Songs about California and the west were very popular during the 1840s and 1850s.

Below are a verse and the chorus to “Oh, California!” It uses the same tune as “Oh, Susannah.”

I come from Salem City with my washbowl on my knee.  
I’m going to Californiay, the gold dust for to see.  
It rained all night the day I left, the weather it was dry.  
The sun so hot I froze to death, oh brothers don’t you cry.

CHORUS
Oh California, that’s the place for me.  
I’m bound for San Francisco with my washbowl on my knee.

Imagine that you are a pioneer and write your own verse about your experiences. It can be an imagined experience or a real one!

Here’s the Sacramento History Museum’s verse:

The Sacramento History Museum has much to do and see  
But Coronavirus shut our doors, so we share it digitally  
Just like the pioneers heading west, we’re trying something new  
We hope you’ll sing along with us, you just might like it too!

CHORUS
Oh Sacramento History, so much here to learn  
Every week something new, no need for concern

Your Turn!