Objective:
1. To discover and explore the history of California in the 1840s

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials:
1. “The 1840s”

Directions:
1. **Distribute** “The 1840s.”
2. **Review** the definition of “decade” with your students. Mention that a decade in history often has unique characteristics. Make certain that the students realize that these changes occur gradually and not automatically on January 1 of a new decade. Why is there a difference? Does population density, availability of goods, access to technology, etc. influence how people live? Have students compare how they live today with how people lived in the 1840s. What are the biggest changes that have occurred? Have students present their findings and encourage them to include charts, images, and/or audio.
3. **Introduce** the 1840s. Explain to students that they will be studying three important decades during their “Journey.” By studying this time span students will learn how life changed not only in the San Gabriel Valley but throughout California, discovering how people’s lives changed and how that affected them (e.g., new inventions, education, work).
4. Have students **read** “The 1840s” individually, in pairs, groups, or as a class. Vocabulary words are in bold.
5. **Point out the highlights** of the 1840s—the population of Los Angeles, what kind of work people did, what kind of houses they lived in, how they traveled, and what they did for fun. Each of these topics will be discussed with students when they visit the Homestead Museum.
6. **Compare** the highlights of the 1840s with the 1870s and 1920s after studying each of the decades.
The 1840s

Meet Early Pioneers
If you go to Los Angeles, be sure to visit pioneers William Workman and John Rowland. They came to California in 1841 and received a large land grant called Rancho La Puente. The rancho is almost 49,000 acres.

All Invited To Fiesta
Yesterday, William Workman announced a rodeo on his rancho. All vaqueros and vaqueras must brand the calves and slaughter the older cattle for their hides and tallow. After the rodeo, Workman plans to have a big fiesta. Everyone is invited. There will be lots of music, dancing, food, and games. No one will want to miss this party.

Yankee Ship To Arrive
A trading ship from the United States is expected to arrive on the coast this week. All rancho owners who want to barter their hides and tallow need to meet the ship when it arrives. The ship will be carrying the latest merchandise. Among the products available will be shoes, candles, soap, spices, shawls, chocolate, and fireworks.

At War
It seems like Mexico may soon be at war with the United States. The Yankees want all the land between the East and West Coasts including California. Governor Pío Pico urges all young men to prepare to fight and join the Mexican army. We all wonder how life in California will change if the Yankees win.

Los Angeles
Biggest Town
The biggest town in southern California is El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles, but most people call it Los Angeles for short. It has a population of 2,000 people. Most people who live there are Gabrieliño Indians, Californios, or Mexicans. They live in adobe houses. Imagine that!—living in a house made out of mud and straw.

Yankee Ship Arrives!
The Pilgrim recently arrived with the latest in merchandise from the United States! Among the goods for sale are:

- Steel pens doz at $1.50
- Candle molds at $2.00
- Tea at $2.00
- Shoes at $2.50
- Cotton shirt at $2.50
- Macaroni at $6.00
- Chocolate at $15.00
- Shawls at $15.00

At Stearns Landing

RODEO
Vaqueros Wanted
Apply to W. Workman
Rancho La Puente

$1,000! $1,000!
and 1,000 head of cattle offered by Don Pio Pico in a horse race of 800 yards against his Sarco.

Blacksmithing of All Types
Hardware Ironwork Wheels Horseshoeing
On Wine Street

GOLD is rumored to have been found north of Los Angeles in Placerita Cañon. Some people have already gone to investigate.