

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**The Great Gold Hunt**

John Sutter moved west in 1839 and bought some land in California. He built a fort on his land so people would have a safe place to visit and to live. He also grew food. He sold food to the people who lived near the fort and to people moving west. Sutter wanted to make a lot of money.

Another man named James Marshall built a saw mill at the fort. He cut wood for people to use to build fences, houses, and other buildings. The land around the fort became known as Sutter's Mill. When Marshall found gold in a nearby river in 1848, Sutter and Marshall wanted to keep it a secret. They were afraid their workers would leave to look for gold, and they were right.

It is not easy to keep secrets. One year later, thousands of people moved west to hunt for gold. The year 1849 was the start of the Gold Rush. This is why the gold hunters were called Forty-Niners. Soon the two men had no workers, nothing to sell, and no money. They both died poor.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Which sentence tells an opinion?

- It is not easy to keep secrets.
- The land around the fort became known as Sutter's Mill.
- One year later, thousands of people moved west to hunt for gold.

2 Which of the following happened *first* in the selection?

- The Gold Rush was started.
- James Marshall built a saw mill.
- John Sutter bought land in California.

3 What happened *after* James Marshall found gold?

- John Sutter built a fort to protect people.
- Many people moved out to California.
- People bought wood from the saw mill.

4 What happened to Sutter and Marshall *after* the Gold Rush started?

5 How do you know that Sutter built his fort *before* Marshall built his mill?

Common Core State Standards

Question 1: Informational Text 1. Ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why,* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. **Questions 2–5: Informational Text 3.** Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.