

# The 1840s

Volume 1

A Journey Through Time Special Edition

## The Far West

In the Far West there is a territory called California. Have you heard of it? It stretches along the West Coast of North America and is part of Mexico. Hardly anyone lives there. That is why it is called a frontier. If you do go by ship or overland in a wagon, it can take up to six months traveling from Boston. When you arrive in the town of Los Angeles, all you see is desert. In fact the Mexican government has to give land away to get people to live there.

## 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 *Gabrielino* Indians or Mexicans. They live in *adobe* houses. Imagine that!—living in a house made out of mud and straw.

## 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. Do you know how big that is?



## 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. At night, Workman will light the Chinese fireworks. No one will want to miss this party.

## Yankee Ship To Arrive

A Yankee trading ship is expected to arrive on the coast this week. All *rancheros*, 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 Chinese 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 which includes California. Governor Pio 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.



## 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

**W** 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 *Sareco*.

**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.

A Journey Through Time Homestead Museum. Copyright 1996 Historical Resources Inc. All rights reserved.

# The 1840s Lesson Plan

## Objective:

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

**Time:** 30-45 minutes

## Materials:

1. "The 1840s"

## Directions:

- Distribute** "The 1840s."
- 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. You may want to have students list some unique characteristics of today (e.g., work, travel, leisure) to begin the lesson.
- 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).
- Have students **read** "The 1840s" individually, in pairs, groups, or as a class. Vocabulary words are in bold.
- When finished **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.
- Compare** the highlights of the 1840s with the 1870s and 1920s after studying each of the decades.

## Links to standards

**History/Social Studies:** 4.2.5, 4.2.8, 4.3.1, 4.4.2

**Language Arts:** RI.4.1, RI.4.2, RI.4.4, RF.4.3, RF.4.4a&c, W.4.1a-d, W.4.3a-e, W.4.4, W.4.7, SL.4.1, SL.4.2, SL.4.3, SL.4.5

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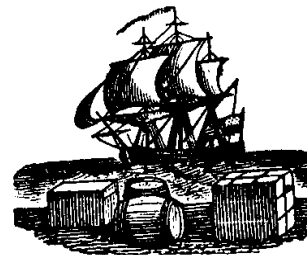
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