

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gold Rush

Gold was discovered in California at John Sutter’s sawmill on the American River in January of 1848.	11 17
Sutter was a real adventurer. A native of Switzerland, he had come to New York City in 1834. From there, he traveled to St. Louis, Santa Fe, the Oregon Territory, Hawaii, and Alaska before finally settling in California in 1839.	30 45 55 57
The Mexican government gave Sutter almost 50,000 acres of land in the Sacramento Valley. Farming and trade made him rich. He built Fort Sutter near the Sacramento River. The fort had a flourmill and bakery, a blacksmith shop, rooms for Sutter’s workers and guests, a general store, and a saloon.	69 81 94 107
Sutter’s sawmill was about 45 miles east of the fort. James Marshall was Sutter’s partner in the mill. Marshall was at work one day when, to his amazement, he noticed a yellow metal shining in some water.	119 134 144
Was it gold? Marshall wasn’t sure, so he rode back to the fort to show Sutter. Together, they performed a few tests that seemed to confirm that the metal was gold.	159 172 175
Sutter wanted to keep the discovery a secret. He feared that if word got out, the mill and his surrounding property would be overrun with people searching for gold.	189 201 204
Sutter’s fears were well-founded. It was impossible to keep news of the discovery a secret. Soon the workers at Sutter’s mill were looking for gold after work. Then the news spread to San Francisco. A newspaper owner went to Sutter’s mill to check out the story. When he returned, he ran through the streets with a bottle filled with gold dust. “Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!” he cried.	216 229 242 256 270 274
The great California Gold Rush was on! Over the next six years, 300,000 people came west hoping to strike it rich.	287 295

