

Population Diversity, 2018

California is unique among the large **populated** areas of the world. In no other place have so many people gathered from around the globe.

California has always been a diverse place, in part because of its diverse environment. Before the arrival of Europeans, the population density and diversity of Native American language groups was greater here than in any other **region** of the Americas. During the Gold Rush, the Sierra Nevada **foothills** were home to the most diverse collection of people on Earth.

Of the state's 39.5 million residents (in 2018), 39.4% identify as Hispanic or Latino. After Latinos, 36.5% identify as White, 15.3% as Asian, 6.5% as Black or African American, 1.6% as American Indian/Alaska Native, and 0.5% as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Over 1.5 million residents (4.0%) identify as multiracial, meaning they don't fit into just one category. While these broad **racial** and **ethnic** percentages have changed over time, the enduring flow of new **immigrants** makes the Golden State one of the world's most diverse regions.

