

Click on the link to listen as you read the sixth chapter of *The American West*. Select the missing words you hear.

The California Gold Rush



In 1848 John Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Fort in California. This western territory became famous. Thousands of people traveled to California to look for gold. This was the California Gold Rush. These people were called "Forty-Niners".

The first "Forty-Niners" arrived in San Francisco in February 1849 on the steamship *California*. Others came to California on the Oregon and California Trail. In 1849 almost 100,000 people arrived in California to look for gold. San Francisco became a very important city.

There were many small mining towns in the California Gold Country. Many "Forty-Niners" found gold, but only some of them became rich and important.

The discovery of gold changed the destiny of California and the West. The population of California grew very quickly. It became the 31st state of the United States in 1850.

A lot of people traveled to the West. A lot of gold traveled from California to the East. From 1852 the **Wells Fargo stagecoaches** traveled from the East Coast to the West Coast.



Wells Fargo was a very important company in the West. The stagecoaches carried passengers, money, mail and gold across the continent.

A journey across America by stagecoach was a great adventure.

Four or six horses pulled the Wells Fargo stagecoaches. There were four to six passengers in every stagecoach. The journey was very

uncomfortable. The stagecoaches traveled all day and all night. Passengers slept inside the coaches on hard seats. Indians and outlaws attacked the stagecoaches.

Select the correct answer.

1. The forty-niners were _____
2. The first forty-niners arrived in _____
3. In 1850 _____
4. The Wells Fargo stagecoaches carried the gold to _____
5. The Wells Fargo could carry four to six _____
6. The stage coaches would travel _____
7. The stage coaches were often attacked by _____

Watch the following cartoon on the California Gold Rush.