



Unit 2 > Text 3: Letter to Mama (pp. 44-45)

Un exercice complémentaire (histoire & quiz sur San Francisco).
Exercice suivi de son corrigé, puis d'une version photocopiable.

San Francisco: timeline & quiz

1. Read the timeline carefully.
2. Then try to answer the quiz (True/ False) without looking at the timeline.
3. Justify each answer. Use the timeline if you need.

A SAN FRANCISCO TIMELINE

- 1542** A Spanish expedition "discovered" the S.F. Bay. Over 10,000 natives, the Ohlone, lived there.
- 1776** The site of Mission Dolores was dedicated to San Francisco de Asis.
- 1846** The United States declared war on Mexico and later took possession of San Francisco.
- 1848** The Gold Rush started in San Francisco.
- 1849** Beginning of the six Great Fires (1849 to 1851).
- 1850** California became the 31st state in the USA.
- 1861** Fort Alcatraz became the official U.S. Army prison for the western states.
- 1869** The first westbound train arrived in San Francisco.
- 1870** San Francisco was the 10th largest city in the United States.
- 1873** Jacob Davis designed the first Levi jeans.
- 1906** An earthquake (magnitude 7.8) destroyed much of the city: about 700 people died.
- 1910** Angel Island became a point of entry to the USA for immigrants, many of them Chinese.
- 1915** First transcontinental telephone conversation by Alexander Graham Bell from New York.
- 1920** First transcontinental airmail flight from New York.
- 1937** The Golden Gate Bridge was officially opened.
- 1950** The 49ers only won three games in their NFL (National Football League) debut.
- 1978** A gay supervisor and the mayor were killed. Riots followed when the killer was sentenced.
- 1989** A 7.1 magnitude earthquake occurred along the San Andreas Fault and hit Bay Area.
- 2009** San Francisco is the 13th largest city in the USA (800,000 inhabitants).

SAN FRANCISCO TIMELINE: QUIZ

- a. San Francisco got its name when the USA declared its independence. True False
→ _____
- b. San Francisco used to be a Mexican possession. True False
→ _____
- c. San Francisco's relative size in the USA has decreased from 1870 to 2001. True False
→ _____
- d. The city hosts many symbols and has often been symbolic. True False
→ _____
- e. San Franciscans are used to natural and other catastrophes. True False
→ _____
- f. San Francisco was considered the Western equivalent of New York. True False
→ _____
- g. Minorities have played an important part in the city's history. True False
→ _____



Corrigé

a. TRUE. It happened in 1776.

b. TRUE. Cf. 1846.

c. TRUE. 10th largest city in 1870; 13th largest in 2009.

(+) Population: April 1848: 850; July 1849: 5,000; December 1849: 25,000; 1852: 36,000; 1860: 57,000; 1870: 149,000; 1890: 299,000; 1920: 507,000; 1940: 634,000; 1970: 715,000; 2000: 775,000. (But there have been downs as well.)

d. TRUE. Many "firsts" happened there (1869, 1873, 1915, 1920). It is the city of Levi jeans, the 49ers, Alcatraz, and of the Golden Gate Bridge.

e. TRUE. 1849: Six great fires; 1906 and 1989: earthquakes.

f. TRUE. When East-West communications (trains, telephone, planes) were tested, San Francisco was the destination.

g. TRUE. 1910: Chinese and other immigrants; 1978: gays.

(+) SF's Chinatown is the largest Chinatown outside of Asia. Census 2000: 53% of San Franciscans were white, 32.6% Asian (2 thirds of them Chinese), 14.1% Latino, 8.6% black. [Latino figure may include some whites].



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