Mexican American Study Guide

U.S. History

Mr. Perry

**The following questions correspond to the handout on Mexican Americans:**

1. How many Americans of Mexican heritage lived in the Unites States at the time the article was written?
2. What states contain the largest Mexican-American population?
3. What does it say about the number of these people living in L.A.?
4. What is La Raza and what does it represent?
5. Who were the Californios?
6. Why did they see themselves as different from Mexicans?
7. What were the living conditions like for most people in California?
8. How did Mexico view California?
9. How is it possible that Mexicans living in California suddenly became American citizens?
10. How did the discovery of gold in California affect the population of the future state?
11. How did the Mexican miners compare to the Anglos? What was their work relationship like?
12. As gold grew scarce, how were the Mexicans discriminated against? Give three examples, including a description of the tax law passed in 1850.
13. What was the attitude of Anglo squatters toward the land?
14. What differences in the legal systems of Mexico and the U.S. made proof of land ownership difficult?
15. What method did Anglos use to take land from the Californios?

**The following questions relate to the video American Dream – The Mexican Experience**

16) What made crossing the border from Mexico in the late 19th century so different from what it is today?

16) What allowed so many Mexican immigrants to begin working on the railroads? Why?

17) What was the major cause for widespread Mexican immigration to America at the beginning of the 20th century? Approximately how many Mexicans fled to the United States at this time?

18) What spared Mexican immigrants the harshness of the anti-immigration laws passed in the 19-teens and 1920s?

19) Who were the Braceros? What made them different from other Mexican immigrants?

20) What was “Operation Wetback” designed to do? How did it violate the civil rights of many?