STUDY GUIDE, STUDIES WEEKLY, Issues One and Two

*These are the main ideas we read about in our first two issues. Please study them and have someone at home help you to prepare for the quiz. We will also review in class.*

1. California is the 3rd largest state in area: only Alaska and Texas are bigger.
2. California is #1 in number of people (population); no other state has as many people.
3. California is the #1 state in agriculture (farming). We grow about half of America’s food. This is because we have a good climate and fertile soil.
4. There are four main regions in California: the Coastal Range, the Central Valley, the Mountain Ranges and the Deserts.
5. California is bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon.
6. The lowest point is California is Death Valley and the highest point is Mount Whitney.
7. The crust of the earth is thicker under the mountains and thinner under the oceans.
8. Plates are pieces of the earth’s crust that can move around. The San Andreas fault was created where two of these plates come together.
9. The Sierra Nevada-Cascade Range traps the air and clouds flowing from the Pacific Ocean, providing moisture to the valleys on the western part of the state.
10. Relative location is where a place is in relation to another place, but we use lines of latitude and longitude to find absolute, or exact locations on maps. Lines of latitude run from east to west and lines of longitude run from north to south on maps.
11. Mapmakers divide the earth into four hemispheres, or sections; the equator divides the earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres, and the prime meridian divides it into Eastern and Western Hemispheres.
12. There are seven main land masses, called continents (North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Australia, Antarctica and Europe) and five major oceans (Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic). Be ready to identify them on a map!
13. Most places on earth, except the tropics, have seasons because the earth’s axis is tilted. The tropics don’t have seasons because the sun is always high in the sky there.
14. John Muir worked to preserve California’s beauty for those who would come after him.
15. The state capitol is Sacramento.