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The Golden State

Listen!



Let's Think

1. What do you know about California?
2. Do you know why so many people went to California in the past?

You are Sam. You are reading a blog entry on the Internet about California.

http://www.myblog.com/Keith/The_Golden_State

The Golden State

18th June, 20XX

When mentioning California, what pops up in your mind? Gold mines, sunshine, beautiful scenery or film stars?

Let's begin with its historical background. California was founded as a state in 1850. It was originally a part of Mexico, which was officially ceded to the

5 United States two years before gold was claimed to be found there. At that time, thousands of immigrants began flooding into California to get rich from gold mining. Since then, many Americans have regarded California as the place for a new life.

10 The once famous Golden Rush makes California the largest state in the United States with more than 38 million people living there, of which around 15 million are Hispanic, 14 million are European, 6 million are Asian and 2 million are African-American.

15 Today, people no longer go to the state for gold, but for sightseeing. There are many different types of amazing landscapes: deserts, hot springs and redwood forests, etc.

20 Apart from sightseeing, establishing a career is also why some people go there. After all, California is home to Hollywood stars, and it is where Disneyland, Silicon Valley and Microsoft are situated. People therefore believe that California is a place where they can chase their dreams. Do you think the same?



The state capital of California is the city of Sacramento.

posted by Keith at 10:30 pm

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(207 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the blog entry. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- In line 6, the words 'flooding into' means '_____'.
 - A. being forced to leave a place
 - B. moving into a place gradually
 - C. moving into a place in large numbers
 - D. died in the flood
- Which of the following people may **NOT** find California an ideal place in which to make a living nowadays?
 - A. an actress
 - B. a computer engineer
 - C. a gold miner
 - D. a stage performer
- What does the word 'regarded' in line 7 mean?
 - A. felt sorry that something had happened
 - B. looked at something carefully
 - C. connected with something
 - D. considered or had an opinion about something
- Which of the following statements is **NOT TRUE**?
 - A. California is a state with a wide variety of landscapes.
 - B. Mexico officially gave California to the United States in 1848.
 - C. Most people in California have a Hispanic and European background.
 - D. There are no other states in the US which have a higher population density than the state of California.
- Choose the correct order in which the blogger talks about California.
 - A. history → population → landscapes → career prospects
 - B. history → population → career prospects → landscapes
 - C. population → landscapes → history → career prospects
 - D. landscapes → population → history → career prospects

Grammar Corner

We use an **article** in front of a noun. The article 'a' or 'an' is used with a singular countable noun when we are talking about it for the first time.

e.g. *California was founded as a state in 1850.*
(Lines 3-4)

The article 'the' can be used with a countable or uncountable noun which has just been mentioned before.

e.g. *Today, people no longer go to the state for gold, but for sightseeing.*
(Line 13)

Eliminate the options which are true first.

Try to think of the given words as the subheadings of paragraphs 2-5.

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the blog entry. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. What does 'its' in line 3 refer to?

2. When did the Gold Rush happen in California? What was it?

3. One of your friends is planning a trip to California. Recommend three famous places to him or her.

(a) Entertainment: _____

(b) Commercial: _____

(c) Natural scenery: _____

4. Nowadays, why do people still go to California? Answer in no more than three words.

(a) To _____

(b) To _____

5. Complete the following pie chart about the ethnic backgrounds of people in California. One has been done for you as an example.



