In 1848, a spark of gold changed history. It all started with a man in California. He was working to build a sawmill. The sawmill was being built on a river. He saw something shiny in the water. He had found bits of gold!

Word spread about the gold in the river. People came from all over the country. They hoped to find gold and get rich. Thousands of people came. New towns grew to support them. At first, people took gold out of the water. Then they began mining the land. They used machines to dig for gold deep in the ground.

Years passed. Most of the gold was gone. Mining had hurt the land. Still, people kept going west. The state of California grew. Today, it has more people than any other U.S. state.
1. When did the man in California first find gold?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

2. Where did the man find the gold in California?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

3. Who else came to find gold?
   a. pirates
   b. people from all over the country
   c. a few people from the west

4. What did people use to dig for gold?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

5. What did mining do to the land?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

6. Write a question that you have about the text. Use a question word like who, what, where, when or why.
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________