



## history in brief

■ **Prehistory:** Coastanoan Indians coalesce into the more ordered Ohlone, Salinan and Esselen tribes.

■ **1769:** Spain explores and later colonizes the province of Alta California.

■ **1810:** Mexico rebels against Spain.

■ **1848:** Mexico cedes California to the United States

■ **1850:** On the basis of a constitution drawn up at Colton Hall in Monterey, California is admitted to the Union as a free state.

■ **1860:** Migration from the

South and Midwest leads to the birth of Salinas.

■ **1880:** Chinese immigration exploded with the building of the Transcontinental Railroad in mid-1860s. In Salinas, a flourishing Chinatown, one of the largest in California, emerges.

■ **1880s:** Wheat is the Valley's chief cash crop. Immigrants from Europe arrive.

■ **1893:** Potatoes become the cash crop. Japanese and Filipino workers arrive.

■ **1930s:** 400,000 "Okies," displaced people from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and

the Midwest, pour into California.

■ **1942:** In the late 1930s people of Japanese ancestry accounted for Salinas' largest minority group. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, they were sent to internment camps.

■ **1942-64:** The Bracero Program allows contract farm workers from Mexico to replace the workforce now in the military.

■ **1970s to present:** Mexican farm workers continue to arrive. Latinos eventually become the majority population in Salinas.

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**In a traditional Chinese lion dance, two dancers make up each lion — one in the head and one at the tail — and the dance is accompanied by loud percussion played on a drum, gong and cymbals. Asian migration to Monterey County is as old as the California Gold Rush and the building of the Transcontinental Railway. Successive waves of immigration followed from China, Japan and the Philippines.**