

# Curriculum on Citizenship



"California Basics"



#### California Basics Agenda

- A1. California Geography
- A2. California Symbols
- A3. The People of California
- A4. Threats in California



A1. Identify the key geographic features of California.



- California is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest US state
- More people than any state
- More diverse topography than most
  - Mountains
  - Ocean
  - Rivers
  - Desert
  - Glaciers
  - Forests
  - Large cities
  - Millions of farmland acres





- Borders 3 states (Oregon/Nevada/Arizona)
- Borders Mexico & Pacific Ocean
- Approx. 800 miles long x 250 miles wide
- Highest point: Mount Whitney
- Lowest | point: Death Valley





- Mountain Ranges:
  - Klamath Mtns: high & forested
  - Coastal Mtns: parallel the coast
  - The Sierra Nevada Mtns: border w/Nevada
  - The Los Angeles/Transverse Ranges: run between Santa Barbara & San Diego
  - San Diego/Peninsular Ranges: SD County to Baja
  - Basin & Range Region: Narrow ranges & flat arid valleys (deserts)





- The Central Valley
  - Runs along middle of California
  - Between Coastal Ranges & the Sierra Nevada
  - Sacramento & San Joaquin Valleys
    - Comprise large part of farmland



- The Central Valley (cont'd)
  - Major Rivers:
    - Sacramento
    - San Joaquin
    - Colorado
  - Major Lakes:
    - Lake Tahoe
    - Salton Sea
    - Owens Lake
    - Searles Lake





- Frequent Earthquakes
  - Major faults underground
  - Tectonic activity along coast
  - Historically significant:
    - 1906 San Francisco (magnitude 7.8 8.2)
    - 1971 San Fernando (mag. 6.6)
    - 1989 Loma Prieta (mag. 6.9 7.1
    - 1994 Northridge (mag. 6.7)



- Largest Metropolitan Areas:
  - Los Angeles
  - San/Francisco/Oakland
  - San Diego
  - Riverside/San Bernardino
  - Sacramento
  - San Jose





- Diverse Climate
  - Coastal & SoCal → Mediterranean
    - Moderately rainy winters
    - Mild, dry summers
  - High Sierras → Warm summer/Winter snow
  - Desert Areas → Hot summer/Cold winter
  - Northern Coast → More rain than SoCal



## Check on Learning

- 1. What states border California?
- 2. Describe the Basin and Range Region? What topography in California falls into this category?
- 3. What are the three major rivers in California?
- 4. Name at least three key geographic features of California?



A2. Name 75% of the listed symbols of California.



State Flag



State Seal



State Colors: Blue & Gold





State Flower: The California Poppy



State Insect: The Dogface Butterfly



State Tree: The California Redwood





State Fish: The Golden Trout



State Animal: The Grizzly Bear



State Fossil: The Saber-Toothed Cat





State Reptile: The Desert Tortoise



State Bird: The California Quail



State Amphibian: The California Red-Legged Frog





**State Motto:** 

Eureka!

(Greek for "I have found it")

State Nickname: The Golden State



#### Check on Learning

- 1. What are our state colors?
- 2. What two symbols are on our flag?
- 3. What is our state motto? What does it mean in English?
- 4. What is our state animal?
- 5. What is our state flower?



A3. Discuss details of the people of California, past and present.



- Native Americans
- Tribes or bands
  - If cultural or linguistic connections, generally lived in small groups loosely tied together
  - Most: permanent location
  - Some: nomadic







- Many native bands & cultures died out
  - Interaction w/European settlers
  - Catholic missions
- Est. 275,000 natives before European settlers came
- Approx. 15,000 end of 19<sup>th</sup> Century



- 1% of Californians are Native Americans
  - Apache/Cherokee/Choctaw/Creek/Hopi/Zuni/ Navajo/Blackfeet/Shoshone/Paiute/Pueblos/ Cahuilla/Chumash
- Highest # of Native Americans than other states
  - More tribes, too
- Live both on and off reservations
  - reservation a.k.a. "rancheria"



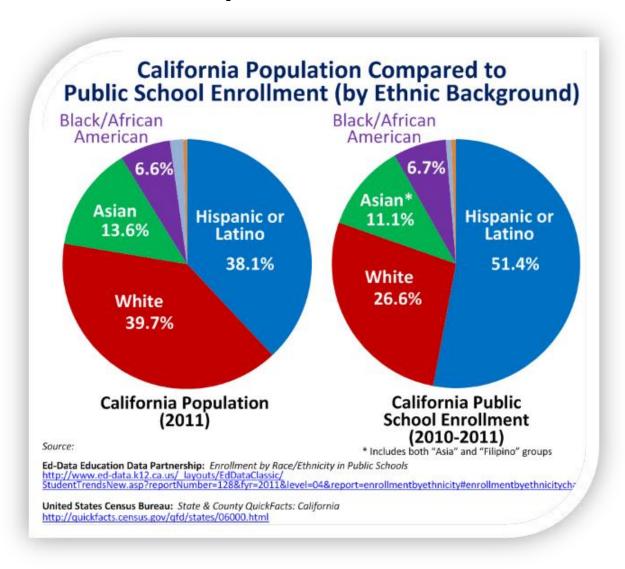


(maps.com, 2018)



- Larger population than any other state
- Diverse
  - ➤ Majority-minority
    - = majority of people are ethnic minorities
  - ➤ Increasingly Hispanic or Latino
  - Large % of Whites, Asians, & Blacks
  - ➤ Gender approx. 50/50 male/female







California Population as of April 2017	
Population estimates, July 1, 2017, (V2017)	39,536,653
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2017)	37,254,518
Population, percent change – April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2017, (V2017)	6.10%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	37,253,956
Age and Sex	-
Persons under 5 years	6.30%
Persons under 18 years	22.90%
Persons 65 years and over	13.90%
Female persons	50.30%
	0.503
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone	72.40%
Black or African American alone	6.50%
Native American and Alaska Native alone	1.60%
Asian alone	15.20%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.05%
Two or More Races	3.90%
Hispanic or Latino	39.10%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	37.20%
Source: US Census Bureau (Bureau, 2017)	



#### Check on Learning

- 1. T/F: All native people of California lived permanently in one place year-round.
- 2. Why did many native cultures die out?
- 3. Only \_\_\_\_\_\_% of Californians today are Native Americans.
- 4. What does it mean that California is a "majority-minority"?



A4. Name the threats California faces.



- Catastrophic Events
  - Earthquakes
  - Floods
  - Wildfires
  - Civil unrest



- National Guard (CACC's parent organization)
  - Helps deal with/recover from disaster

Prepares for & steps up when called is a

significant mission



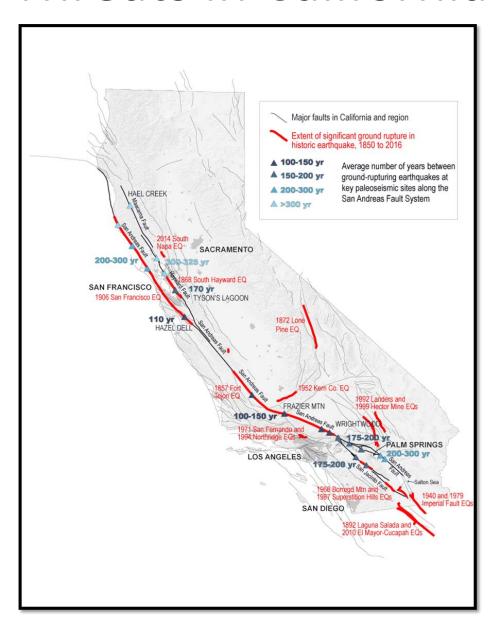


- Why so many earthquakes?
  - Plate tectonics
  - Volcanic activity
- Plate Tectonics
  - Pacific Plate moving north
  - North American Plate moving south
  - Plates contact = friction
    - Friction creates fault
    - Earthquakes occur at fault



- San Andreas Fault
  - The boundary line between Pacific & North
    American Plates
  - Runs along much of length of California
- 100s of other smaller faults
  - Approx. 200 potentially dangerous
  - 70% of population lives w/in 30 miles of a fault

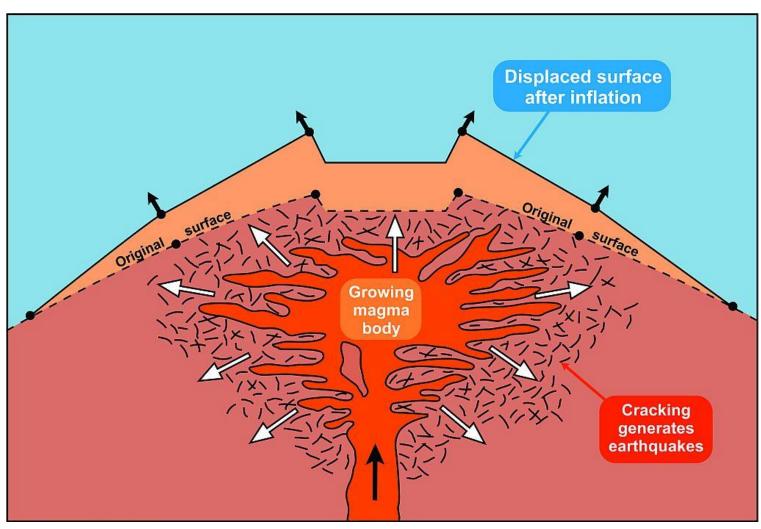






- Volcanic Activity (a result of plate tectonics)
  - Most are small
  - Don't cause damage
  - BUT...volcanic activity = earthquakes
    - Mammoth Lakes region
    - Mount Lassen
    - Mount Shasta







- 2 or 3 large-scale earthquakes per year
  - Magnitude of 5.5 or greater
  - Level at which moderate damage to structures can occur
- Stringent building codes help prevent damage

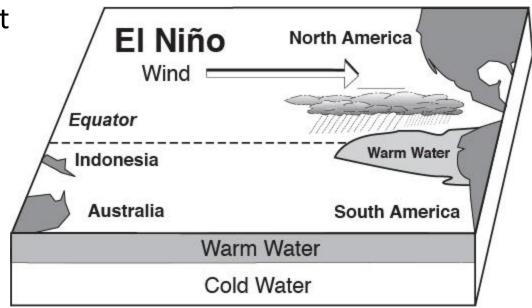


- Wildfires
  - Lots of forested land → lightening starts fire
  - Drought → susceptible to burning
  - Arguments by some people:
    - Let smaller fires burn off dead vegetation to prevent larger fires
    - Logging removes fuel, thus prevents fires (But logging has been prevented in parts of California)



- El Niño
  - Pacific Ocean temperatures ↑ off South
    America
    - Causes increased rainfall in SoCal

Eases drought situation





- Too much rain or snow = flooding!
  - Wildfires exacerbate
    - Vegetation keeps soil in place → burns off
    - Land susceptible to mudslides/extreme runoff
  - Rivers → most common flood places





- Manmade disasters/civil disturbances
  - 1965 riots in Watts (Los Angeles)
  - 1992 riots in Los Angeles (Rodney King)
  - San Bernardino Punk Riot of 2006
  - 2007 MacArthur Park Rallies (regarding immigration)
  - 2009 & 2010 BART Police Shooting of Oscar Grant in Oakland (after incident and trial)
  - 2010 Santa Cruz May Day Riot
  - Black Lives Matter
  - Occupy Movement



- Riots
  - People already angry about a situation
  - Something happens to tip anger over the top
  - People take to the streets
- Protests
  - People or authorities can become violent
    - People hurt, property damaged, problem not solved



On a positive note...

- CEOWORLD Magazine ranked California as the state w/most diversity
  - <u>Diversity Measurements</u>:
    <u>culture/economic/household marital status & age groups/politics/religion/socioeconomics</u>
- And w/our diverse topography many think:

We're a pretty great state!



#### Check on Learning

- 1. Name three threats in California.
- 2. What CACC-affiliated organization helps our state with disasters?
- 3. What causes earthquakes in California?
- 4. What is El Niño? What positive thing does it do? What negative thing may it cause?