



The Ten Stages of the California Indian Genocide

Answer Key

There are more possible answers than the ones provided below. Use students' diverse responses to facilitate class discussions about the definitions of each stage, and how they may appear in various ways.

Key language from the reading is emboldened.

1	Classification "Spain hoped to expand its empire in California by colonizing Indigenous lands and bringing Christianity to the Native population." para. 3
2	Symbolization "US media used symbolic images, such as Natives killing helpless settlers, to depict Indians as violent and untamed." para. 8
3	Discrimination "The California Constitution denied Native Americans citizenship and the right to vote, making them vulnerable in a hostile environment. They could not testify against whites in court and could not serve as jurors or witnesses." para. 12
4	Dehumanization "John Sutter, for example, had 800 Natives working on his fort. He fed his laborers from troughs as though they were pigs ." para. 11
5	Organization "At the State of the State address , Governor Burnett declared his intentions : <i>"That a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the races until the Indian race becomes extinct must be expected. While we cannot anticipate this result but with painful regret, the inevitable destiny of the race is beyond the power or wisdom of man to avert."</i> para. 14



6	Polarization "In 1850, California's first US governor Peter Burnett, supported an important piece of anti-Indian legislation meant to protect white settlers from the "savage" Natives: The Act for the Government and Protection of Indians." para. 13
7	Preparation "War bonds, or government payments, were handed out to American citizens as incentive for financially supporting the war against Indians. Community members who volunteered to join the militia groups were promised tracts of land, land that was stolen from Native communities, for joining the cause." para. 20
8	Persecution "The Nome Cult Walk of 1863 was among several military-enforced relocations . Thousands of Yuki, Maidu, Konkow, Wailaki, Pomo, Coast Miwok and other tribes were forced to walk to the Round Valley Reservation in Mendocino County." para. 24
9	Extermination <i>(there are many examples of extermination throughout the student reading. These are some of the major ones:)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "In the Sacramento Valley, Fremont and his men slaughtered 1,000 Wintu men, women and children." para. 17• "Then, in a murderous event called the Bloody Island Massacre, US soldiers killed as many as 800 innocent Pomo elders, women and children in May 1850." para. 19• "If they grew sick, or starved, or tired and were moving too slowly during the walk, they were killed. If they tried to run away, they were shot. If they survived, they were whipped, beaten, or run over with horses the entire length of the march. Hundreds died." para. 24
10	Denial "There are some people, to this day, who deny that genocide occurred during the Gold Rush era." para. 29

This curriculum is a project of the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education. Established by the JFCS Holocaust Center, with support from a grant from the Marin County Office of Education and the State of California.