California Gold Rush

In 1848, James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California, which is about 140 miles northeast from San Francisco. As the world learned of the discovery, thousands of people traveled to California from Asia, South America, Europe, and across North America to strike it rich. Most miners were unsuccessful, but the gold rush’s impact can still be felt today in the violence experienced by California’s Native communities and the environment in northern California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M535518;type=103
Object Name: Map
Maker: J. Disturnell
Title: Map of California, New Mexico and Adjacent Countries Showing The Gold Regions & c.
Date: 1849
Object ID: 90.253.284
Notes: Color map of California and New Mexico detailing routes and topographic information.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M302266;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Maker: Unidentified artist
California Gold Rush

Title: *Crossing the Sierras in ’49*
Date: Undated

Object ID: LS.7260
Notes: A lantern slide featuring a stagecoach pulled by a team of horses through the Sierra mountains. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M505633;type=101
Object Name: Scale
Date: 1849–1855
Object ID: 93.21.20
Notes: Portable gold scale, typical of those used during the gold rush. Scales like this were commonly carried by miners.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M534658;type=101
Object Name: Trunk

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M534658;type=101
Object Name: Trunk
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Date: circa 1849
Object ID: 89.175.1
Notes: Leather-covered wood trunk lined with removable drawer.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M276103;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Maker: Unidentified artist
Title: Sutter’s Mill on January 24, 1848
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2832
Notes: Lantern slide of a drawing featuring Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M276158;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
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Maker: E.W. Kain  
Title: *Where the Gold Comes From*  
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s  
Object ID: LS.2845  
Notes: Lantern slide of a drawing of gold miners working in northern California.

Object Name: Lettersheet  
Maker: James Mason Hutchings  
Title: *The Miner’s Ten Commandments*  
Date: 1853  
Object ID: 89.212.11  
Notes: *The Miner’s Ten Commandments* became a bestselling lettersheet, with almost 100,000 copies sold. A lettersheet is a piece of paper that can be folded, sealed, and mailed without the need to use an envelope.
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Maker: Barber & Baker, Publishers
Title: *California Mining Illustrated*
Date: 1855
Object ID: 94.237.15
Notes: On the left side of the page are drawings featuring men digging and using hydraulics to clear out a mine. On the right side of the page are drawings featuring men working along a riverbed.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M2853;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Maker: F.H. Maude
Title: *A Group of Miners with Sluice Box*
Object ID: LS.9444
Note: A sluice is a long narrow box that traps gold as water passes through it.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M560587;type=101
Object Name: Painting
Maker: George Barrington
Title: *Heydluff & Fuller on Homestead Claims, Waloupa Nevada Co. California, Sept. 25th, 1860*
Date: September 25, 1860
Object ID: 87.87.10
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Note: Landscape scene of hydraulic gold mining operation. Hydraulic mining used hoses of water to wash away hillsides to find gold.

Object Name: Compass
Maker: John Roach
Date: 1850s
Object ID: 95.152.1
Notes: A compass made for surveying mine shafts.

Object Name: Gold pan
Date: 1880s
California Gold Rush

Object ID: 85.1.737
Notes: Metal pan used for mining gold.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M26438;type=101
Object Name: Drawing
Maker: John Woodhouse Audubon
Title: Chinese Diggings
Date: January 20, 1850
Object ID: 22.G.978K
Notes: Pen and ink drawing of a gold miner.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M512880;type=101
Object Name: Painting
Maker: Erneste E. Narjot
Time: Miners: A Moment at Rest (Gold Rush Camp)
Date: 1882
California Gold Rush

Object ID: 97.88.1
Notes: Painting featuring three men and a dog resting around a cabin.