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California
Education and the Environment Initiative

Human Geography

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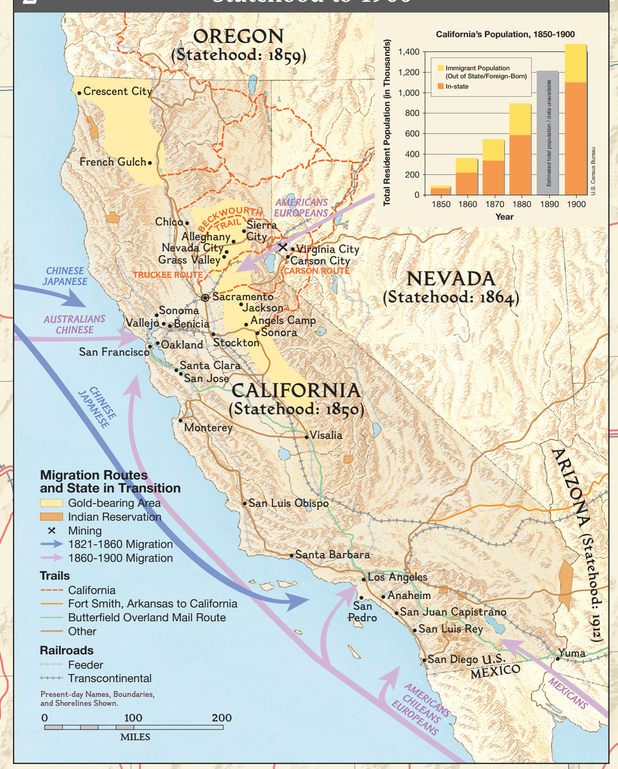
1 Early California to 1820

2 Statehood to 1900



Patterns of Migration

Thousands of years ago, ancient people arrived on the land now called California. They walked over a small bridge of land from Eurasia to what is now Alaska. It was very cold in the north, so they searched for food, water, and warmer places to live. After many years, the people moved south and began to live in California. **(1)** Five hundred years ago, people came from Europe on large sailing ships. They explored the California coast. Later, many more people came from Spain and Mexico. The Spanish padres built missions up and down the state. **(2)** James Marshall found gold in 1848. Thousands of miners came from all over the United States. Some came all the way from China and Europe. The rush for gold was on. By 1869, people could travel from coast to coast by train. This made it easier to move from the East Coast to California. **(3)** The 1930s brought hard times. The Great Depression and years of drought caused many people to move to California looking for work. When World War II started, more people settled here where they found jobs building ships and airplanes. **(4)** Today, people from all over the world live and work in California. It remains a place "on the move."

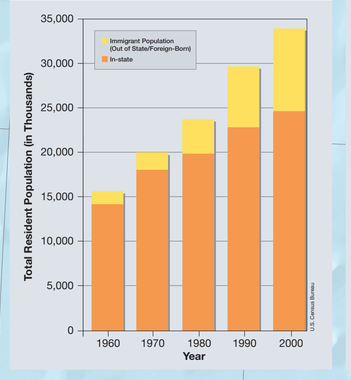
3 California to 1950

4 California Today

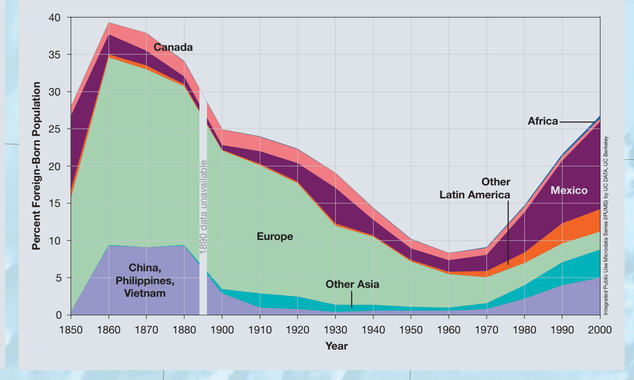
Land Use
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Grassland
- Lakes and Rivers
- Largely Undeveloped
- Urban

Transportation
- Passenger Railroad
- Divided Road
- Other Road
- Ferry
- International Airport
- Port

California's Population, 1960-2000



California's Foreign-Born Population (by County or Region of Birth), 1850-2000



Longitude West 119° of Greenwich

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