

# The California Gold Rush

The California Gold Rush took place between 1848 and 1855 when gold was discovered in California. A man named James Marshall at Sutter's Mill near Coloma was the first person to find gold. While working to build a sawmill for John Sutter, Marshall found shiny flakes of gold in the river. Although they tried to keep it a secret, people quickly found out about the gold. Over a seven-year period, over 300,000 people "rushed" to California, hoping to find gold and get rich. Because the influx of prospectors really increased in 1849, they were nicknamed "the forty-niners."



A few early prospectors did find gold and make money, most did not. The only people who consistently made money during the gold rush were the business owners who sold food, supplies, and tools to the miners.

1. Who first discovered the gold at Sutter's Mill?
  - A. John Sutter
  - B. James Marshall
  - C. the forty-niners
  - D. Coloma
  
2. Who consistently made money during the Gold Rush?
  - A. the forty-niners
  - B. those who strictly panned for gold
  - C. business owners who sold supplies to the miners
  - D. John Sutter
  
3. Who were the forty-niners? \_\_\_\_\_  
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