

California Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

- 18 California fact cards (pages 2–6)
- California questions worksheet (pages 7–8)
- scissors
- scotch tape

Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the California questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.



Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

Management tips

You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the classroom bookshelf
- on the side of the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

1

California used to be part of Mexico. Some of it broke free in 1846. All of it became part of the United States in 1848. On September 9, 1850, California became the 31st state.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

2



The California Gold Rush (1848–1855) helped give the state its nickname, "The Golden State."

It had nothing to do with the Golden Gate, though! The



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

California

3



California's motto is a Greek word meaning *I have found it:* "Eureka"!

It was first used as a motto in 1849 when California made its state seal.

California

4

Most people think California got its name from a fiction book. In the book, Queen Calafia ruled California, an island of riches named after herself. The book was popular with Spanish explorers in the 1500s.





Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

5

Sacramento is the state capital. About 530,000 people live in the city itself. It is one of the fastest-growing cities in California.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

6



The most populous city in California is Los Angeles. About 3,900,000 people live in the city itself. That makes it the



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

California

7



San Diego is the second-most populous city in California. About 1,400,000 people live there.

California

8



The most populous city along San Francisco Bay isn't San Francisco! It's San Jose. It's the third-most populous city in California. Nearly one million people live there.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

9



California has the tallest tree (a redwood named Hyperion), the biggest tree (a giant sequoia named General Sherman, pictured), *and* the oldest

Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

10



From the hottest place on Earth in Death Valley to snowy mountaintops in the Sierra Nevada, California has it all! That's part of the reason why it's the only U.S. state



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

California

11

California produces about half of U.S.-grown fruits and veggies. It also grows nearly all of U.S. crops like almonds, pistachios, raisins, walnuts, olives, and more.



California

12



California has the most national parks of any state. Visit the famous Yosemite

(pictured), the volcanic Lassen, the huge trees in Redwood or Sequoia, the deserts in Death Valley, and more! There are nine in all.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

13



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

14



The official state animal of California, the California grizzly bear, is shown on the state flag. It is one of nine animals that are



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

California

15



The California golden poppy is the official state flower of California.

California

16



California's state seal shows mining, shipping, and farming. It also shows the Roman goddess

Minerva. She was born an adult, kind of like how California became a state right away.



Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

17



Hollywood has the largest film industry in the world. Silicon Valley has one of the largest tech industries.

Scavenger Hunt

California

Fact Card

18



California's state sport is surfing. It set two surfing records in 2015. One was for the



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

Name: _____

California Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: On what day and year did California become a state?

Fact Card 2: The Golden Gate was named how many years before the Gold Rush?

Fact Card 3: What is California's state motto? What does it mean in English?



Fact Card 6: How many U.S. cities are more populous than Los Angeles?

Fact Card 7: What is the second-most populous city in California?

Fact Card 8: About how many people live in San Jose?

Fact Card 9: Name three record-holding trees in California.

California Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: How many U.S. states have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics?

Fact Card 11: Name two U.S. crops that are grown almost entirely in California.

Fact Card 12: How many national parks are in California?



Fact Card 15: What is the state flower of California?

Fact Card 16: Which Roman goddess is on California's state seal?

Fact Card 17: California often ranks where in the world economy?

Fact Card 18: How long is the world's largest surfboard?

California Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: On what day and year did California become a state?

September 9, 1850

Fact Card 2: The Golden Gate was named how many years before the Gold Rush?



Fact Card 9: Name three record-holding trees in California.

Hyperion, General Sherman, and Methuselah

California Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: How many U.S. states have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics?

one

Fact Card 11: Name two U.S. crops that are grown almost entirely in California.

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



Fact Card 18: How long is the world's largest surfboard?

42 feet; 12.8 meters