

Disney Youth Education Series California, Here I Come!

This information is designed to help you, the teacher or group leader, prepare your class or group for their Disney Y.E.S. experience. All of the information in this document will be covered during the program. It can also serve as a tool after the experience to help your students recap what they've learned!

California State Facts

State Capital – Sacramento

State Animal – Grizzly Bear

State Flower – California Poppy

State Motto – Eureka

State Nickname – Golden State

State Marine Mammal – Grey Whale

State Tree – California Redwoods

The Four Regions of California

Mountains

Desert

Coast

Central Valley

Historical Figures in California History:

Chuck Yeager – Aviator who flew faster than the speed of sound in the Bell X-1.

Amelia Earhart – The first aviator to fly from Hawaii to the American Mainland.

Howard Hughes – Aviator and Entrepreneur who helped to pioneer new technology and revolutionized aviation.

Walt Disney – A leading movie maker and pioneer in the development and creation of Animated Features and Theme Parks.

Ansel Adams - An environmentalist. His photographs recorded many national parks.

John Muir – A Scottish immigrant and naturalist who helped to save the Redwood and Sequoia trees in Yosemite.

John Sutter – Established Sutter's Fort in an area that would later become the capital of California, Sacramento.

James Wilson Marshall - Discovered gold in California at Sutter's Mill.

Father Junipero Serra - Began planting Missions along the California coast in 1769.

Cesar Chavez - Founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA.) He is known for supporting farm workers' rights and is a strong proponent of nonviolence.

Dorothea Lange – Photographer who captured people migrating to California during the Great Depression.

Sally Ride – First woman in space.

California Native American Tribes

Miwok - A group of Native Americans living in Northern California. The word *Miwok* means *people* in the Miwok language. The Miwoks were hunter-gatherers who believed in animal spirits as their ancestors. Coyote was seen as their ancestor and creator god.

Paiute - A member of either the Northern Paiute or Southern Paiute related to the Aztecs. The Northern Paiute lived in Great Basin and moved freely between bands. The Southern Paiute lived in Colorado basin and the Mojave Desert.

Chumash - A Native American tribe, mainly located in the southern coastal regions of California in what is now known as Santa Barbara and Ventura. The Chumash were hunter-gatherers, who specialized in fishing. Some settlements built plank boats called *tomoš*, which facilitated the distribution of goods, and could even be used for whaling.

Vocabulary List

Topography – Lay of the land.

Naturalist - A biologist knowledgeable about natural history.

Migrate – Move from one part to another part of the same country.

Immigrate – Move from one country to another country.

Emigrate – Move from one country to another country due to political or economical reasons.

Eureka – I have found it!

Legend – A story about mythical or supernatural beings or events.

Agriculture – The practice of cultivating the land or raising stock.

Dream – A long-term hope.

Missions – A series of settlements established by Spanish Catholic Franciscans.

Presidio - A place of defense.

Suggested Questions

- What is the Bell X-1?
- What is one of the largest and most notable mountain ranges in California?
- What is the "Range of Light?"
- Compare and Contrast the difference between the Coastal Redwoods and the Giant Sequoias.
- When was gold discovered?
- When did the Gold Rush begin?
- During the Gold Rush, how did people migrate to California?
- During the Gold Rush, why did people migrate to California?
- What was the first roadway called that connects the California Missions?
- How many Missions were built in California?
- Describe what life would be like on a Mission?
- What new things did the Spanish missionaries bring to California?
- What state is the world leader in agriculture?
- Which region grows most of California crops?
- Why do people migrate and immigrant/emigrate to California?
- Give an example of a person that migrated or immigrated to California.
- Why did he or she move to California?
- What are your dreams?

Class Exercise

Here is a great class exercise to put your students' learning into practice. Instruct your students to:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half.
2. Write a paragraph about a historical figure in California on one half of the page.
3. Then draw a picture of the historical figure on the other half of the page.

Once you've gathered your students' papers, place them in a three-ring binder, add a cover sheet and an ending sheet. Now you have your own book of California historical figures for your classroom.

Here's a brief biography of an important California figure that has drastically impacted and influenced the *Disneyland*® Resort:

Walt Disney dared to dream bigger than anyone else could have imagined. His dreams and his desire to impact the future led him to build the Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney World Resort in Florida where millions of people have been able to share in his dream.

Walt's ancestors emigrated from Ireland to the United States after failing at farming in Canada. Walt's father moved all over the United States before settling down in Chicago, IL where Walter Elias Disney was born on December 5, 1901.

In 1906, Walt's family moved to Marceline, MO where Walt developed his love for trains. The Disney family only stayed in Marceline for four years then moved again to Kansas City. Finally, Walt decided to migrate to California where he would continue to pursue his animation, movie, and theme park dreams.

In 1934, Walt began his first animated feature length film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Walt put all of his hopes, dreams, and money into this film and the future of the Walt Disney studios rested on this film. Fortunately it became the most successful motion picture of 1938 and allowed Walt to build a new business site in Burbank where The Walt Disney Company corporate offices are still located.

Walt began drawing his plans for a theme park in 1949. He said that he wanted this place to look like nothing else in the world and that it should be surrounded by a train. In 1955, Walt's theme park dreams came true when he opened the gates of Disneyland.

Over 50 years of Disneyland magic now fill the history books and we owe everything to the man that started it all, the one who dared to follow his dreams: Walt Disney.