

Bio-Sketches: The Road to Statehood Grade 4 Standard 3

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 190-91	fur trapper	I am a fur trapper . By the 1820's, the supply of beavers was almost used up in the United States. With the supply of beaver fur so low, and the demand so high, people would pay high prices for fur. I kept moving farther west to find fur-bearing animals. My journey to California was difficult because of the deserts and steep mountains I had to cross.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 192-93 p. R42	Smith, Jedediah Strong	My name is Jedediah Strong Smith . In 1826, I led 17 men on a trapping expedition. Our group left from the Great Salt Lake area. We headed southwest and eventually reached the Colorado River. Then we made our way across the Mojave Desert. I was one of the first people from the United States to travel to California by land. When I reached California, The Mexican governor ordered me to leave. He thought I was a spy for the United States government. Instead of leaving, I moved northward in California. Eventually, I crossed the Sierras from the west and returned to the Salt Lake area.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 192 p. R39	Echeandia, Governor Jose Maria	My name is Governor Jose Maria Echeandia . I was the Mexican Governor of California. In 1831, I issued the order to secularize the missions. I thought the American fur trappers were really spies hired by the United States. I was suspicious that the Americans wanted to take over our Mexican lands.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 193 p. R41	Pattie, James Ohio	My name is James Ohio Pattie . My father, Sylvester Pattie, and I began our fur-trapping expedition in 1824. After our party crossed the Mississippi River, we trapped beaver along muddy streams which no white man had ever seen before. By 1827 we continued westward from Santa Fe to trap along the Gila and Colorado Rivers. Traveling overland, we entered California from the south. We were not welcome in California and were thrown in a dark, damp jail. I was later freed, but my father died in jail.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 194 p. R43	Young, Ewing	My name is Ewing Young . I am a mountain man who headed a party down the Gila and Colorado Rivers. During the 1830s, I helped start the Old Spanish Trail. It began in Santa Fe and followed an old Indian trail across the Mojave Desert. We moved through the Cajon Pass and reached the San Gabriel Mission in Southern California. We had to trap quietly because only Mexican citizens had licenses to trap legally.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 194 p. R43	Walker, Joseph Reddeford	My name is Joseph Reddeford Walker and I am a fur-trapper. In 1834, I was the first American to open up a trail across the Sierra Nevada from the east to the west. I found a pass through the mountains. The pass is named after me, Walker Pass.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 1 p. 178 p. 192 p. 195 p. R38	Beckwourth, James	My name is James Beckwourth . I am a scout and a trapper. I traveled through the lowest pass in the Sierra Nevada, north of what is today Truckee, California. The pass was later named for me. California State Highway 70 closely follows my route. I set up a ranch and a trading post in the valley west of the pass. This is now the town of Beckwourth.

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 199 p. R43	Stearns, Abel	My name is Abel Stearns . I was born an American, but I went to Mexico in 1826 and became a citizen. I am married to Arcadia Bandini of San Diego. I am a rancher and I own thousands of acres in what today is Long Beach. 30,000 cattle, 2,000 horses and mules and 10,000 sheep graze on my land..
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 178 p. 199 p. R43	Sutter, John Augustas	My name is John Augustus Sutter . In 1839, I came to California from Germany. I convinced the Mexican government to grant me 48,000 acres of land in Central California near the Sacramento River. I originally named my land New Helvetia, or New Switzerland, to honor the country where I was born. I opened a fort that is an enclosed space 500 feet by 150 feet. It is fortified with cannons brought from Fort Ross. Many people who followed the California Trail stopped at my fort for food, supplies, or to find jobs.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 197 p. 200 p. 201 p. R41	Marsh, John	My name is John Marsh . I am a settler from the United States who graduated from Harvard College. I began my trip to California in Independence, Missouri. Even though I didn't have a medical degree, I was the first practicing doctor on the Pacific Coast. My letters inspired other pioneers to come to California. I wrote that California has good land and a mild climate. The Bartleson-Bidwell expedition reached my rancho in the Central Valley in November 1841.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 200 p. R38	Bartleson, John	My name is John Bartleson . I was chosen to lead the Bartleson-Bidwell trip west. Our expedition left Missouri in May 1841. We followed the Oregon Trail on part of our trip and then went southwest on the California Trail to get to Californial.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 179 p. 200 p. R38	Bidwell, John	My name is John Bidwell . In 1841, when I was a twenty-year-old school teacher, I organized an overland party to California. After 6 months traveling over the Rockies and the Sierras we finally arrived in Sacramento Valley. Ours was the first overland expedition. I wrote and published articles in the 1890s. In the articles, I told about my experiences during the Bear Flag Revolt, the gold rush, and the Mexican-American War in California.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 178 p. 201 p. 208-09 p. 210 p. 216 p. R39	Fremont, John C.	My name is John C. Fremont . I was sent to California by the United States to map and survey Western lands. Some people believe my expedition had secret orders from the United States government to help the United States take over California. I was a key figure in the Bear Flag Revolt. I aided the rebels and helped establish the Bear Flag Republic. I pardoned the Californio leaders at the Treaty of Cahuenga. In 1856, I ran unsuccessfully for President of the United States.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 202 p. R39	Donner, George	My name is George Donner . Our party set out for California 1846. We met with disastrous winter storms in the Sierra Nevada when we took a short-cut route south of the Great Salt Lake.

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 203 p. R42	Reed, Virginia	My name is Virginia Reed . I was a member of the Donner Party. In July 1891 the <i>Century Illustrated Magazine</i> published a memoir written by me recounting my eventful journey to California. <i>Across the Plains in the Donner Party</i> is a famous and favorite account of the Donner Party. It is lively, full of human interest and personal details. It has a happy ending, with the Reed family being reunited. Some people say it is not as reliable as it appears because it was written 45 years after it happened. Although I received assistance from an editor, the article was my own work.
Chpt 5 Lesson 3 p. 207 p. 208 p. R42 p. 228	Polk, President James K.	I am President James K. Polk . Many people think the United States should expand to reach from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This idea is called <i>Manifest Destiny</i> . They feel it is their right and their duty to expand their country and spread their culture all the way to the west coast. In 1845, I offered Mexico \$40 million for what is now California, New Mexico, and Arizona. Mexico refused to sell to the U.S. In May 1846, I asked Congress to declare war on Mexico. During the war, I ordered troops to take control of California.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 3 p. 208 Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 251	ranchero	I am a ranchero . My rancho is a large cattle ranch granted to me by the Mexican government. The trade in hides, tallow, and beef from my ranch is a main part of California's economy. After the Land Act of 1851, I lost my land because I could not prove it belonged to me. I do not speak English so I hired a lawyer. Because my case was tied up in court for years, I had to sell the land to pay my bills.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 2 p. 198 Chpt. 5 Lesson 3 p. 209-10	settler	I am a settler who came west in a large group called a wagon train. There were as many as 100 wagons in our wagon train. On the long journey west, we faced many dangers such as hostile Indians, crossing rivers and mountains, and extreme weather. We followed the Oregon Trail and split off to the south near Salt Lake. Our journey to California took us over four months. We came west because we had heard stories it had fertile land and a mild climate.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 3 p. 209-10 p. 159 p. R43	Vallejo, General Mariano Guadalupe	My name is General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo . In 1835, I was sent by the Mexican government to set up a military post and pueblo at an area known as Sonoma. It is located north of San Francisco. Even though I didn't oppose the Bear Flag rebels, they arrested me and took me to Sutter's Fort.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 3 p. 210	Bear Flagger (Osos)	I am a settler from the United States. Settlers in California can't own land unless they become Mexican citizens. I have been called a <i>rebel</i> because I fought against the Mexican government. I wanted California to elect its own leaders and to be a free republic. I took part in the Bear Flag Revolt in Sonoma. We chose a bear to be on our flag because it is a courageous animal.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 213 p. R42	Sloat, John D.	My name is John D. Sloat . I sailed into Monterey, the Mexican capital of California. I took over the city and said that California was now part of the United States. I told Californians they would have the same freedoms, or rights, as United States citizens. This ended the Bear Flag Republic.

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 214 p. R43	Stockton, Robert F.	My name is Robert F. Stockton . I am an officer in the United States Army. I declared California free from Mexican rule. I sent a group of Bear Flaggers to take control of key California cities. When I left Archibald Gillespie in charge of Los Angeles, some of the Californios rebelled. The American troops fought the Californios at Dominguez Ranch and the Californios won.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 214 p. 215 p. R40	Kearny, Steven Watts	My name is Stephen Watts Kearney . I am an American general in the Mexican War. On my way to join the forces of Commodore Robert F. Stockton in California I was attacked at San Pasqual, where I was wounded. One-third of my command suffered casualties before we were rescued by relief forces from Stockton. After several skirmishes the combined forces reached Los Angeles and occupied the town. A dispute arose between me and Stockton. Col. John C. Frémont, who was appointed civil governor of California by Stockton, refused to obey my orders. When Washington supported me, I had Frémont court-martialed. I was military governor of the territory until the end of May, 1847.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 214 p. 215 p. R38	Carson, Kit	My name is Kit Carson . I carried a message from Commodore Robert F. Stockton to Washington D.C. that said the United States forces controlled California. I had not heard about the Californios' rebellion against Archibald Gillespie's soldiers in Los Angeles and the Battle of Dominguez Ranch. Because of my message, Steven Watts Kearney thought he was safe and he sent away 200 troops. Unfortunately, Kearney lost the Battle of San Pasqual.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 216 p. 158 p. R42 Lesson 3 p. 179 p. 209	Pio Pico	My name is Pio Pico . I am of African, Indian and European descent. I was the last governor of Mexican Alta California before its surrender to the United States. As governor of Alta California, I moved the capital to Los Angeles. One of the key events during my administration was the secularization of California's missions. Along with General Andres Pico, I helped arrange the surrender of California from Mexico to the United States. In 1848, after Mexico ceded Alta California to the United States, I returned to my home in Los Angeles. Here I lived as a rancher, businessman, hotel owner, and Los Angeles City Councilman. My love for gambling eventually led me to lose everything. (Pio Pico died in poverty at 91.
Chpt. 5 Lesson 4 p. 178 p. 216 p. R42	Ruiz, Bernarda	My name is Bernarda Ruiz . In 1847, I helped to arrange the peaceful surrender of the Mexican Army at Cahuenga Pass, just north of Los Angeles. Because of the Treaty of Cahuenga, the fighting stopped in California almost a year before the end of the Mexican-American War. No actual paintings of me exist. The illustration of me on page 216 is an artist's interpretation of what I may have looked like.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 1 p. 227 p. R41	Marshall, John	My name is James Marshall . I am a carpenter hired by John Sutter to build a sawmill. On January 24, 1848, while digging at the site, I found a small nugget, or lump of something that looked like gold. This discovery started the California Gold Rush.

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 6 Lesson 1 p. 228 Primary Sources p. 234-35	Miner 1	I am a gold miner . I came to California on an overland route. This route takes from 3 to 5 months. During the gold rush, we usually paid for things with gold dust or nuggets. The most common unit of gold was the pinch. This is the amount of dust that a person can hold between the thumb and forefinger. Miners and shopkeepers used scales to weigh the gold. After a hard day of panning, I might only yield one ounce of gold dust. One ounce was worth about \$11.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 1 p. 228-29 Lesson 2 p. 240-41	Miner 2	I am a miner who came to California to seek my fortune. I took the fastest route by taking a ship to Panama, crossing the Isthmus and then taking a ship up the Pacific coast. Panama is a tropical country close to the equator. Much of Panama is covered in jungle. As a result, many of us caught diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Both of these diseases are carried by mosquitoes which live in the warm, moist climate. One of the first things I did when I arrived at the gold fields was to stake a claim by hammering wooden stakes into the ground around my claim. Some of the methods I have seen the miners use to find gold are damaging to the environment.
Chpt. 6 Lessons 1 and 2 p. 237	Miner 3	I am a miner in the gold fields of California. About 90,000 other miners have also traveled to California to find gold. We are called the forty-niners since most of us came to California in 1849. Like me, some of the other miners think only people from the United States should look for gold in California because there are too many people here. Although I have given up my dream of making a fortune. I have decided to stay in California anyway.
Chpt. 6, Lesson 1 p. 179 p. 233 p. R39	Clappe, Louise	My name is Louise Clappe . I wrote twenty-three letters to my sister under the pen name of “Dame Shirley.” My letters vividly describe life in the gold camps. They were published as a series of articles between 1854 and 1855. After the gold mining ended, I settled in San Francisco and became one of the city’s first school teachers.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 2 p. 238-39	entrepreneur	I am an entrepreneur living in San Francisco during the gold rush. I have opened a store to sell supplies to the miners. By opening new businesses such as stores, hotels, and laundries, entrepreneurs often have the best chance of becoming rich because we provide goods and services that are needed by the miners. It is sometimes said that entrepreneurs “mined the miners.” Women like me often make more money than the men.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 2 p. 238-39 p. R43	Strauss, Levi	My name is Levi Strauss . When I heard news of the California Gold Rush, I moved to San Francisco to make my fortune. I knew I wouldn’t make it panning gold. In 1853, I established a wholesale dry goods business. My new company imported dry goods – clothing, underwear, umbrellas, handkerchiefs, bolts of fabric – and sold them to the small stores that were springing up all over California and the West. Together with tailor Jacob Davis, I make and sell denim pants called blue jeans. My stores help outfit the miners of the Gold Rush and, eventually, the new families that come to the Western regions. Even though I am an important business man, I insist that my employees call me Levi, not Mr. Strauss.

Reference	Name	Bio-Sketch
Chpt. 6 Lesson 2 p. 242	California Indian	I am a California Indian . Over 150,000 Indians lived in California before the gold rush. Our life changed drastically when gold was discovered. My tribe lived on land that has been taken over by the gold miners and they have forced us off our land. Many of the places where my tribe hunted, fished, and gathered food have been ruined by mining. In 1851, the California State government paid \$1 million for scalping missions. By 1870, there was an estimated population of only 31,000 Californian Indians left.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 247 p. R42	Riley, General Bennett	My name is General Bennett Riley . Serving in 1849, I was the seventh military governor of California before the territory part of the United States. Also, I served as a general in the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War. I issued an official proclamation dated June 3, 1849 which called for a convention to make decisions about California's future. The election of delegates was held on August 1, 1849. The convention met in Colton Hall, in the town of Monterey, on September 1, 1849, and admitted 48 delegates.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 249 p. R38	Burnett, Peter H.	My name is Peter H. Burnett . In 1843 I organized a wagon train to Oregon. When gold fever struck in California, I led a company of 150 men who cut an overland trail to the mines. About 2/3 of the male population of Oregon also started for the gold fields. In May 1849, I left the mines to become the attorney and general agent for John A. Sutter, Jr. I was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly and I worked to frame the State Constitution. I was elected the first American Governor of California. I resigned in 1851.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 247-49	Delegate 1 to the Monterey Convention	I am one of the delegates to the Monterey Convention in 1849. As a delegate, I have had many decisions to make. We had to decide where California's eastern border should be. Finally, we decided it should be at the Sierra Nevada and the Colorado River. We also had to decide if California should be a slave state or a free state. We wrote a constitution that created a legislature to be elected by the people. In November 1849, the people of California voted to ratify the constitution. California became a state in 1850.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 248-49	Delegate 2 to the Monterey Convention	I am one of the 48 delegates to the Monterey Convention in 1849. We met in Colton Hall from September 1 st to October 13 th to draft California's Constitution. Eight of us were native born Californios. Because most of us only speak Spanish, the constitution was drafted in both Spanish and English. Thirty-six of the other delegates were born in the U.S. and four delegates came from countries in Europe.
Chpt. 6 Lesson 3 p. 179 p. 224-25 p. 253 p. R41	Mason , Bridgit "Biddy"	My name is Biddy Mason . I was brought to California as a slave. California was a free state and I won my freedom after my owner tried to force me to move to Texas. Hard work and my nursing skills helped me become a successful entrepreneur. I was one of the first black women to own land in Los Angeles. I gave generously to charities and provided food and shelter for the poor. I helped to start a school for African-American children. My son-in-law, Charles Owens, and I founded and financed the First African Methodist Church in L.A.