

## Reading 6

California Mexican cool between attracted metropolitan Native  
largest gold world Mountain few Mormon sandy unusual worldwide  
second Coast native farmland landscape owner first career Hispanic  
laid-back producer mountain Desert empty desert ocean landscape  
community political settled opportunities lowest half shared water  
youngest

### The West

The West occupies an enormous area, almost \_\_\_\_\_ of the Continental United States, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ cultural region of the country, since it was the "last frontier," the last region within the present US to be \_\_\_\_\_ by white European immigrants. In the mid-19th century, the western half of the present US was still inhabited by \_\_\_\_\_ American tribes.

While the West is extremely rich in impressive \_\_\_\_\_ and beautiful natural sights, it has little \_\_\_\_\_ and fertile land, covered mostly by tall \_\_\_\_\_ ranges and vast \_\_\_\_\_ plains. As a result, it can support \_\_\_\_\_ people, and with the exception of California, this region has the \_\_\_\_\_ population density in the US. This relatively small population is concentrated in \_\_\_\_\_ areas, primarily along the Pacific Coast and some other places with good water supply. The rest of the country is almost \_\_\_\_\_, with a few scattered small towns and farms. The West has preserved much of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the atmosphere of the Western tales and movies that became so strongly associated with the image of the US abroad.

On the basis of terrain and climate, the Western states can be subdivided into the \_\_\_\_\_ West, the \_\_\_\_\_ West and the West \_\_\_\_\_. The Mountain West includes the states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, crossed by the highest ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The Desert West covers the largest part of the region, most of the land \_\_\_\_\_ the Rockies and the coastal range, which receive very little rain or snow. These states include Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Eastern California. The West Coast is \_\_\_\_\_ by California, Oregon, and Washington. The

coastal areas of the two north western states as well as Northern California have a \_\_\_\_\_, rainy and mild climate under the influence of the \_\_\_\_\_. But the term West Coast is understood by most Americans to mean the coastal area of Southern \_\_\_\_\_, with its warm sunshine, \_\_\_\_\_ beaches, and \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle.

The area along the Mexican border – Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, as well as West and South Texas – is an area where there is a heavy influence of \_\_\_\_\_ culture which derives from the large and continuing flow of \_\_\_\_\_ immigrants across the border. The state of Utah differs from the rest of the region by the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church, the first settlers of the Great Salt Lake area in 1847, whose hard work and strong \_\_\_\_\_ spirit turned the desert into prosperous \_\_\_\_\_ and a thriving business area.

California was the \_\_\_\_\_ state to be founded in the West, shortly after the famous \_\_\_\_\_ rush in 1849 attracted people from the east to the San Francisco area in the northern part of the state. Later settlers began to cultivate the fertile Central Valley between the coastal range and the Sierra Nevada, turning California into the primary \_\_\_\_\_ of various fruits and vegetables, orange, grape and wine in the US. The attractions of Southern California were discovered in the late 19th century, and Hollywood soon achieved \_\_\_\_\_ fame as the center of the American motion-picture and entertainment industry. Millions of people from other parts of the US and all over the world have been \_\_\_\_\_ by the permanent sunshine, the sandy beaches, and the career opportunities to the Los Angeles area. At present it is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest metropolitan area in the country, with more than 12 million people. California is the state with the \_\_\_\_\_ population in the US, with an estimated 39 million people in 2016.

The area has attracted Americans and immigrants since the mid-19th century with its promise of unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ and a new life without the restrictions of the old environment. Californians are thought to be laid-back, free from inhibitions, ready to try new and \_\_\_\_\_ things, prone to eccentric ideas. On top of all, Hollywood is still a magnet for hundreds of thousands of people who dream of making a \_\_\_\_\_ in the movie business.

Famous people of the West include writer Jack London, a native of San Francisco, whose stories of the Alaska Gold Rush (in which he also took part) made him \_\_\_\_\_ famous. Two famous 20th century presidents are



associated with California: Richard Nixon (1969-1974) was born and raised in the state, and he entered national politics as a Representative of a California district; while Ronald Reagan (1981-89), started his \_\_\_\_\_ career as governor of California. Contemporary heroes of the West include Bill Gates, \_\_\_\_\_ of Microsoft Corporation and one of the richest people in the world, who is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Seattle, Washington state, and Microsoft's headquarters is still located near the city.