Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:
• about the California Gold Rush
• about the development of California’s first constitution
• about the state’s improved communication and transportation

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

Talk About It

Chapter 5: Gold Rush Years

A New State Talk with your child about the ways California changed after gaining statehood, such as the population growth from the Gold Rush.

Chapter 6: California Becomes a State

Growth and Government Discuss with your child which modern California cities got their start as trade and business centers during the Gold Rush.

Chapter 7: Joining With the Nation

New Technology Talk about the many new forms of technology that developed in California as the need for faster travel and communication between the east and west coasts grew.

Make It

Interview Questions Work with your child to create interview questions for the people who helped build the transcontinental railroad. Include questions about who they are, where they are from, and the details of their work.

Read to Learn More About It

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon, by Ellen LeVine. A portrayal of pioneer life and what it was like for young people to go cross-country in wagon trains.

California Gold Rush (Scholastic History Readers), by Peter Roop. A nonfiction story explaining the phenomenon of the California Gold Rush from the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill to its gradual decline.

Technology

Check out www.eduplace.com/cassf for more information.