

California's Water History

Student Worksheet

1. Why were California missions built near rivers? _____

2. Name three ways gold miners used water to help them get this precious metal.

3. Name two other activities in California history that depend on water: _____

4. What percentage of California's water resources is used by agriculture today?

5. What percentage of people live in the southern portion of California? _____

6. Where does 75% of the rain and snow fall in California? _____

7. What are some reasons that careful planning must be used to control our water resources? _____

Answers:
1. To provide water for the people and animals at the missions and to irrigate crops; 2. Panning gravel, sluicing gravel and hydraulic mining; 3. Lumbering and milling of wood and irrigation for farms and ranches; 4. 85%; 5. 75%; 6. In the north; 7. Irrigation, drought and flood control, urban or city use, recreation, creation of hydroelectric power, protect wildlife and environment.