans.
- California has the largest student population in the United States, with around six million students.
- Californians speak over 80 languages, more than the residents of any other state in the Union.
- The state of California has the largest budget in the Union.

You can find more information about California by visiting these websites:

California State Parks	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov">www.parks.ca.gov</a>
State Capitol Museum	<a href="http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov">www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov</a>
More California Facts	<a href="http://www.50states.com">www.50states.com</a>
Governor's Homepage	<a href="http://www.gov.ca.gov">www.gov.ca.gov</a>
California Homepage	<a href="http://www.ca.gov">www.ca.gov</a>
California State Senate	<a href="http://www.senate.ca.gov">www.senate.ca.gov</a>
California State Assembly	<a href="http://www.assembly.ca.gov">www.assembly.ca.gov</a>

## Our State Song: “I Love You, California”

“I Love You, California” became the official state song in 1951. Its words were written by F.B. Silverwood and the music is by A.F. Frankenstein. It was composed in 1913.

*I love you, California, you're the greatest state of all,  
I love you in the winter, summer, spring, and in the fall.  
I love your fertile valleys, your dear mountains I adore,  
I love your grand old ocean and I love her rugged shore.*



### Chorus:

*Where the snow-crowned Golden Sierras  
Keep their watch o'er the valley's bloom,  
It is there I would be in our land by the sea,  
Ev'ry breeze bearing rich perfume.  
It is here nature gives of her rarest,  
It is home sweet home to me,  
And I know when I die, I shall breathe my last sigh  
For my sunny California.*

*I love your redwood forests – love your fields of yellow grain,  
I love your summer breezes, and I love your winter rain,  
I love you, land of flowers; land of honey, fruit and wine,  
I love you California; you have won this heart of mine.*



### Chorus

*I love your old gray Missions – love your vineyards stretching far,  
I love you, California, with your Golden Gate ajar,  
I love your purple sunsets, love your skies of azure blue,  
I love you, California; I just can't help loving you.*

### Chorus

*I love you, Catalina – you are very dear to me,  
I love you, Tamalpais, I love Yosemite,  
I love you, Land of Sunshine, half your beauties are untold,  
I loved you in my childhood, and I'll love you when I'm old.*







## Recommendations for Further Study

### Books:

*The Constitutions of California, the United States, and Related Documents.* Sacramento: California State Senate.

Donnelly, Loraine B., and Evelyn T. Cray. *California's Historic Capitol.* Sacramento: California Capital Enterprises, 1983.

Ignoffo, Mary Jo. *Gold Rush Politics: California's First Legislature.* Sacramento: California State Senate and California History Center Foundation, 1999.

Marlowe, Lynn G. *California State Capitol Restoration: A Pictorial History.* Sacramento: California State Legislature Joint Committee on Rules, 1983.

Oxford, June. *The Capitol That Couldn't Stay Put.* Fairfield, CA: James Stevenson, Publisher, 1983.

Rawls, James J., and Walton Bean. *California: An Interpretive History.* New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002.

Schaechtele, Molly Shoemaker. *The Governors and their Portraits.* Sacramento: California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association, 1995.

Senate Rules Committee. *The Legislative Process: A Citizen's Guide to Participation.* Sacramento: California State Senate.  
[www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/legislative\\_process.pdf](http://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/legislative_process.pdf)

Wilson, E. Dotson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and Brian S. Ebbert, Chief Editor. *California's Legislature.* Sacramento: State of California. [www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html)

### Video:

*A Legacy Restored.* California State Capitol Museum and California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1982. <https://youtu.be/aoGU-hQMSoU?si=A6UO4mqgTYvZvmNN>

### Websites:

California State Parks	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov">www.parks.ca.gov</a>
State Capitol Museum	<a href="http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov">www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov</a>
More California Facts	<a href="http://www.50states.com">www.50states.com</a>
Governor's Homepage	<a href="http://www.gov.ca.gov">www.gov.ca.gov</a>
California Homepage	<a href="http://www.ca.gov">www.ca.gov</a>
California State Senate	<a href="http://www.senate.ca.gov">www.senate.ca.gov</a>
California State Assembly	<a href="http://www.assembly.ca.gov">www.assembly.ca.gov</a>

CERTIFICATE  
OF ACHIEVEMENT

Name of Student

This is to certify that the above named student has successfully completed  
the State Capitol Museum School Packet.

Name of School

Teacher or Parent

