



The **key** KNOWLEDGE

## California Subject Knowledge

California is the third largest state in the USA. It is approximately 1100 km from the northern border and 300 km east to west. It has four major landscape types depending on the climate, altitude and aspect. These are, Coastal Ranges, Central Valley (Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers), Deserts (The Mohave) and Mountains (Sierra Nevada). Los Angeles is the second largest city with a diverse population. There are minor earthquakes as the area is centred at two of the worlds major crustal plates. The San Andreas Fault runs from the Salton Sea across California ending under the Pacific Ocean.

The **key** VOCABULARY

| Geographical vocabulary I need to learn |   |
|---|---|
| diversity                               | the variety of plants, animals or people in a place   |
| region                                  | a distinct part of a continent or country   |
| topographical                           | representation of physical features of an area  |
| Big Sur                                 | remote rugged section of Pacific coastline  |
| ecosystem                               | a network of plants and animals which are inter dependent   |
| National Park                           | an area of countryside, protected for the enjoyment of the public and the conservation of the environment |
| solar                                   | emitted by the sun  |
| escarpment                              | a long, steep slope, at the edge of a plateau or separating areas of land at different heights            |
| multicultural                           | several cultural or ethnic groups   |
| crustal plates                          | outer layer of the Earth's surface that move  |
| Volcanologist                           | someone who studies volcanoes   |

The **key** QUESTIONS

| Key questions to consider                               |
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| How would I describe the physical landscape?            |
| What are the environmental regions?                     |
| What are the connections between landscape and climate? |
| What are the human features of San Francisco?           |

The **key** SKILLS

| KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS   |
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| Recognise the location of the California region and its distinct landscapes.                                     |
| Examine the landscape diversity in California.   |
| Make connections between key physical features and the climate, altitude and aspect of the environmental regions |
| Appreciate the size and importance of each region in terms of trade and tourism                                  |
| Use relevant geographical vocabulary.  |
| Investigate how the people in different areas make a living.   |
| Use evidence to justify opinions about living near the San Andreas Fault.  |

*to help me understand the human and physical geography of a region within North America by thinking like a geographer*