

WEEK 1

Welcome to  
Studies Weekly



# California Community Studies Weekly

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## Let's Get Ready for Community Studies Weekly!

*There's so much to see and do in our neck of the woods. California Community Studies Weekly is going to show you all kinds of great things your community has to offer and lots of other exciting things, too. Let's take a look!*

Welcome to California Community Studies Weekly! This year, we will be learning about the great state of California and about our own local communities. We will find out what it means to be a part of a community and what we must do to be good citizens (members of a community). We will also learn that living in the same community, state, region and country

gives us important memories to share and things to make us proud!

California is a large state, with all kinds of things that make it special. From perfect weather, to beautiful mountains, to breathtaking deserts, to stunning beaches, California has it all.

The geography (features of the earth) of California is like nowhere else in the world, but even more amazing than the land itself are the people who have lived here and those who live here now. We will explore the state, especially

our own communities and neighborhoods, discovering what makes this land and its people so unique.

Join us on the journey of a lifetime, as we get to know our California communities and all they have to offer you, our state, our nation and the world.



### Connections

## How do Political Parties Choose a Presidential Candidate?

During presidential elections you will hear people talking about caucuses, primaries and conventions. What are they talking about? It's all about which candidate from each political party will be picked to run as the official candidate of their party.

A caucus is a community event where people talk about who will be their party's candidate for president. Each person at the caucus gets to vote for a delegate to go to their party's convention. They vote for delegates who support the presidential candidate they want to be the official candidate in the election in November.

Usually, only people who are registered members of a party can attend a caucus and vote for delegates. Today,

about a dozen states hold caucuses. In most states that hold caucuses, the majority of delegates they choose support the same candidate, but the delegates sometimes are divided between two or more candidates. That can make the convention pretty interesting!

Most states hold primary elections instead of caucuses. In a primary election, people who are registered to vote can cast a vote for the person they want to be the next president. Delegates who go to the election will vote for a candidate based on the results of the primary. Primaries can be open or closed. In an open primary, anyone can vote for a candidate from any party. In a closed primary, only registered members of each

party can vote for a candidate from that party.

A few months before the election, each party holds a convention to nominate the person who will be their candidate for president. Delegates from caucus states and primary states get together to nominate the official candidate for their party. You can watch the Republican and Democratic conventions on TV. The voting is usually a voice vote, so if you watch, you can see the delegates from your state cast their votes. Will your state's delegates vote your favorite candidate? Tune in to the conventions to find out!

**California State Standards:** **3.1** Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context. **3.1.1** Identify geographical features in their local region (e.g., deserts, mountains, valleys, hills, coastal areas, oceans, lakes). **3.2.4** Discuss the interaction of new settlers with the already established Indians of the region. **3.3** Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land. **3.3.1** Research the explorers who visited here, the newcomers who settled here, and the people who continue to come to the region, including their cultural and religious traditions and contributions. **3.3.3** Trace why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time, drawing on maps, photographs, oral histories, letters, newspapers, and other primary sources. **3.4** Students understand the role of rules and laws in our daily lives and the basic structure of the U.S. government. **3.4.1** Determine the reasons for rules, laws, and the U.S. Constitution; the role of citizenship in the promotion of rules and laws; and the consequences for people who violate rules and laws. **3.4.2** Discuss the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens, including how to participate in a classroom, in the community, and in civic life. **3.4.3** Know the histories of important local and national landmarks, symbols, and essential documents that create a sense of community among citizens and exemplify cherished ideals (e.g., the U.S. flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Capitol). **3.4.6** Describe the lives of American heroes who took risks to secure our freedoms (e.g., Anne Hutchinson, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr.).



## How Was History Recorded?

When you study history, have you ever wondered how we know what happened so long ago? The answer is simple. Someone took the time to write down what happened. If an event affects a lot of people, there are usually many written reports telling about that event. If the event is more personal, there may be just a few people who choose to write about it. People who have no written language, or who never learned to read and write, often pass down their histories orally, or by word of mouth. They tell important stories to their children and grandchildren over and over. People do this so that these histories will never be forgotten.

There is plenty written about the past in our California history books. Sometimes, it is even more interesting to read about what happened in the words of someone who was actually there. This year, you will learn about the Donner Party, a group of settlers who became stranded in the snowy Sierra Nevada. Several members of the Donner Party wrote about their experiences in journals and letters. Many other settlers wrote down their thoughts, feelings, hopes and fears, along with listing events as they happened. This lets us get a real feel for the people who lived during this time.

During the Gold Rush, settlers began flooding into California. American Indians already lived here, but they became a target for unfair treatment. Many American Indian children were forced to attend boarding schools. A boarding school is a place where students study but live away from their families. We can read letters and diaries from children who attended these boarding schools. This helps us understand how the schools changed them and took away their American Indian identity.

This year, you will keep a social studies journal to record the things you learn. Do your best work, and maybe someday, a future third grader will use your journal to study California history!



## Celebrations Help Us Remember the Past

We also share in the celebrations that we hold each year to remind us of our American values and honor important people or events. These celebrations help us to pass the memories of one generation on to the next and make certain that we don't forget our past. We join together each year to celebrate Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July to help us remember our Founding Fathers and the things they did to make our country what it is today. We also celebrate Veterans Day,

Memorial Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and many other occasions to bring us together as members of a larger community. Celebrating these events also helps us keep our important memories alive.

Throughout our studies this year, we will explore what it means to be a member of a community. We will also find out more about California, what it was like in the past, what it is like today and what it may be like in the future. Join us for an unforgettable experience!



# Learning About Communities

## Community Members Have Many Things in Common

The state of California is made up of hundreds of communities. A community has common memories (things we remember). These common memories link members of a community together and help them to see the world in a similar way.

This year, we will be studying the history of your community as part of our social studies units. Social studies is the study of history, geography and how people live together in a group. History is the story of our past, including our ancestors (those who came before us), our country, its government, the geography of the land we live on and the changes that have brought us from where we were to where we are today. We will study the history of California and learn how being members of this community brings us together in a special way.

As citizens of a community, we share many important ties that make us alike. We share cultural traditions such

as attending school as children, getting married when we reach adulthood and having families of our own. We also share traditions of working hard during the week, taking time off during the weekend to enjoy family activities and taking family vacations to many of our community, state and national recreational sites.

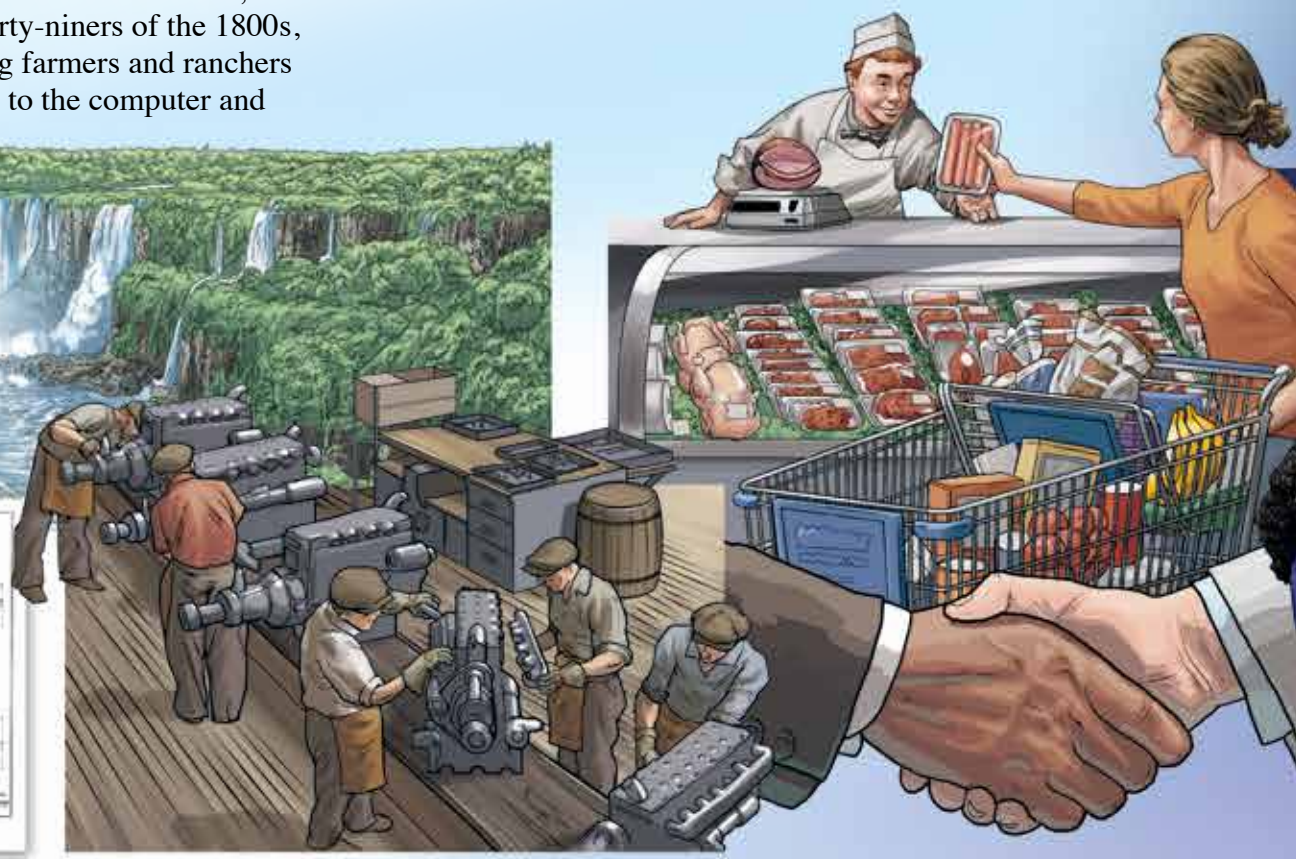
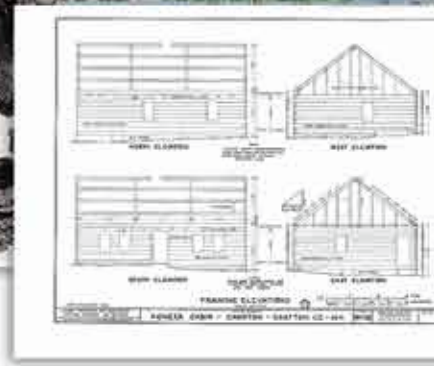
## Our California History Brings Us Together

As Californians, we share the entire history of our state. Our history includes all of the people who have called California home. This includes the very first American Indian settlers, to the early Spanish conquerors and missionaries, to the goldseeking forty-niners of the 1800s, to the hard working farmers and ranchers of the early 1900s, to the computer and

technology inventors of our day. All of these people and events have left their mark on our state, and we, as Californians, share in this amazing history.

## United States Citizens Share Important Memories

What are some of the memories we share as citizens of the United States? As citizens of the same country, we are members of an even larger community. As U.S. citizens, we are joined together by our belief in freedom, our respect for the Founding Fathers, our understanding of what our flag represents, our belief that all people are created equal and many more beliefs and ideas.



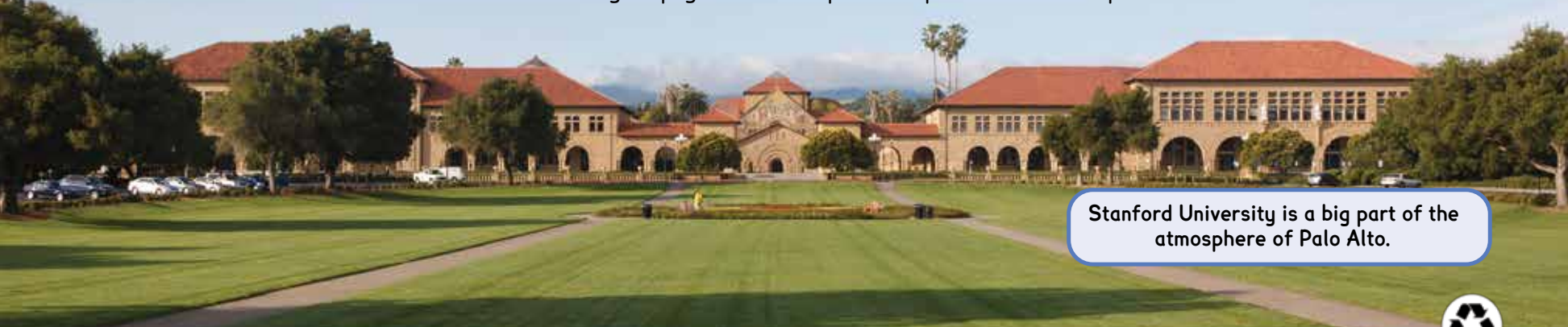
## Palo Alto

The city of Palo Alto is about 35 miles south of San Francisco. It officially became a city in 1894. Palo Alto is an interesting mixture of both old and new. The downtown area has beautiful, tree-lined streets and historic buildings, but the city is also full of companies that create the very latest technology. Palo Alto is sometimes called the "Birthplace of the Silicon Valley" because of the successful computer companies that were started here. Silicon is a material

used in making computer chips. Palo Alto is home to a major university where research has helped make our lives better. You can research anything at the university like technology, education or even medicine! Palo Alto is also well-known for its parks and open spaces. The city has many city-owned parks, and there is plenty of open space. The idea that the community shouldn't build on every empty lot, but keep some space

open for plants, trees and parks, is important to the people of Palo Alto. Palo Alto is a great place to enjoy nature, especially bird and ocean life. The smell of the sea and the beautiful, green plants make many visitors feel that they have found paradise.

## Our Communities



Stanford University is a big part of the atmosphere of Palo Alto.



## Why is it important to study history?

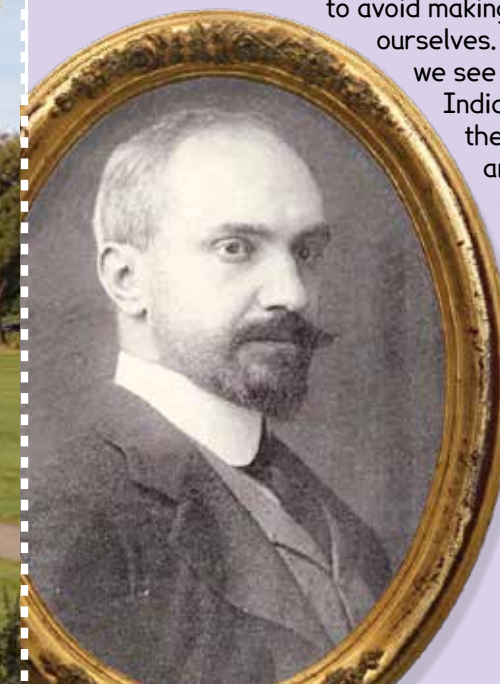
### This Week's Question

It is important to study history to understand the past, to see how the past brought us to where we are today and to avoid making unwise decisions in the future. As we study history, we learn what people and places were like before we were born, and we see how these people and places changed into what is familiar to us today.

As we study history, we also see the mistakes of others in the past and can learn from these mistakes to avoid making the same ones ourselves. For example, when we see the way the American Indians were treated by the early settlers, we are able to see the mistakes that were made, and we can learn to treat others with more fairness.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

— George Santayana



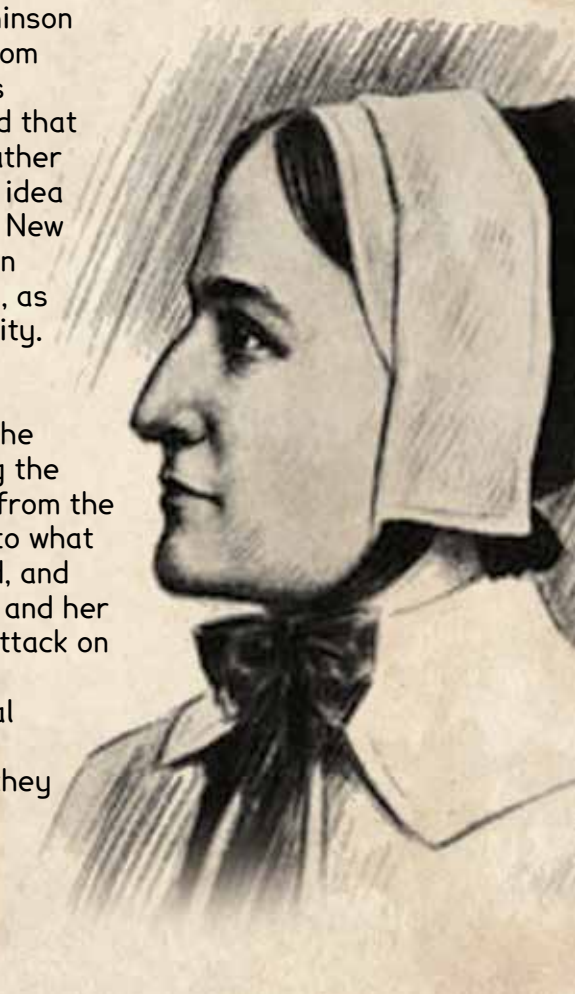
## Our National Heroes

### Anne Hutchinson

A strong yet gentle woman, Anne Hutchinson came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony from England in 1634. Hutchinson held religious meetings in her home, where she preached that people were saved by the grace of God rather than by any of their own good works. This idea upset and offended the Puritan leaders in New England, and they believed that Hutchinson was trying to destroy the religious beliefs, as well as the governing laws, of the community.

In 1637, Hutchinson was put on trial by the General Court of Massachusetts. Governor John Winthrop and the rest of the court found Hutchinson guilty of betraying the Puritan ministers, and she was sent away from the colony. Hutchinson and her family moved to what is now known as Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and later to Long Island, New York, where she and her family were killed in an American Indian attack on the settlement.

Hutchinson was an example of individual courage as she stood up for her rights to follow her own religious beliefs, whether they were accepted by those in control of the government or not.





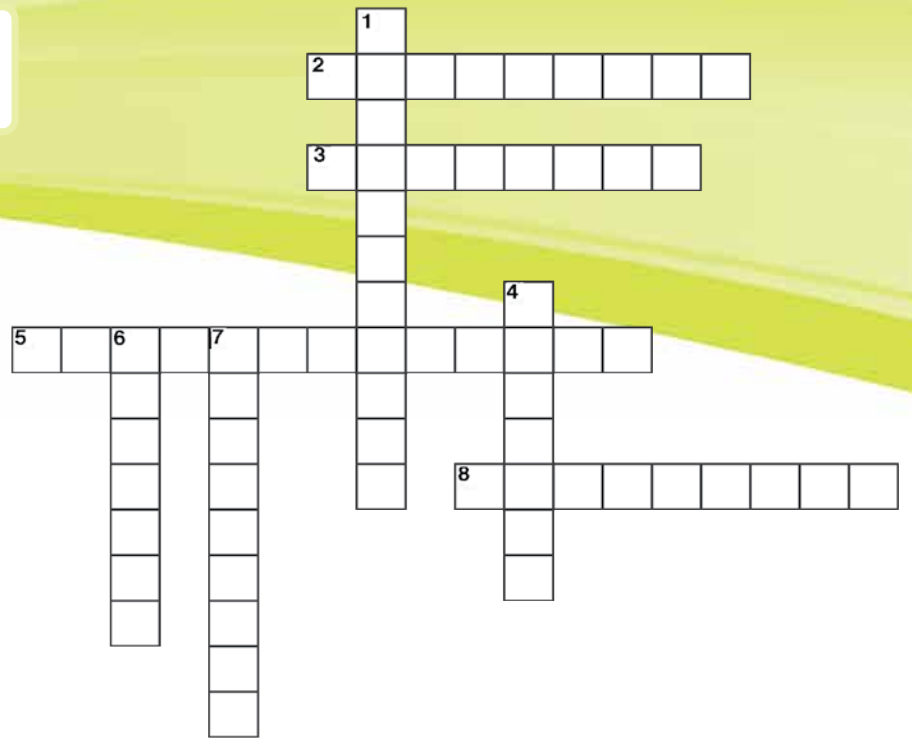
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**ACROSS**

- 2. features of the Earth
- 3. the things we remember
- 5. the study of history, geography and how people live together
- 8. a group of any size whose members share things such as the same location, government, schools, history and memories

**DOWN**

- 1. a special event used to honor the importance of a person, event or activity
- 4. the story of our past
- 6. a legal member of a community or country
- 7. those who came before us



## Making a Timeline

This week, we're going to make a timeline. A timeline is a list of events in chronological order, which means by date, earliest to latest. Below are some important dates in California history, but they're all mixed up. Your job is to put each in order next to its correct picture to the right. Remember, the earliest date goes first. Have fun!

- 1824– Mexico claims California as a territory.
- 1873– The first cable cars are put into use in California.
- 1776– The first colonizing party arrives to found the Presidio of San Francisco and Mission Dolores.
- 1861– Direct telegraph line connects the East and West.
- 1821– Mexico declares independence from Spain.
- 1950– The San Francisco 49ers make their debut in the NFL (National Football League).
- 1847– Mexico surrenders California to the United States.
- 1850– California becomes a state. The transbay ferry system begins.
- 1869– A railway connects Sacramento and New York.
- 1848– Gold is discovered at Sutter's Saw Mill.
- 1579– Sir Francis Drake claims California for England (first called "Nova Albion").
- 1937– The Golden Gate Bridge opens to traffic.




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### Think & Review

- 1. Explain some of the cultural traditions we share as members of a community.
- 2. Why is it important to study history?
- 3. Who was Anne Hutchinson? Why is she one of our national heroes?
- 4. Explain why we hold national and community celebrations each year. List a few of these celebrations.

### Fun Facts

California is number one in the population (total number of people) category in the United States with about 37 million people. What state do you think is last? It's Wyoming with only about 540,000!

### Language Arts Connection

Choose one article from this week's magazine and look for the nouns and verbs in each sentence. Circle or highlight the nouns in yellow and the verbs in green. (ELA/Literacy L 3.1a)