Introduction to the **History Gallery**

of the **Oakland Museum of California**

**Part 1**

**What will you find in the History Gallery?**

Which of these items might you expect to find in a gallery about the history of California? Check all that apply.

- □ A map of California
- □ A soccer field
- □ A painting made in France about Germany
- □ A pan from the Gold Rush in California
- □ A basket made by people who used to live in the Bay Area
- □ A grave from Egypt
- □ King Tut’s necklace
  (King Tut was an Egyptian pharaoh.)
- □ An old movie made in Hollywood
- □ A dress that a woman wore growing up in Los Angeles
- □ The Statue of Liberty
- □ Diaries of people who came to California to find gold
- □ Pictures of people who committed crimes in California
- □ A rice bowl
- □ A railroad car used to move oranges from one place to another
- □ A fire engine that was used in Oakland

After looking at your list, write a friend one sentence that explains what you would find in a gallery about the history of California. Why?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

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Write another sentence that explains what you would not find in a museum about the history of California. Why?

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__________________________________________________________________________
Part 2
How is the OMCA History Gallery Organized?

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) History Gallery is organized chronologically. This means that it begins with the first inhabitants of California. As you walk through the Gallery, you move from the past towards the present. Because it is organized in this way, you can understand different time periods in California and begin to see how the state has changed over time. The theme of the Gallery is “Coming to California,” which means all the stories and events displayed in the Gallery relate to the experiences of those who came to California and their interactions with those already here.

As you travel through the Museum, you will notice the Gallery uses two ways to explain where you are in California history:

- Dates: Yellow signs all around the Gallery have dates on them. These dates tell you what period of time you are looking at when you are near them.

- Titles: The exhibits are also labeled by titles. For instance, two titles are “Coming for Land” and “Off to War.” These titles also let you know what you might expect to see in that area. For example, the Off to War section is about World War II. In that section, you will find a model of a warship that was built in the Bay Area during the war, a model of housing that people lived in during that period, a uniform that a soldier wore in the military then, and an icebox that people used in their kitchens during the war years. There are many other items as well, but they all come from the same time period of 1940–1945.

The following are the titles of the exhibits in the History Gallery:

- Before the Other People Came
- Voyages of Discovery
- Spaniards Claim This Land
- Coming for Gold
- Coming for Land
- The Railroad Brings People
- San Francisco: Glorious City to the West
- Seeking the Good Life
- Trying to Escape the Great Depression
- Hollywoodland
- Off to War
- Building Modern California
- Forces of Change

Using just the titles, see if you can guess in what area you might find the following objects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT</th>
<th>EXHIBIT TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold nugget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baskets made by Indians from before European arrival</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A car that people used to come to California during the Great Depression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps of how land was divided up in California</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing worn by priests when the Spaniards claimed California and built missions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools Chinese workers used to build the railroads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old movies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A map of what Spaniards thought California looked like before they got here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A picture of the earthquake in 1906 in San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A hat worn by men during World War II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 3**

**Using Photos from the History Gallery**

Look at the photos from the History Gallery and decide where (in which exhibit) you would find them. Put the name of the exhibit under the photos.