

# Summary: California's Art and Culture

## Artists and Trends

California has been home to some of the world's most important filmmakers and artists. George Lucas, a film director and producer born in Modesto, is famous for his use of computers to create special effects. His *Star Wars* films are among the most popular movies ever made.

Another kind of California artist is Isamu Noguchi, a famous sculptor from Los Angeles. He created sculpture gardens and playgrounds in the United States, Japan, Mexico, and Israel.

But art can be found all over California. There are art museums everywhere, such as the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the de Young Museum in San Francisco, and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

Many trends start in California. Surfing, skateboarding, windsurfing, and mountain biking are some examples of popular trends. The Beach Boys wrote popular songs about California and surfing. The band's lead songwriter, Brian Wilson, came from Hawthorne.

## Many Celebrations

California holidays honor some important people. Martin Luther King Day, in January, honors the life of the civil rights leader. Cesar Chavez Day, a state holiday, is on March 21. On Cinco de Mayo, May 5, some Californians still celebrate the Mexican victory over the French in 1862. Some Californians celebrate the Chinese New Year with parades, fireworks, and dancing to mark the event. San Francisco's celebration is one of the largest in the world.

Old Spanish Days Fiesta is celebrated in Santa Barbara. Visitors to this event learn about the history and customs of the area's early settlers. Immigrants from Denmark built the town of Solvang almost 100 years ago. Every year the town holds a three-day Danish Days Festival to celebrate its traditions.

Other festivals include the Strawberry Festival in Oxnard and the annual California State Fair, a week-long festival celebrating the state's agriculture.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**trend** *noun*, a style or activity that spreads quickly

**festival** *noun*, a day or period of time set aside for celebration

### After You Read

**REVIEW** Name two Californians who have contributed to the arts.

Highlight the sentences that discuss Californians in the arts.

**REVIEW** What two state holidays honor United States citizens? Circle the sentences that name two holidays that honor American citizens.