

# School-to-Home Newsletter

Scott Foresman History-Social Science for California

## Unit 4: Growth and Development Since 1850

**History-Social Science 4.4** Students explain how California became an agricultural and industrial power, tracing the transformation of the California economy and its political and cultural development since the 1850s.

### Here are the main ideas we are learning:

- The Overland Mail Service and the Pony Express delivered mail to California in the mid-1800s.
- The transcontinental railroad project began in the 1850s and was completed in 1869.
- The Gold Rush changed the economy of California. As it ended, there was a major boom in agriculture.
- Between 1850 and 1900, groups of people came to California from countries such as China, Mexico, and Russia. They faced many challenges.
- California experienced rapid population growth as a result of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.
- During World War II, California increased its production of goods. Many port cities were used to send out soldiers and wartime goods. Japanese internment camps were set up farther inland.
- Many industries are important to California's economy, including the aerospace, electronic, communication, defense, oil, and automobile industries.

## Family Activities

### Talk Together

Discuss how your family communicates with people across a long distance. Then discuss how your family travels, both day-to-day and during vacations. How are modern communication and transportation methods different from those in the 1800s?

### Learn Together

Help your child learn about how California and its industries have changed over time.

- Send letters to several different places around the country. Ask the people who received your letters to tell you when they arrived. Compare the delivery times to those of the 1800s.
- Find out what industries are important to your community. How do these industries affect your family?
- When you are at the supermarket, make a list of the different fruits and vegetables grown in California and a list of those from somewhere else. Compare the two lists.

### Read Together

*So Far from the Sea*, by Eve Bunting. (Houghton Mifflin, ISBN 0-395-72095-8, 1998) Fiction

*Gold Fever! Tales from the California Gold Rush*, by Rosalyn Schanzer. (National Geographic Society, ISBN 0-792-27303-6, 1999) Nonfiction

*John Steinbeck*, by Catherine Reef. (Houghton Mifflin, ISBN 0-618-43244-2, 2004) Biography

## Unit Reading Skill

Students are learning about Sequence. Writers often present information in a certain order, or sequence. To help show a sequence of events, they might use dates or time-order words such as *first*, *then*, *now*, and *after*. Readers can understand what they read when they pay attention to these words.

**THANK YOU**  
for supporting  
your child's  
education!