Navigating Local, Industry, and Institutional Resources for Research

Laura Tomcik Rebecca Kuske

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California Gold Rush

On January 24, 1848, carpenter James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill, a sawmill on the American River in Coloma, California. This news quickly spread across the country and around the world, igniting the California Gold Rush.

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A map showing the gold mining region of California and routes for traveling there, 1849.



A print depicting a long line of men, women, and families waiting to depart for the gold regions of California, 1848.

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Subjects US History Migration

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An excerpt from A trip across the plains, and life in California by George Keller, 1851.



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A letter from gold prospector Newton Chandler to his wife Jane after arriving in San Francisco, January 15, 1855.



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GALLERY

Passersby

On September 22nd, Car Free Day encourages motorists around the world to give up their vehicles for a day. Car-free days are an opportunity for city dwellers to realize the impact of pollution on our lives. Try it! Get out of your car and walk.

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20 ITEMS



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Early Encounters in North America

A collection of personal accounts from 1534 to 1850 that documents the relationships between Indigenous peoples, European settlers, and others, drawing from a wide range of narratives, diaries, and letters.

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Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures, and the Environment

Painstakingly assembled from hundreds of sources, Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures, and the Environment documents the relationships among peoples in North America from 1534 to 1850. The collection focuses on personal accounts and provides unique perspectives from all of the protagonists, including traders, slaves, missionaries, explorers, soldiers, native peoples, and officials, both men and women. The project brings... [Read more]

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