

Eureka! California in Children's Literature, 1988-2005

Non-Fiction

Abbink, Emily. *California Missions: Missions of the Monterey Bay Area*.
Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. This volume includes information on the Carmel, Santa Cruz, and San Juan Bautista missions, along with brief descriptions of the life of the Ohlone Indians. [IP, 2005]

Ada, Alma Flor. *Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English*.
Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1997. Gr. K-5

Twenty-seven bilingual poems and luminescent gouache paintings in rich earthy hues present the bounty of crops in California and the agricultural laborers who harvest them. Letters from the Spanish alphabet begin poems about the bounty of the harvest - and honor, pride, family, friends, history, and heritage. 1998 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Alarcon, Francisco. *Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems/ Iguanas en Nieva y Otros Poemas de Invierno*.
Children's Book Press, 2001.

A rhythmical free-verse frolic through winter in northern California. The poems, in Spanish and English, reflecting seasonal activities in San Francisco's neighborhoods, one's first experience with snow in the Sierra Nevada, and a migrant family's plan to return to Mexico and the end of the crop season. Dancing, smiling kids and families, and iguanas, too, spill out of brightly colored full-page illustrations. A joyful, upbeat read aloud. 2002 ALA Notable; 2002 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Ancona, George. *Barrio: Jose's Neighborhood*.
Harcourt Brace, 1998. Gr. 5-8

An enchanting essay concerning cultural diversity in the Mission District of San Francisco, highlighting the many immigrant cultures that have melted together to form the "Barrio." Through the eyes of an 8-year-old boy, we experience the surrounding shops, murals, playgrounds, and family life. 2000 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Argueta, Jorge. *A Movie in My Pillow / Una pelicula en mi almohada*. Illus. by Elizabeth Gómez.
Children's Book Press, 2001. Gr. 2-6

Heartfelt and poignant, Jorge Argueta relates through poetry his childhood after his family flees war-torn El Salvador and comes to the colorful, multicultural barrio of San Francisco's Mission District. The poet evocatively describes emotions, events, memories and setting. Boldly colored illustrations accentuate the poems. [IP, 2005]

Arnold, Caroline. *On the Brink of Extinction: The California Condor*.
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993. Gr. 4-8

Arnold and photographer Michael Wallace, curator of birds at the Los Angeles Zoo, look at the work being done to restore California condors and rescue them from certain extinction. Filled

with incredible photographs and detailing the efforts involved in saving a species, Arnold and Wallace show the grace, strength, and beauty of the condors and the difficulty of saving them. An excellent look at the survival of a species. [IP, 2005]

Arnold, Caroline. *Stories in Stone: Rock Art Pictures by Early Americans*.
Clarion, 1996. Gr. 3-6

Ancient Native American tribes made over 100,000 fascinating examples of rock art found in the canyons of the Coso Range of the Mojave Desert of Eastern California. Arnold, in lucid text, speculates on the meaning of the art and the lives of its creators. Beautiful close-up color photos of petroglyphs depicting people, animals, and abstract symbols stimulate the reader's imagination. [IP, 2005]

Atkin, S. Beth. *Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farmworkers Tell Their Stories*.
Little, Brown, 1993. Gr. 5-8

Photographs, poems, and interviews with nine children who reveal the hardships and hopes of Mexican-American migrant farm workers and their families. [IP, 2005]

Bean, Lowell John and Lisa Bourgeault. *The Cahuilla*.
Chelsea House, 1989. Gr. 6-8

Bean and Bourgeault focus on the history and culture of the Cahuilla Indians, who first traveled to their home in what is now Southern California over 2000 years ago. [OP]

Behrens, June. *California Missions: Missions of the Central Coast*.
Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a new six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Santa Barbara, La Purisima Concepcion, and Santa Ines missions are included, along with brief descriptions of life among the Chumash Indians. [IP, 2005]

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *Cesar: Si Se Puede! Yes, We Can!* Illus. by David Diaz.
Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Gr. 2-8

Written in 19 short, free-verse poems, the life of Cesar Chavez is presented from his birth to his death. The format is unique for a biography, and because of this the book is dramatic and effective. Sunny and stylized, the computer-generated artwork by David Diaz extend the details of the short poems. An excellent companion to Kathleen Krull's book *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. Extensive endnotes. 2005 ALA Notable Books for Children.

Blake, Arthur. *The Gold Rush of 1849: Staking a Claim in California*.
Millbrook Press, 1995. Gr. 3-6

This short history of the California Gold Rush begins with the initial discovery of gold. In eight chapters, readers learn about the many individuals involved in the Gold Rush, California's drive towards statehood, and everyday life in California during this volatile time. Illustrated and indexed and with a chronology and bibliography.

Blashfield, Jean F. *California Gold Rush*.
Compass Point, 2000. Gr. 2-4

This 48-page book, written so that a good second- or third-grade reader could access it, describes the discovery of gold in California, the rush to the area by those seeking wealth, and how the Gold Rush sparked the state's development. Given the brevity of the text, Blashfield does a commendable job in making the Gold Rush understandable to the intended audience. Color and b/w photos and illustrations are attractively interspersed. Appended are a glossary, time line, list of important people, bibliography, webliography, and index and more.

Blumberg, Rhoda. *Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad*.
National Geographic, 1996. Gr. 6-YA

In addition to describing the colorful politics and the monumental engineering feats, Blumberg depicts the pageantry of this epic venture: the rowdy frontier towns, the con artists, and the visionaries, including California's "Big Four" (Crocker, Hopkins, Huntington and Stanford.)
1997 Orbis Pictus Honor Book.

Blumberg, Rhoda. *The Great American Gold Rush*. (1990 Beatty Award)
Bradbury Press, 1989. Gr. 4-8

Rhoda Blumberg vividly describes the emigration of people from all over the world to California's gold country in the 1840s. Her impeccable research and abundant use of primary source material and documents give this historical account a lively and fresh appeal. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1990 Orbis Pictus Honor Book. [OP]

Bosveld, Jane. *While a Tree Was Growing*. Illus. by Daniel O'Leary.
American Museum of Natural History/Workman, 1997 Gr. 4-8

While a giant sequoia tree is growing on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, the Shang dynasty rules in China (1500 B.C.), the statue of the Venus de Milo is sculpted (130 B.C.), Gutenberg invents the printing press (1450), and U.S. military spacecraft photographs show what may be ice on the moon (1996). These events of world history are given on a time line that runs along the bottom of the pages of text, which describe the tree's growth and changing environment. Through this juxtaposition of the tree's growth with a chronology of world events, readers are humbled and awed by the longevity and survival of these majestic trees.

Bowler, Sarah. *Father Junipero Serra and the California Missions*.
Child's World, 2003. Gr. 3-6

A simple, fair, and balanced overview that shows Fr. Serra as a small but heroic figure, trying to convert but also help the Native Americans, as he jostled with the cruel civil administrator, Pedro Fages and some of the soldiers who mistreated the Indians. The book is sympathetic to both Serra and the Indians, some of whom chafed under the enclosed mission system.

Brimmer, Larry. *Angel Island*.
Children's Press, 2001.

A bittersweet story of this western immigration point, now a California state park in the San Francisco Bay. For thirty years, 1910-1940, immigrants from primarily China and Japan, as well as Russia, Central and South America came to the Angel Island Immigration Station. This station, controversial from the start, offered prison-like living conditions and unfair treatment of its predominantly Asian occupants. The devastating treatment of Chinese immigrants was well

established by 1910, and the story provides background on this, as well as identification of unjust legislation enacted against them and, eventually, other members of the Asian community.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *A Migrant Family*

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

Shows the poverty in the daily life of Californians who are migrant farm workers. Part of the *In My Shoes* series.

Brower, Pauline. *California Missions: Missions of the Inland Valleys.*

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Brower describes San Antonia de Padua, San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, Nuestra Senora de la Soledad, and San Miguel Archangel missions. There is also background information on the life of the inland valley Indian tribes.

Brown, Tricia. *The City by the Bay: A Magical Journey Around San Francisco*

Chronicle Books, 1993. Gr. 1-3

Landmarks and other interesting and unique sights of San Francisco, the City by the Bay, are featured in this readable tour guide.

Brown, Tricia. *L'Chaim: The Story of a Russian Émigré Boy.*

Holt, 1994. Gr. 2-5

"L'Chaim" means "to life" and that is twelve-year-old Zev Tsukerman's toast to this new country, the United States of America, and to San Francisco where he now lives. Unlike in his birthplace, Odessa in the Ukraine, he and his family can now worship freely as Orthodox Jews. Colorful intimate photos by Kenneth Kobre help accentuate Zev's full new life. Includes a glossary and a list of sources.

Calabro, Marian. *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party.* (2000 Beatty Award)

Clarion Books, 1999.

Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47. 2000 ALA Notable Book for Children; ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Chippendale, Lisa. *The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.*

Chelsea House, 2001.

Part of the "Great Disaster" series. Using historical photographs and quotes from primary sources and eyewitnesses, each chapter focuses on daily events starting on April 18, 1906, and continuing through the subsequent fire that reduced the city to rubble and ash. The final chapter includes an analysis of lessons not learned and needed reforms. Includes a chronology, fact list, bibliography with websites, and an index.

Chin, Steven A. *Dragon Parade: A Chinese New Year Story.*

Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 1-6

This story of Norman Ah Sing and how he organized the first big celebration of Lunar New Year in 1851 is set in San Francisco.

Christensen, Bonnie. *Woody Guthrie, Poet of the People*.

Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. Gr. 3-8

A powerful, beautifully illustrated picture book about the wandering poet/folksinger/musician who told us the story of the people left behind in the 1930s Depression. Guthrie visited many of the migrant camps in California and sang his Dust Bowl ballads on the radio in Los Angeles. He sang of the people's hope and determination, too, in songs like "This Land Is Your Land," written in 1940. 2002 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2002 Boston Globe Horn Book Honor; 2002 Notable Social Studies Trade Book.

Cleary, Beverly. *My Own Two Feet: A Memoir*.

William Morrow, 1995. Gr. 5-YA

In this sequel to *A Girl from Yamhill*, author Cleary looks at her early days, from college in the 1930s at U.C. Berkeley through the publishing of her first book. Adults who read Cleary's books will appreciate the images and relationships she recreates as well as her honesty, and older children will appreciate insight into a much-loved author.

Cole, Jack. *California Angels*.

ABDO & Daughters, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Part of a series of histories of all major league baseball teams, this is a history of the Los Angeles team established in 1960. It includes great stories and pictures of such all-time greats as Bo Belinsky, Rod Carew, Reggie Jackson, and Fred Lynn, all of whom played as Angels.

Collins, David R. *Farmworker's Friend: The Story of Cesar Chavez*.

Carolrhoda, 1996. Gr. 4-8

With an abundance of black-and-white photos, and a text that personalizes this icon, the life of Cesar Chavez is made available to young readers in this uplifting book.

Cooper, Michael L. *Remembering Manzanar: Life in a Japanese Relocation Camp*.

Clarion Books, 2002. Gr. 5-8

Using first-hand accounts from diaries, journals, essays from school newspapers and yearbooks, Cooper tells the story of a darker aspect of American history, the internment of Japanese Americans at Manzanar War Relocation Center during World War II. With photos by Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange and others, the examination reveals not only the hardships the residents had to face but also the strength and resilience they exhibited in attempting to lead normal lives under trying circumstances. 2003 Carter G. Woodson Book Award.

Cornell, Joseph. *John Muir: My Life with Nature*.

Dawn Publications, 2000. Gr. 4+

A simply and seamlessly told life of Muir, who spent his entire adult life hiking, researching, writing and advocating for the preservation of untamed wilderness as national parks. A person of boundless curiosity and energy, Muir created a multitude of inventions in his youth, ranging from a bed that worked like an alarm clock to the "scholar's desk", a machine which "selected a book, opened it for you, and after a chosen amount of time, returned the book to the shelf." But

far greater than his astonishing inventions was Muir's gift for opening people's eyes (including President Teddy Roosevelt's during a four day trek to Yosemite) to the wonder of and urgency of protecting our natural resources. Whenever possible Cornell uses Muir's words in this lyrical first person or "autobiographical" account.

Cowing, Sheila. *Searches in the American Desert*.
Macmillan, 1989. Gr. 6-8

Approximately one-third of California is desert, and Sheila Cowing includes several California searches in her account of explorations in the southwestern deserts. These include the search for outside water for the growing city of Los Angeles, the search for a river that might run from the British colonies on the Atlantic coast to California and the Pacific Ocean, and the discovery of borax outside Death Valley. This well-documented and readable book is illustrated with photos and maps.

Crisman, Ruth. *Hot off the Press: Getting the News into Print*.
Lerner, 1991. Gr. 4-6

An in-depth look at the production of the *Los Angeles Times*, explaining how a newspaper is produced and how history has shaped today's publication. [OP]

De Ruiz, Dana Catharine. *La Causa: The Migrant Farmworkers' Story*.
Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 5-8

Describes the efforts of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s to organize migrant workers in California into a union.

Dell, Pamela. *Gavilan: A Story of Hollywood during the McCarthy Era*.
Tradition Books, 2004. Grades 4-7

In this series title, photographs and explanations of the McCarthy era are interspersed with the story of one family whose father was blacklisted. Ben and his sister have moved to Salinas with their father, leaving their mother in Hollywood, where she is still able to work. Though the story and documentary are sometimes awkwardly juxtaposed, children will come away with a good understanding of McCarthyism and how the "red scare" affected both society as a whole and individuals. Timeline, glossary, and additional resources are provided. *Part of the Scrapbooks of America* series.

Duncan, Dayton. *People of the West*.
Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 6+

This companion volume to the PBS documentary "The West" profiles fifteen men and women who are emblematic of the western experience. The cast of characters (which includes Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Buffalo Woman, and Kit Carson), the plentiful photographs, and the direct quotes from primary sources result in lively reading and engaging history.

Duncan, Dayton. *The West: An Illustrated History for Children*.
Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 4-8

This photo-filled companion to the PBS series "The West" is written to be accessible to children, but Duncan never oversimplifies the events of this colorful period in history.

Dunnahoo, Terry. *Sacramento, California*.

Dillon Press, 1997. Gr. 4-6

Readers learn about the history of California as they visit restored historical places in the capital city, including Sutter's Fort State Park and Old Sacramento. A historical time line and visitor information are appended. From the *Places in American History* series.

Emmanuels, George. *California Indians: An Illustrated Guide*.

Diablo Books, 1990. Gr. 4+

Information about sixteen major tribal groups has been collected from the recognized ethnographic works on California Indians and organized into short chapters, one for each tribe. Well-selected drawings, photographs, and pictures of tribal members are included in this reference resource, as well as letters and articles from the 1800s documenting the terrible treatment of native peoples. [OP]

Faulk, Odie B. and Laura E. Faulk. *The Modoc*.

Chelsea House, 1988. Gr. 6-8

Studies the history, changing fortunes, and current situation of the Modoc Indians who lived traditionally along what is now the Oregon-California border. From the Chelsea House's *Indians of North America* series.

Ferris, Jeri Chase. *With Open Hands: A Story about Biddy Mason*.

Carolrhoda, 1999. Gr. 2-3

The inspiring biography of an unknown black pioneer who journeyed to California as a slave and became a nurse and philanthropist who owned a great deal of real estate.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life*.

Greenwillow, 1996. Gr. 5-YA

Newbery Award winner Sid Fleischman humorously spins the story of his own adventures growing up in California and struggling to become a writer. 1997 ALA Notable Books for Children; ALA Best Book for Young Adult.

Florence, Donne. *John Steinbeck: America's Author*.

Enslow, 2000.

From his birth in a large Victorian house in Salinas, California, to his death in 1968, Florence gives the reader an inside look into the adventurous life of the influential author John Steinbeck. The text explores many aspects of Steinbeck's life, from his ongoing difficulties with fame, the press, and lack of privacy to revealing the private man behind the public persona even as he became the 1962 Nobel Prize winner for literature.

French, Fiona. *Lord of the Animals: A Miwok Indian Creation Myth*.

Millbrook Press, 1997. Gr. K-3

Stylized geometric illustrations based on designs found in ancient Indian pottery help tell this Miwok creation myth in which Coyote fashions man from river clay and bestows on him the cunning of his creator.

Gendar, Jeannine. *Grass Games and Moon Races: California Indian Games and Toys*.

Heyday Books, 1995. Gr. 5+

While the text includes traditional stories, technical information, and the history of the place of games and toys in native culture, the author states that her ultimate purpose is "to promote fun." Games covered include Indian football, playing with bows and arrows, dice games, racing, and children's games.

George, Linda. *Alcatraz*.

Children's Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

A brief history of this famous island, George uses an open format, easy but informative text and well-chosen photographs to document its infamous history. Strategically located at the entrance to the San Francisco Bay, the island has retained a sense of isolation and mystery. Beginning with its discovery and naming in 1775 (Island of the Pelicans), George describes its early years as a military fort during the Civil War, carefully chronicles its most famous era as the nation's highest-security prison from 1934-1963, and ends with its current fame as a popular tourist attraction.

George, Michael. *Sequoias*.

Creative Education Inc., 1992. Gr. 4+

Stunning photographs accompany text describing the physical characteristics, growth patterns, and longevity of the redwood and giant sequoia.

Gherman, Beverly. *Ansel Adams: America's Photographer*. (2003 Beatty Award)

Little, Brown, 2002. Gr. 6-12

From his childhood in San Francisco to his final years in Carmel, Gherman carefully documents the evolution of Ansel Adams from amateur photographer to artistic genius. GKH 2002; NSSTB 2003.

Gibson, Karen Bush. *Mudslide in Conchita, Ca, 2005*.

Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2005. Gr. 3-5.

A poignant and impressive addition to social science collections encouraging empathy for others in the face of disaster. Describes the small ocean-front town of Conchita and some of its residents, then describes the massive mudslide that the almost completely destroyed the town. Most interesting is the highlights on specific people, their experience, and people or objects lost forever. Excellent pictures drive the story home.

Gibson, Robert O. *The Chumash*.

Chelsea House, 1990. Gr. 6-8.

Another good entry in the *Indians of North America* series, this covers the history and culture of the Chumash, who inhabited a huge territory along the southern coast of the area now known as California. Extensive illustrations, some in color.

Givon, Hannah Gelman. *We Shake in a Quake*.

Tricycle, 1996. Gr. K-3

This rhyming, comically illustrated story about earthquakes is intended for young children and addresses the emotions and fears that could arise after an earthquake. A short explanation of

what causes earthquakes is included, plus tips on how to prepare for quakes, and what to do when one occurs.

Gold, Rebecca. *Steve Wozniak: A Wizard Called Woz.*

Lerner, 1994. Gr. 4-8

This short biography covers the life of the Apple co-founder and technical genius with a wacky sense of humor through his departure from Apple Computers in 1985.

Goldsmith, Connie. *Lost in Death Valley: The True Story of Four Families in California's Gold Rush.*

Twenty-First Century Books, 2001. Gr. 5+

Documents the poignant account of four pioneer families that are eager to reach the gold fields. Traveling to California via the Old Spanish Trail, they opt to leave the security of their wagon train, taking a misguided short cut through Death Valley. The heroism of the women, descriptions of the barren landscape, dried up lake beds, cow bone soup and swollen tongues will leave an enduring impression on readers of all ages. Contains original sources, maps, black and white photographs and bibliography.

Green, Carl. *The California Trail to Gold.*

Enslow, 2000.

The author does a commendable job in describing California before, during, and after the Gold Rush, as well as the people caught up in the times. There is good use of source materials and documents which are presented in boxed format throughout the book. Black-and-white illustrations and photos are also interspersed. A time line, chapter notes, bibliography with web sites, and index are appended. Enslow books always seem a bit narrow in format to this reader, but otherwise this is a good introduction to the times for fifth grade readers and up.

Greene, Katherine. *The Man Behind the Magic: The Story of Walt Disney.*

Viking, 1991. Gr. 5-7

The life of Walt Disney, from his boyhood on a Missouri farm through his building of a motion picture and amusement park empire in Southern California, is chronicled in this readable biography.

Hargrove, Jim. *Steven Spielberg: Amazing Filmmaker.*

Children's Press, 1988. Gr. 4-8

This book covers the life and career of Steven Spielberg, who moved with his family to California at the age of 16 and went on to become the talented film director. [OP]

Harris, Edward D. *John Charles Fremont and the Great Western Reconnaissance.*

Chelsea House, 1990. Gr. 6-8

Biography of the nineteenth-century soldier, politician, and explorer whose many expeditions helped open up the western territories to settlers from the east. Part of the Chelsea House's *World Explorers* series, this is generously illustrated with photographs, maps, and other reproductions.

Hart, Philip S. *Flying Free: America's First Black Aviators.*

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

While this is not entirely set in California, flying clubs in the Los Angeles area are featured in this rarely covered subject.

Haskins, James. *Cecil Poole, A Life in the Law*. (2004 Beatty Award)

Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, 2003. Gr. 6-12

An enthralling young adult biography about Alabama-born African-American Cecil Poole. With a calm temperament and meticulous work, Mr. Poole served as San Francisco City Attorney, was an appointee of Governor Pat Brown, served as a U.S. Attorney, and finally became a member of the history-making Ninth Federal District Court in San Francisco. This biography gives an eye-opening experience into the San Francisco of the mid-1900s and beyond. What we think of as a fairly enlightened city was, in the past, a city of cross burnings and segregated housing and schools.

Haskins, James. *Shirley Temple Black: Actress to Ambassador*.

Viking, 1988. Gr. 4-6

From popular child movie star of the 1930s to U.S. ambassador to Ghana during the Ford administration, this is a solid biography of a noted Californian. [OP]

Heinrichs, Ann. *California*.

Children's Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

This second edition in the "America the Beautiful" title should be a staple in all libraries, with information on California history, geography, culture, people, places, and facts. Straightforward text, numerous photos, and a detailed index. Part of the *America the Beautiful* series.

Henry, Sondra and Emily Taitz. *Everyone Wears His Name: A Biography of Levi Strauss*.

Dillon, 1990. Gr. 3-6

This biography traces the life of the immigrant Jewish peddler who went on to found the world's first and largest manufacturer of denim jeans. [OP]

Herrera, Juan. *Calling the Doves / El Canto De Las Palomas*.

Children's Book Press, 1995. Gr. 3-6

Mexican-American poet Juan Felipe Herrera tells of his childhood in the fields of California and the love of his family. With bold illustrations and a bilingual text, the day-to-day life of a migrant worker comes alive.

Hester, Sallie. *A Covered Wagon Girl: The Diary of Sallie Hester, 1849-1850*.

Blue Earth Books/Capstone, 2000. Gr. 6-YA

Excerpts from the diary of a fourteen-year-old girl introduce young readers to primary sources. The Hester family left a comfortable life in Indiana and joined a westward wagon train, in search of the health benefits associated with a warmer climate. The family arrived in California in September 1849 and, after a rainy winter, settled in San Jose.

Hewett, Joan. *Getting Elected: The Diary of a Campaign*.

Lodestar, 1989. Gr. 4-6

This fascinating photo-essay follows the campaign of Gloria Molina, the first Latina elected to the California State Assembly, as she runs for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council. [OP]

Hewett, Joan. *Hector Lives in the United States Now: The Story of a Mexican-American Child*.
Lippincott, 1990. Gr. 3-5

Hector Almaraz is a young Mexican-American living with his family in Los Angeles. Although Hector was born in Mexico, Los Angeles is the only home he has ever known, and the book describes his family's decision to apply for permanent residency in the country which they believe offers their children the best future. A good portrait of a bicultural heritage.

Hinton, Leanne. *Ishi's Tale of Lizard*.

Farrar, Straus Giroux, 1992. Gr. 4+

This authentic Native California tale was recorded in 1915 by an anthropologist who heard it from Ishi, the last surviving member of the Northern California Yahi tribe. The picture book format is misleading; this excerpt from a longer story is unfocused and difficult for children to follow, but preserves the original presentation.

Howell, Judd. *Wildlife California*.

Chronicle Books, 1991. Gr. 3-6

This is a photographic guide to the mammals, reptiles, and birds found in the wilderness areas of California. Part of the *Chronicle Junior Nature* series.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Celebrating the Chinese New Year*.

Holiday House, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Chinese New Year festivities come to life through the eyes of a Chinese-American boy in San Francisco's Chinatown. Filled with rich colors and vivid photographs, it explains many of the customs surrounding this holiday, including special foods, the importance of ancestors, the Chinese zodiac, and the pageantry.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Day of the Dead: A Mexican-American Celebration*.

Holiday House, 1994. Gr. 3-6

A Mexican-American family in Sacramento celebrates Dia de Muertos with traditional foods, crafts, and ceremonies. Color photos by Lawrence Migdale. A glossary and index are included.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Hoang Anh: A Vietnamese-American Boy*.

Holiday House, 1992. Gr. 3-6

Vietnamese refugee Hoang Anh came with his family to settle in San Rafael, California. In this excellent color photo-essay, the boy learns about American culture and traditional Vietnamese customs that remind him of his heritage.

Irvine, Georganne. *Protecting Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo*.

Simon & Schuster, 1990. Gr. 3-6

Each chapter tells the story of an animal at the San Diego Zoo and includes information on the history and status of each species and how zoo breeding programs contribute to species survival. Six species are covered, including the clouded leopard and the black rhinoceros.

Irving, Georganne. *Raising Gordy Gorilla*.

Simon & Schuster, 1990. Gr. 3-6

Gordy Gorilla, born prematurely and raised by zoo staff, is one of the San Diego Zoo's prime attractions. This book documents Gordy's first year and describes his adjustment to life on a wildlife preserve. [OP]

Irvine, Georgeanne. *The Visit of Two Giant Pandas at the San Diego Zoo*.

Simon & Schuster, 1991. Gr. 3-5

Basi and Yuan Yuan, two of the endangered giant panda species, traveled from China to the United States for a 200-day goodwill visit to the San Diego Zoo. Photos and text document the extraordinary trip.

Irvine, Georgeanne. *The Work of the Zoo Doctors at the San Diego Zoo*.

Simon & Schuster, 1991. Gr. 3-5

This photo-essay documents the work of several of the San Diego Zoo veterinarians who care for the zoo's 7000 exotic and rare birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Ito, Tom. *California Gold Rush*.

Lucent, 1997. Gr. 6-10

Many aspects of the mid-1800s Gold Rush find good coverage in this book. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, the massive influx of miners seeking their fortunes, the hard lives they led, and the proliferation of boom towns and their rapid decline into ghost towns make for interesting reading. Illustrated with many black-and-white archival photographs and reproductions, the book also includes notes on sources. From the *World History* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *Profiles of the California Governors*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are not cited in this volume, unlike the others in the series. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *California's 58 Counties*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are cited in all but *California Governors*. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *A Constitution for California*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are cited in all but *California Governors*. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jameson, W.C. *Buried Treasures of California: Legends from California's Mountains, Deserts, Beaches, and Cities*.

August House, 1995. Gr. 4-6

There's still a fortune to be found in California, according to these exciting tales - all verifiable in part - of adventurers who found and then lost gold and other treasures, including a 500-pound silver ingot!

Jaskol, Julie and Brian Lewis. *City of Angels: In and Around Los Angeles*.
Dutton Children's Books, 1999. Gr. K-3

With colorful, whimsical collage illustrations by Elisa Kleven, the entertaining, well-researched text introduce 20 neighborhoods and landmarks representing Los Angeles' diversity, history, and heritage. Fascinating facts and the find-an-angel-in-the-picture game make this a playful choice for children and compel the readers to visit the sites that epitomize the spirit of Los Angeles.

Jeffredo-Warden, Louise. *Ishi*.
Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 3-5

This short biography of Ishi, the last survivor of the Northern California Yahi tribe, is told in a straightforward manner without sentimentality. Colorful paintings illustrate this useful book, which includes a brief time line. [OP]

Jimenez, Francisco. *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*. (1998 Beatty Award)
University of New Mexico Press, 1997. Gr. 5+

Through first-person narrative, Francisco Jimenez relates his family's experiences as migrant farm workers following the harvesting of crops from California's Central Coast to the Central Valley. Twelve stories tell of a difficult everyday life in which uncertainty is the rule. While living quarters, friends, and schools can and do change overnight, family bonds remain constant. The innocent and optimistic voice of the author as a young boy allows the telling of his story without guile, sentimentality, or moralizing. 1999 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1998 Boston Globe Horn Book Award; 1998 Jane Addams Honor Book.

Kavanagh, Jack. *Sports Great Joe Montana*.
Enslow, 1992. Gr. 4-6

For California sports fans, this covers Joe Montana's football career with the San Francisco 49ers through the beginning of 1991.

Ketchum, Liza. *The Gold Rush*.
Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 3-7

Studded with primary source material and hundreds of photographs, this companion to the PBS series is a thorough exploration of California's Gold Rush era. This unique resource includes seldom-told stories of the women and children who were part of the Gold Rush.

Ketcham, Liza. *Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West*.
Little, Brown, 2000. Gr. 4-8

Three California pioneers are included in this fascinating book: Biddy Mason, former slave who becomes a nurse and philanthropist in early Los Angeles; Lotta Crabtree, entertainer in the gold fields; and Mary McGladery Tape, a scientist, photographer and civil rights advocate who got her name from Presbyterian missionaries who found the orphan around Shanghai and brought the eleven-year-old to San Francisco in 1868. At a time when only twenty percent (mainly boys) of Chinese children in California received an education, Mary attended a school for Chinese girls

on Franklin Avenue. She later brought suit against the San Francisco superintendent of schools for refusing to let Chinese American children attend school, despite the fact that their parents' taxes helped fund the public schools. 2002 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Kim, Katherine Cowy (ed.). *Quietly Torn, a Literary Journal by Young Lu Mien American Women Living in Richmond, California.*

Pacific News Service, 1999. YA

This slim volume contains interviews with and essays by young Loatian-American women living in the East Bay. A fascinating portrait into their lives as they and their families cope with adjusting to the fast-paced consumer culture of California.

King, Elizabeth. *Quinceanera: Celebrating Fifteen.*

Dutton, 1998. Gr. 5-8

In Latino communities a girl's fifteenth birthday is often honored by a coming-of-age ritual called the Quinceanera -- an extravagant celebration that includes a church service, huge feast and a party for extended family and friends. Weeks of preparation culminate in a celebration as important to these young women as their wedding. King affectionately documents two girls from Mission Hills, CA, as they prepare for this important day, illustrating how two diverse Hispanic cultures observe variant customs to celebrate this shared tradition. A postscript provides the Aztec origins.

Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez.* Illus. by Yuri Morales.

Harcourt, 2003. Gr. 1-5

Describes his childhood, with "every night like a fiesta," to his family's move to California because of drought, to picking fruit and vegetables and founding the United Farm Workers. A gorgeous picture book biography of the legendary farm worker and union organizer that leaves one with awe. 2004 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2004 Jane Addams Book Award; 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book.

Krull, Kathleen. *The Other Side: How Kids Live in a California Latino Neighborhood.*

Lodestar, 1994. Gr. 2-5

Depicts the life of three Mexican-American children in the border town of Chula Vista and their enjoyment of a bilingual culture.

Lavender, David. *Snowbound, the Tragic Story of the Donner Party.*

Holiday House, 1996. Gr. 5-7

This thoughtful account of the Donner Party's ill-fated expedition combines historical accuracy and adventure.

Lee, Georgia and Giorgio Bacchin. *A Day with a Chumash.*

Runestone Press, 1999. Gr. 3-6

This fictionalized account focusing on one family explores the history and daily life of the ancestors of Native Americans. Factual information introduces the Chumash culture, including location, shelter and food. Excellent photographs of artifacts, rock paintings, and map illustrate the text.

Lemke, Nancy. *California Missions: Missions of the Southern Coast*.

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a new six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Includes information on San Diego de Alcalá, San Juan Capistrano, and San Luis Rey de Francia Missions, along with brief descriptions of the life of Native Americans of southwestern California before the arrival of the Spaniards.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Death Valley: A Day in the Desert*.

Holiday House, 2001.

Informative text and haunting illustrations by Diane Dawson Hearn introduce younger readers to wildlife in California's most misunderstood desert. Charting the course of one full day, each page reveals desert wildlife through colors capturing the time of that day: morning sunrise, hot afternoon, sunset, cooling thunderstorm, and moonlit night. Plants and animals are accurately drawn and labeled in this "Level 2" non-fiction reader.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *She's Been Working on the Railroad*.

Lodestar, 1997. Gr. 5-8

Steam engine locomotives began running in North America in the 1830s. Women's roles, though limited, were an important part of railroad history. Stories of women working on the railroad from the past to the present, from jobs as charwomen, to telegraph operators, to locomotive engineers, are told in a lively anecdotal fashion. Although this book covers the history of railroads throughout the U.S., many of the stories are from California. Black-and-white photographs, end notes, a glossary, a list of further readings, and an index are included.

Lewin, Linda. *Pioneer Women of California*. Illus. by Jean Tamminga

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to five early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Locker, Thomas. *John Muir: America's Naturalist*.

Fulcrum Publishing, 2003. Gr. P-5.

This picture book biography of naturalist John Muir tells how his love for the wilderness led to the preservationist movement in the United States and throughout the world, including the founding of the Sierra Club. Locker's illustrations are typical of his style and quotes of Muir are included on each opening as well as on a final spread of just his quotes.

London, Jonathan. *Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale*.

Chronicle Books, 1993. Gr. K-3

With the help of other animals, Wild Old Coyote manages to acquire fire from the wicked Yellow Jacket sisters. Set in Northern California.

MacMillan, Dianne. *California Missions: Missions of the Los Angeles Area*.

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is one of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Each volume describes the indigenous life of a particular region, examines the

expansionist impulses behind Spain's mission system, analyzes the impact the missions had on California's Indian populations, and chronicles the missions of the area. This title covers San Gabriel, San Fernando Rey, and San Buenaventura missions, and is handsomely illustrated with colorful maps, photos, and visual aids.

MacMillan, Dianne. *Destination Los Angeles*.

Lerner, 1997. Gr. 4-6

This book from the "Port Cities of North America" series introduces one of the busiest U.S. ports, the Port of Los Angeles. A description of the seaport, its history, the day-to-day operations of the harbor facilities, and a brief tour of the City of Angels are included.

Magley, Beverly. *California Wildflowers: A Children's Field Guide to the State's Most Common Flowers*.

Falcon Press, 1989. Gr. 4+

With color illustrations by D. D. Dowden, this field guide introduces the state's most common wildflowers grouped by types of habitat.

Mayfield, Thomas Jefferson (adapted by Malcolm Margolin). *Adopted by Indians: A True Story*.

Heyday Books, 1997. Gr. 4-9

Mayfield lived his childhood among the Choinumne Indians of California's Central Valley, playing and sleeping alongside Choinumne children. He hunted and fished with them, shared their food, spoke their language, and wore their clothes. Although Margolin's adapted, edited version for children rambles, Mayfield's book is a treasure of first-hand narrative. If there can be too many details of the lives of the Choinumne, he supplied them, but we perceive a definite, unique flavor of Indian life in the nineteenth century before the brutal and tragic life on the reservations began. Illustrations by Hilair Chism and Rick Jones are odd, but again give a flavor of life at that time.

McAuliffe, Emily. *California: Facts and Symbols*.

Hilltop Books, 1998. Gr. 1-4

An easy non-fiction title that presents all the essential information about California and its symbols using large clear pictures in a simple format.

Meyer, Kathleen Allan. *Tul-Tok-A-Na: The Small One: A Yosemite Indian Legend*.

Council for Indian Education, 1992. Gr. K-3

A little inch worm living in the beautiful Yosemite Valley is unhappy because of his size and longs to perform an act of courage. When all efforts by the large forest animals to rescue two young Indian boys fail, he is given a chance to prove his bravery. This Indian legend explains how El Capitan became the tallest rock in the Yosemite Valley.

The Missions of California (series).

Rosen Power Kids, 1999. Gr. 3-7

Each title in the series focuses on an individual mission, with color and black-and-white photographs, drawings, maps and historic reproductions enlivening the text. Appended are directions for building a model, a bibliography of resources and Web sites, and a list of important dates.

Morrison, Taylor. *The Coast Mappers*.

Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Gr. 3-8

This is a highly interesting and informative account of how the West Coast was accurately mapped and the coastal topography recorded in the mid-1800s. Fraught with hazards, danger and excitement, and accompanied by rich, detailed illustrations which evoke the atmosphere of the North Coast, this is an excellent picture book presentation of nonfiction information, about which is not widely written.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Filipinos in California*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Japanese in California*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Mexicans in California*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Murcia, Rebecca Thatcher. *Dolores Huerta*.

Mitchell Lane, 2003. Gr. 4-8.

This brief (48 pages) yet informative biography chronicles the life of Dolores Huerta who, along with Cesar Chavez, established the Farm Workers Association, later to be known as the United Farm Workers. Murcia offers insights into the personal life of Huerta along with details of her struggles to further the rights of migrant laborers. A chronology and timeline in history are appended.

Murphy, Virginia Reed. *Across the Plains in the Donner Party*.

Linnet, 1996. Gr. 6+

Virginia Reed's story, written 45 years after her childhood journey, is the foundation for the text of this book. Separate chapters feature James Reed's letters written to relatives back east as he and his family traveled west, and further sources supplement the description of the winter of 1846-47, when the group was trapped in the Sierras.

Navarro, Dawn E. *Chelonia: Return of the Sea Turtle*.

Sea Challengers, 2001. Gr. 1-5

This gorgeous picture book is based on a true story about how a little girl and her father save a young Green Sea Turtle along the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Its focus is on conservationism on the West Coast, with much information about sea life and the 1973 Endangered Species Act. Included on the Eureka list because of its portrayal of marine conservation efforts by some California groups.

O'Connor, Karen. *Dan Thuy's New Life in America*.

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

Thirteen-year-old Dan Thuy Huynh and her family had been in the United States just four months when this photo-essay on their new life in San Diego was begun. While focusing on Dan Thuy, O'Connor discusses all members of this Vietnamese family and their adjustment to life in San Diego.

O'Donnell, Kerri. *The Gold Rush: A Primary Source History of the Search for Gold in California*.

PowerKids Press, 2003. Gr. 4-8.

The strengths of this readable gold rush book lie in the straightforward and logical presentation of the information, making it a source that students should be able to digest. Interest is added through the lithographs, photographs, and first-hand accounts, which make history seem more immediate. A good book for both California history curriculum, and lessons on primary and secondary sources. Part of the *Primary Sources in American History* series.

Parker, Adam D. *Mountain Men in California*.

Toucan Valley, 2000. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to five early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Parker, Adam D. *People of the California Gold Rush*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to twelve early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Partridge, Elizabeth. *Restless Spirit: the Life and Work of Dorothea Lange*.

Viking Press, 1998. Gr. YA

Partridge presents a personalized photo biography of Dorothea Lange, as she knew Lange as a young girl in Berkeley, CA and shares her special memories of her. Beginning with her childhood years on New York's lower East Side and her early years as a portrait photographer in San Francisco, the strengths of Lange and this book lie in her powerful work as a photo-journalist documenting Japanese internment during World War II and the starving migrant workers in California. An independent woman with radical politics, Lange had to balance her important career with a challenging family life, but her words and photos resonate with her potent message and ethical spirit. 1999 ALA Notable Books for Children; 2000 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1998 Golden Kite Honor Book; 1999 Jane Addams Honor Book.

Perez, Amada Irma. *My Diary from Here to There: Mi diario de aqui hasta alla*. Illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez.

Children's Book Press, 2002. Gr. P-4

This autobiographical tale tells the story of the author's family's immigration to the United States from Mexico as told in her diary. The many hopes, fears and dreams expressed are probably common to many immigrants and give the reader a real sense of what it is like to have to pull up roots and move to a totally alien environment. The bilingual text is ably supported by attractive, colorful illustrations. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book.

Peet, Bill. *Bill Peet, an Autobiography*.

Houghton, 1989. Gr. 3-6

Bill Peet's reminiscences of his childhood and career as an artist at the Disney Studios in Burbank and as a children's book author and illustrator are accompanied by dozens of drawings, scenes both from his work and from his life. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1990 Caldecott Honor; 1989 Golden Kite Honor Book.

Presnall, Judith Janda. *Life on Alcatraz*.

Lucent, 2001.

An account of everyday life on the "rock" without glamorizing it, explaining how the prison evolved and why criminals are separated from society, as well as crime in the United States during the 1920's and 1930's. As the U.S. Army prepared to abandon the costly prison, J. Edgar Hoover found Alcatraz the "perfect prison." Famous occupants such as "Machine Gun" Kelly, "Creepy" Karpis, Robert "Birdman" Stroud and Al Capone provide examples of why a maximum-security prison was needed for this new breed of criminal. From the first warden to its closing, ordered by Robert F. Kennedy, *Life on Alcatraz* presents a fascinating, balanced account of San Francisco's most popular tourist attraction. Maps, black and white photographs, websites and an extensive bibliography are included.

Raab, Joy. *Kate Sessions: The Mother of Balboa Park*.

Ridgway Park, 2003. Gr. K-5

A picture book biography that celebrates the life of horticulturist Kate Sessions, who was responsible for creating the gardens and landscape of San Diego's Balboa Park. A simple book, beautifully laid out and illustrated, depicting Kate's love of the earth and her desire to share her extensive knowledge.

Reed, Don C. *Wild Lion of the Sea*.

Sierra Club Books, 1992. Gr. 5-7

When George, a Steller sea lion, first comes to Marine World, now in Vallejo, he is a pup. In time he grows into his full 2000-pound size and is impossible for trainers to control. [OP]

Reef, Catherine. *John Steinbeck*.

Clarion, 1996. Gr. 7+

In this telling portrait of Steinbeck, Reef focuses on his development as a writer. Using clear prose, striking photos, and revealing quotes and anecdotes, she explores the major influences on his work: Steinbeck's travels, his profound responses to social conditions, and the writings of Robert Louis Stevenson and Thomas Malory. 1997 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Rosen, Michael. *The Dog Who Walked With God*.

Candlewick Press, 1998. Gr. 1-4

Told by the Kato Indian tribe of northern California, this book follows the tale of the Great Traveler who created our world with his faithful canine companion at his side. The gentle beauty of the pencil and watercolor illustrations is the highlight of this book.

Ross, Michael Elsohn. *Nature Art with Chiura Obata*.

Carolrhoda, 2000.

This is a fascinating biography of Chiura Obata, a Japanese American artist who came to America and was drawn to the beauty of California, especially the Yosemite National Park. Ross covers Obata's childhood in Japan, his move to the United States, family life, the forced relocation of Japanese from California during World War II, and his years as an artist and teacher. Color samples of Obata's work, black-and-white photos, Obata's sketches of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, and other visuals are neatly incorporated into the book. Interspersed throughout the book are tips for young artists interested in depicting nature.

Ryder, Joanne. *Dancers in the Garden*.

Sierra Club Books, 1992. Gr. P-3

A beautifully illustrated picture book, this focuses on the lives of the hummingbirds of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

San Souci, Robert D. (adapt.) *Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend from California's Yosemite Valley*.

Yosemite Association, 1997. Gr. K-3

This Southern Sierra Miwok "pourquoi" story relates the origin of the mountain we know as El Capitan in Yosemite. Two bear cubs are stranded on top of a tall mountain and only the brave measuring worm is able to climb it to rescue them. The watercolor illustrations by Daniel San Souci are filled with authentic details from the Miwok culture that the extensive afternotes describe. A list of related readings and Internet resources are included.

Schanzer, Rosalyn (ed.). *Gold Fever! Tales from the California Gold Rush*.

Simon, 1999. Gr. 3-7

Using excerpts from letters and diaries and vivid acrylic illustrations, the Gold Rush is brought to life, depicting the treacherous routes people followed, life in the mining camps, and the end of the boomtown era.

Schroeder, Alan. *Jack London*.

Chelsea House, 1992. Gr. 6-8

This well-written biography of Jack London uses new research and well-chosen illustrations to expand our knowledge of this famous Northern California writer.

Schroeder, Lisa Golden. *California Gold Rush Cooking*.

Capstone/Blue Earth, 2001.

Modernized recipes supplement this overview of common foods eaten by emigrants and miners. The culinary contributions of women bakers and gardeners, Mexican and Native American

traders, Chinese restaurant owners, and Peruvian candy maker Domingo Ghiradelli are discussed briefly.

Schwartz, Perry. *Making Movies*.

Lerner, 1989. Gr. 5-8

Perry describes what happens during the production of a motion picture in a Southern California movie studio and explains the jobs of all the people involved. Crisp format, informative text, and generous use of photographs make this an appealing book. [OP]

Scott, Victoria and Ernest Jones. *Sylvia Stark: A Pioneer*.

Open Hand, 1991. Gr. 4-6

Sylvia Stark was born a slave in Missouri, moved briefly to California, and spent most of her life living on an island off the coast of British Columbia, where she died at the age of 105. Her seven years in California were brief, but important for African-American families. Three chapters in this short biography describe her family's move to California, their life near Placerville, and a pivotal meeting at Zion Baptist Church in San Francisco that persuaded over 600 African-Americans to move from California to Vancouver.

Sehnert, Chris W. *San Francisco Giants*.

ABDO & Daughters, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Part of a series of histories of all major league baseball teams, this book covers the history of the team that spent seventy-five years as the New York Giants and then moved to San Francisco to begin the 1958 season. This book tells of the years from 1883 on, including the stories of such stand-out players as Christy Mathewson, "Rube" Marquard, Mell Ott, "King Carl" Hubbell, and the managers John "Mugsy" McGraw and Bill Terry and many more.

Sherrow, Victoria. *Life During the Gold Rush*.

Lucent, 1998. YA

Focusing on the way people lived during the California Gold Rush, the author explores topics only touched upon in conventional histories, such as malnutrition in mining camps, forty-niners from foreign countries, racism, vigilantes, leisure pursuits, and the effect of the gold rush on native peoples.

Siebert, Diane. *Mojave*.

Crowell, 1988. Gr. 3-5

Siebert's evocative text and dramatic paintings by Wendell Minor give a sense of the desert's continuous changes and the people who have lived there, in this poetic celebration of the Mojave Desert.

Siebert, Diane. *Sierra*. (1992 Beatty Award)

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. 3-5

Exquisite paintings match the majesty of this beautiful poem, in which one of the Sierra Nevada mountains speaks of the beauty and timelessness of herself and her sister peaks.

Silva, Simon. *Small Town Brownny*.

Arte Cachanilla, 1998. Gr. YA

Gritty episodes from the life of a young farm worker include the near overdose of a crazy brother, riding the cock fighting circuit with father, a sweaty description of a day picking cotton, and the death of a gentle, frail friend and co-worker.

Slaymaker, Melissa Eskridge. *Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbrey*. Illus. by Julie Paschkis.

Henry Holt, 2004. Gr. K-5

This brightly illustrated, cheerful introduction to "Grandma" Tressa Prisbrey is a wonderful account of this California folk artist's life and creations. Prisbrey's story is presented in a lively style that is perfect for read-alouds to elementary-aged children. Children may be inspired to create their own art from ordinary objects, and to find beauty and usefulness in objects they encounter in their everyday lives.

Soto, Gary. *Jessie De La Cruz: A Profile of a United Farm Worker*.

Persea Books, 2000. Gr. 6+

After becoming a member of the union in 1966, Jessie De La Cruz she went from field to field at Cesar Chavez's request to recruit farm workers as members, and took part in strikes and marches to spearhead social change. Soto profiles her life from her childhood as a five-year-old migrant farm worker in southern California, the hardships she and her family and fellow workers endured, her involvement in *la causa*, to her continuing efforts today for social justice. Eight pages of photographs, a bibliography and index are included.

Soto, Gary. *Neighborhood Odes*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. 4-8

A delightful collection of twenty-one poems that celebrate with humor and insight the author's childhood in the barrio of Fresno.

St. Antoine, Sara (ed.). *Stories from Where We Live: The California Coast*.

Milkweed Editions, 2001. Gr. 5+

This is an utterly fascinating collection of stories, poems and essays, ranging from "Almost a Hanging," an incredible story of gold miners near Sacramento, to an encounter with a sea lion near Fort Ord in "The Long Bike Ride." You'll meet "One-Eyed Charlie" Parkhurst, the young woman stagecoach driver who masqueraded as a man, devastation in San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, "The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island," catch grunion along the Torrey Pines Beach and much, much more. Great introduction to California's history and ecology!

Stanley, Jerry. *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch*. (1993 Beatty award)

Crown, 1992. Gr. 4+

In lively prose, this meticulously researched book tells the story of the families who migrated to California's Central Valley from the dust bowl regions of the Midwest. The book focuses on the children who lived in Arvin Federal Camp, known to its residents, and to the readers of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, as "Weedpatch Camp." It is also the inspiring story of the school built by and for the children under the leadership of Superintendent Leo Hart. The book is generously illustrated with photographs and enlivened with reminiscences from the children who

attended Weedpatch School. 1993 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1993 Orbis Pictus Award Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *Digger: The Tragic Fate of the California Indians from the Missions to the Gold Rush*. Crown, 1997. Gr. 6+

Stanley pulls no punches in describing how the native Californians were mistreated and decimated by the European and American settlers. Dividing the book into three parts, the author discusses the native culture before the arrival of the Europeans, the rise and fall of the Spanish mission system and its effects, and the discovery of gold and the resulting influx of Americans. A chapter on Ishi rounds out the coverage. A chronology, glossary of selected California Indian tribal names, bibliographic notes, and an index are included. 1998 Orbis Pictus Honor Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *Hurry Freedom: African Americans in the Gold Rush*. (2001 Beatty Award) Crown Publishers, 2000. Gr. 6+

Recounts the history of free and slave African Americans in gold rush California by primarily following the story of Mifflin Gibbs. Having arrived in California in 1850 with ten cents to his name, Gibbs went on to make his livelihood by establishing a successful boot and shoe business. More importantly, Gibbs was active in helping runaway slaves to safety through his work as an agent in California's Underground Railroad. He also worked tirelessly for a decade in obtaining equal legal rights for African Americans in the California courts where they previously had been prohibited from testifying. Stanley presents a fascinating and informative look at an aspect of the California Gold Rush that has previously been overlooked in studies of the period written for children. 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book; 2001 Orbis Pictus Award Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment*. Crown, 1994. Gr. 6-12

The personal experiences of Shiro Homura, a senior at Banning High in Los Angeles, whose family was relocated to Manzanar during World War II, are supplemented by archival photos, including some by Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. An index and extensive source notes are included. 1995 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Steele, Christy. *California And The Southwest Join The United States*. Gareth Stevens, 2005. Gr. 2-4

A history of book focused primarily on the 19th century that accomplishes what few books of its type manage: interest and humor. A reader shouldn't miss how Arizona amended its constitution to become a state. With several "a-ha" moments that you don't find in standard state history texts, this is one children will enjoy reading. [IP, 2006]

Stein, R. Conrad. *Los Angeles*. Children's Press, 2001.

This book is characterized by photographic images of architecture, natural beauty, city landmarks and children from various ethnic backgrounds. While the pictures are always filled with sunshine (closely resembling a travel guidebook) the text does discuss the city's urban challenges such as race relations and pollution. Additional features include a "Fast Facts" section, a historical chronology and a map.

Streissguth, Tom. *Jack London*.

Lerner, 2001. Gr. 5+

This readable biography chronicles the life of Jack London, a young man driven by poverty and wanderlust, who grew to love books thanks to an Oakland public librarian. His short life was rich in adventure, world travel, and hardship, socialism and illness; all of which led to prolific writing and world fame. An A&E Biography complete with many black and white photographs.

Sullivan, Michael. *Chris Mullin, Star Forward*.

Enslow, 1994. Gr. 5-8

A short biography of the Golden State Warriors basketball player, Chris Mullin, this includes descriptions of winning games, playoffs, and a few facts of Mullin's private life. Black-and-white photos, chapter notes, career statistics, and an index round out this sports bio.

Tanaka, Shelley. *Earthquake!: On a Peaceful Spring Morning, Disaster Strikes San Francisco*. Illus. by David Craig.

Hyperion, 2004. Gr. 4-8

An informative and colorful text, based on four first-hand accounts and primary documents make this San Francisco Earthquake text for middle grades a winner. Tanaka skillfully weaves eyewitness accounts into a fast-paced, readable narrative highlighted with period photographs, reproductions of earthquake artifacts and vivid oil paintings by Craig. Breakout pages bring details of the Chinatown community, the science of earthquakes and other important details to the forefront. Glossary, index, source notes and further reading are provided.

Thompson, Gare. *When The Mission Padre Came To The Rancho*.

National Geographic Society, 2004. Gr. 2-5

Readers get a "you are there" account of day-to-day life on a California rancho. Author Gare Thompson incorporates historical details into the fictional diaries of Rosalinda and Simon Delgado and letters from their friend, Padre Ramon. Paintings and photographs of historical artifacts add interest to descriptions of daily life in Mexican California. A nice resource for those working on California state reports.

Tokuda, Wendy. *Samson the Hot Tub Bear*.

Roberts Rinehart, 1998. Gr. 1-4

This true story, which took place in the town of Monrovia, California, tells of the large cinnamon-colored bear who was found eating and swimming in residential backyards. Nicknamed Samson by the people in whose hot tubs he loved to soak, he was eventually captured and scheduled to be put to sleep by authorities. Through a grassroots effort that gets the governor's attention, Samson was instead moved to a zoo.

Tolan, Sally. *John Muir: Naturalist, Writer, and Guardian of the North American Wilderness*.

Gareth Stevens, 1990. Gr. 4-6

Part of the *People Who Have Helped the World* series, this covers Muir's life and influence, and is well illustrated with photographs and reproductions. [OP]

Tunnell, Michael O. and George W. Chilcoat. *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp*.

Holiday House, 1996. Gr. 4-8

Teacher Lillian "Anne" Yamauchi Hori taught third grade at the internment camp in Topaz, Utah, during World War II. Her class's diary, filled with the students' drawings and remarks, is the basis for this history of life in the camp. Nearly all of the Topaz internees were from California, sent from the Tanforan Assembly Center by train from San Bruno to Topaz.

Turner, Erin H. *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable California Women*.

Falcon, 1999. Gr. 4-8

These ten California women of the 1800s – early 1900s are remarkable because “they took roles that traditionally fell outside the boundaries of what was proper for women of the era to do.” She includes famous women such as photographer Dorothea Lange, dancer Isadora Duncan, actress Mary Pickford, and mystery house founder Sarah Winchester as well as women who would be less well-known to children such as Mary Ellen Pleasant, and Tye Leung Schulze.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Invisible Thread*.

Messner, 1991. Gr. 5-8

This autobiography of a gifted writer is a joy to savor. Set in the San Francisco Bay Area, Yoshiko is an all-American girl who also carries the thread of her Japanese heritage. Her time in the internment camps makes fascinating reading. A big work, this is not to be missed. [OP]

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth. *Levi Strauss: The Blue Jeans Man*.

Walker, 1988. Gr. 4-6

Success story of the Jewish immigrant whose jeans for miners in San Francisco Gold Rush days marked the start of a business known worldwide today.

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth. *The California Gold Rush: West with the Forty-Niners*.

Watts, 1991. Gr. 4-7

Maps, period oil paintings, and photo prints enliven this story of the California Gold Rush.

Vieira, Linda. *The Ever-Living Tree: The Life and Times of a Coast Redwood*.

Walker, 1994. Gr. 2-4

Traces the life and growth of a single redwood in Northern California over a period of 2,300 years, as world history unfolds. Text is enhanced by striking color paintings.

Villasenor, Vitor. *Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power*.

Arte Publico/Pinata, 1994. Gr. 5-8

A collection of tales containing elements of Native American folklore, Bible stories, and Mexican history - a celebration of Mexican-American identity.

Vogel, Carole. *Shock Waves Through Los Angeles: The Northridge Earthquake*.

Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 4-6

Color photographs and simple, clear maps inventory the results of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. From lost human lives to collapsed freeways to train derailment and collapsed

buildings, this book details not only what happened but why, and how we can protect ourselves by preparing for future earthquakes.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *John Muir: Wilderness Protector*.

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-8

Wadsworth presents John Muir through his own writing and through the eyes of others. With no skimping on details and an excellent choice of photographs, this top-notch biography gives a thorough picture of Muir and his inspiring visions.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Julia Morgan: Architect of Dreams*.

Lerner, 1990. Gr. 4-8

Bountifully illustrated with photographs and reproductions of drawings, this is a lively introduction to an independent woman who left a legacy of over 700 buildings, most of them in California.

Wallner, Rosemary. *Tom Hanks: Academy Award-Winning Actor*.

ABDO, 1994. Gr. 4-6

A childhood-to-career success biography of actor Tom Hanks. It includes a list of his movie and television credits. Part of the *Reach for the Stars* series.

Wardlaw, Lee. *Cowabunga! The Complete Book of Surfing*.

Avon, 1991. Gr. 5+

This Santa Barbara author covers everything from the history of surfing to how to care for boards and surfing etiquette. A glossary, list of surfing organizations, and surfing publications and schools are included.

White, Tekla. *California Missions: Missions of the San Francisco Bay Area*.

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

Similar in format and approach to MacMillan's *Missions of the Los Angeles Area*, the missions chronicled in this title are: San Francisco de Asis, Santa Clara, San Jose, San Rafael, and San Francisco Solano. Part of Lerner's *California Missions* series.

Wiedt, Maryann. *Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss*.

Carolrhoda, 1994. Gr. 3-5

A lively journey through the career of children's author/illustrator Theodore Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss. It discusses the inspiration for a number of his books and describes his tribulations, including a long fight with cancer.

Wilcox, John. *The Chumash Through a Child's Eyes*. Illustrated by Kate Yarbrough.

Shoreline Press, 1997. Gr. K-2

In this brief introduction to the Chumash people, a simple text and full-color paintings compare features of Chumash daily life - housing, food preparation, construction of baskets and canoes, cave painting, and games - with the activities of a contemporary family. Sidebars add details of the life and culture of the Chumash.

Wildlife California.

Chronicle Books, 1991. Gr. 3-5

A photographic guide to the mammals, reptiles, and birds, found in the wilderness areas of California.

Wills, Charles A. *A Historical Album of California History*.

Millbrook Press, 1994. Gr. 4-8

This thin volume of California history is light on details but profusely illustrated with black-and-white reproductions and photos.

Wood, Ted. *Ghosts of the West Coast: The Lost Souls of the Queen Mary and Other Real-Life Hauntings*.

Walker, 1999. Gr. 4+

An outstanding, fun-to-booktalk guidebook describing haunts and their stories in missions, restaurants, historic homes, lighthouses and many other offbeat places for the curious.

Yamane, Linda. *Weaving a California Tradition: A Native American Basketmaker*.

Lerner, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Eleven-year-old Carly Tex is a western Mono who lives in Dunlap, California. Her family has a long tradition as basket weavers and Carly continues this legacy. This photo-essay chronicles the day-to-day life of Carly and her family as well as their basket weaving. Color photographs are informal and show a tight-knit family and community maintaining their cultural identity in contemporary society. A glossary and list for further reading are included.

Yep, Laurence. *Lost Garden: A Memoir*.

Messner, 1991. Gr. 4-6

The author describes how he grew up as a Chinese-American in San Francisco and how he came to use his writing to celebrate his family and his heritage. This warmly personal account is told with humor and insight.

Yep, Laurence. *Rainbow People*.

Harper & Row, 1989. Gr. 4+

These tales were originally collected as part of a WPA project in the 1930s in Oakland's Chinatown. While all but one is set in China, Yep's perceptive notes help the reader understand the importance of the stories and storytelling to the Chinese-Americans living in Northern California. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1989 Boston Globe Horn Book Honor.

Yep, Laurence. *Tongues of Jade*.

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. 4+

Yep again uses traditional stories from China to illuminate the Chinese experience in America, here known as "The Golden Mountain." Introductions to each group of stories explore the importance of each to the Chinese immigrants who kept them alive. Based on the same Oakland Chinatown project as Yep's *The Rainbow People*. [OP]

Yoo, Paula. *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story*. Illustrated by Dom Lee.

Lee & Low Books, 2005. Gr. 2-4

This riveting picture book biography tells the inspirational story of Dr. Sammy Lee, a Korean American who overcame obstacles of segregation and discrimination in California to become an Olympic diving champion. Using straightforward text complemented by wonderfully textured sepia-toned illustrations, the book takes readers on a motivational journey of Lee's sixteen-year struggle to become the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal in 1948. An appended author's note provides information on Lee's post-Olympic life. [IP, 2006]

Young, Robert. *A Personal Tour of La Purisima*.

Lerner, 1999. Gr. 4-7

Reader will receive an overview of this historical period from the fictionalized accounts of six individuals. Photographs, charts, informative sidebars, and floor plans complement the text. Part of the *How It Was* series.

Zelver, Patricia. *The Wonderful Towers of Watts*.

Morrow/Tambourine, 1994. Gr. K-3

This brightly illustrated picture book describes the life's avocation of Italian immigrant Simon Rodia ("Old Sam" to his neighbors) who spent thirty-three years constructing the fantasy sculptures known as Watts Towers. Paintings by Frane Lessac.