

STATE FOSSIL:

**Saber-toothed Cat**

*Smilodon californicus*

Was a powerful, tiger-sized carnivore with 8-inch fangs. Common in California 40 million years ago, it hunted thick-skinned animals such as mastodons. Tar pits at Rancho la Brea have yielded many specimens of this fossil.

STATE MARINE MAMMAL:

**Pacific Grey Whale.**

*Eschrichtius gibbosus*

30-50 feet long and weighs up to 40 tons. Pods of these creatures can be seen along our coast making their annual migration from the Artic waters to the warm water lagoons of Baja California and back.

STATE FLAG:

**The Bear Flag**

Was first raised in 1846 by American settlers during an uprising against rule from Mexico. Although their California Republic was short lived, its flag remains in use as our state flag.



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# California Trivia

Every state has its favorite animal, bird, flower, etc.  
Do you know the official California State favorites?

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# **CALIFORNIA TRIVIA**

STATE MOTTO:           **'Eureka'**

Appears on the Great Seal of the State.  
It is a Greek word meaning "I have found it" referring to the discovery of gold.

STATE NICKNAME:       **'The Golden State'**

Appropriate because modern California's development and remarkable prosperity began with the discovery of gold.

STATE COLORS:         **Blue and Gold**

(Yale blue and gold yellow)

Used with the Great Seal. They are also the colors of the University of California.

STATE SONG:           **'I Love You, California'**

First sung publicly by Mary Garden in 1913. Lyrics and music are by Silverwood and Frankenstein of Los Angeles.

STATE MINERAL:       **Native Gold.**

California has produced more gold than any other state in the Union and it can still be panned from California stream beds.

STATE ROCK:           **Serpentine.**

Occurs commonly throughout California. It is the host rock for such minerals as asbestos, chronite, magnesite, and cinnabar.

STATE ANIMAL:         **Grizzly Bear**

*Ursus horribilis californicus*

Appears on the State Flag and the Great Seal. A bear frequently symbolizes California in political cartoons. Now extinct in California, it was a particularly large, fierce and formidable animal.

STATE REPTILE:         **Desert Tortoise**

*Gopherus agassizii*

Digs a deep burrow which it peaceably shares with owls and rattlers. Related to the giant Galapagos Tortoise, it is a vegetarian and if not removed from its desert habitat is very long lived.

STATE FISH:           **California Golden Trout**

*Salmo aqua-bonita*

A native to no other state. An off shoot or color phase of the cutthroat trout, it is found only in the streams of the high Sierra.

STATE INSECT:         **California Dog-Face Butterfly**

*Zerene eurydice*

Found nowhere outside California. Sometimes called the Flying Pansey, its wings are an iridescent bluish-black, orange and sulphur-yellow in color.

STATE TREE:           **Coastal Redwood**

*Sequoia sempervirens*

**Giant Redwood**

*Sequoia gigantea,*

are among the most ancient and awesome of living things. Except in Oregon, forests of these giant trees exist nowhere outside California.

STATE FLOWER:        **Golden Poppy**

*Eschscholtzia californica*

Can be found blooming in some part of the state throughout the year. April 6 is California Poppy Day.

STATE BIRD:           **California Valley Quail**

*Laphortyx californica*

Found throughout the State, it is a prize game bird noted for its hardiness and adaptability.