

# The Great Seal of the State of California

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Why does California have a seal? The Great Seal is like a team logo. It identifies people that live here as being part of the community called California. California's seal was adopted way back in 1849.

*The Great Seal is more than just a beautiful picture. Everything in the seal has a special meaning. Find each one of the things that the designers of the seal wanted people to know about California.*

- There are 31 stars in the sky, because California was the 31st state to be admitted to the Union.
- Right under the 31 stars is the Greek word “eureka,” which means “I have found it.” It refers to the gold that people found in California.
- In the foreground is the grizzly bear, which was common in California, with a sheaf of wheat on the ground, to be crushed into flour for bread.
- The California Gold Rush started in 1848 and a miner can be seen swinging his pick. Beside him are a rocker and bowl used for panning gold.
- Ships that fill the harbor are symbols of the exports of gold and other exciting new things that would be found in California and shipped from the new state.
- The person holding a staff is the Roman Goddess Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, commerce and crafts, and the inventor of music.

