

THE GOLD RUSH PROGRAM



SYNOPSIS OF PROGRAM

The Gold Rush Program showcases artifacts, photos, and museum exhibits to give an overview of key individuals, mining techniques, and everyday life during the Gold Rush era. At the Museum this program includes a print shop presentation to understand how information was circulated during the mid-nineteenth century and an interactive gold panning program for students to learn how to pan like a gold miner.

CORRELATION WITH CALIFORNIA H.SS. CONTENT STANDARDS

- ❖ 3.5. 1. Describe the ways in which local producers have used and are using natural resources, human resources, and capital resources to produce goods and services in the past and the present.
- ❖ 4.2.2 Identify the early land and sea routes to, and European settlements in, California with a focus on the exploration of the North Pacific, noting especially the importance of mountains, deserts, ocean currents, and wind patterns.
- ❖ 4.3.2 Compare how and why people traveled to California and the routes they traveled.
- ❖ 4.3.3 Analyze the effects of the Gold Rush on settlements, daily life, politics, and the physical environment.

- ❖ 4.4.2 Explain how the Gold Rush transformed the economy of California, including the types of products produced and consumed, changes in towns and economic conflicts between diverse groups of people.
- ❖ 4.4.3 Discuss immigration and migration to California between 1850 and 1900, including the diverse composition of those who came; the countries of origin and their relative locations; and conflicts and accords among the diverse groups.
- ❖ 4.4.4 Describe rapid American immigration, internal migration, settlement, and the growth of towns and cities (e.g., Los Angeles)
- ❖ 4.4.6 Describe the development and locations of new industries since the turn of the century, such as the aerospace industry, electronics industry, large-scale commercial agriculture and irrigation projects, the oil and automobile industries, communications and defense industries, and important trade links with the Pacific Basin.
- ❖ 5.8.1 Discuss the waves of immigrants from Europe between 1789 and 1850 and their modes of transportation into the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys and through the Cumberland Gap (e.g., overland wagons, canals, flatboats, steamboats).

CORRELATION WITH CALIFORNIA H.SS. CONTENT STANDARDS

- ❖ 4.4.2 Explain how the Gold Rush transformed the economy of California, including the types of products produced and consumed, changes in towns and economic conflicts between diverse groups of people.

ACTIVITIES TO DO AFTER THE PRESENTATION

- ❖ Pretend that you are a reporter and write an article about your experiences during the Gold Rush. Are you struggling or have you struck it rich? Are you ever going to go home? What is life like in the mining camps?
- ❖ Have students complete the illuminated letter activity.
- ❖ Compare the two types of mining techniques and complete the mining activity.

Gold Rush Word Find

Use the word bank below as a guide to find the Gold Rush key terms.

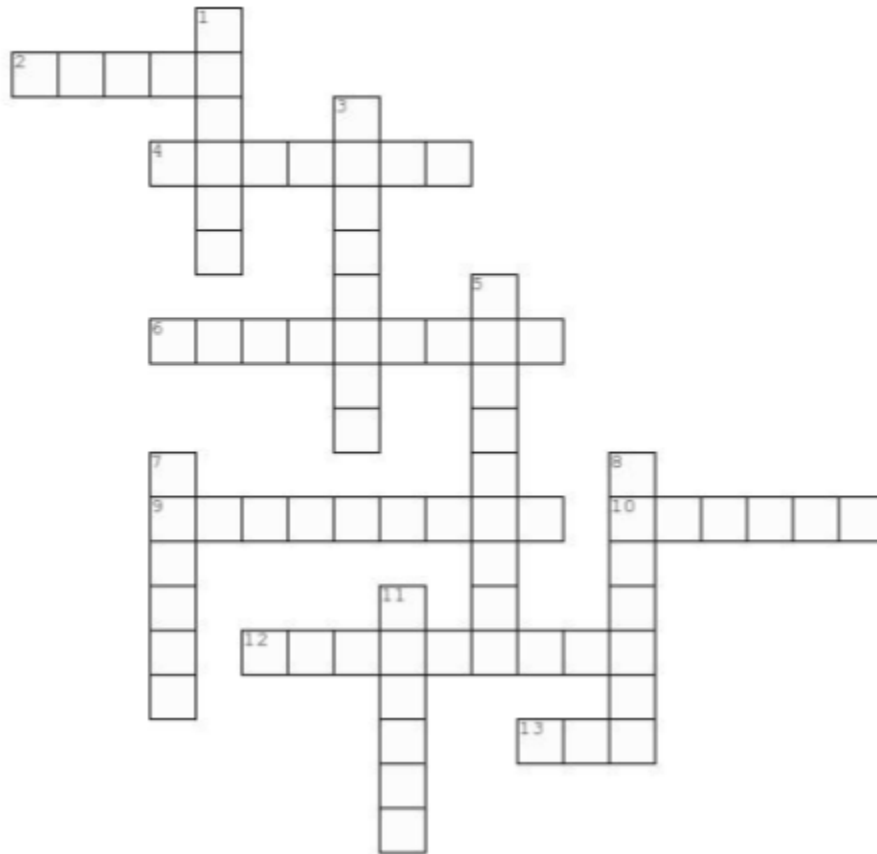


Word Bank

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| ● BRANNAN | ● MARSHALL | ● PLACER |
| ● CAPEHORN | ● MIGRATION | ● RIVERS |
| ● FOOTHILLS | ● PAN | ● ROCKER |
| ● GOLD | ● PANAMA | ● SHOVEL |
| ● HYDRAULIC | ● PICKAXE | ● SUTTER |
| ● WAGON | | ● TRAILS |

Gold Rush Crossword

Complete the crossword below using the key terms from the word find. Not all terms will be used.



Across

2. John _____ owned a sawmill in the Foothills.
4. _____ was a tool used to chip gold, and there were valuable metals and minerals from mountain rock.
6. _____ Moving from one region to another.
9. _____ mining uses a powerful stream of pressurized water to uncover valuable metals and minerals on mountain sides.
10. _____ is a mining tool that separates large chunks of rocky metals and minerals from dirt and sand.
12. Growing and developing a territory of land.
13. This gold mining tool, is also the name of an object used for cooking.

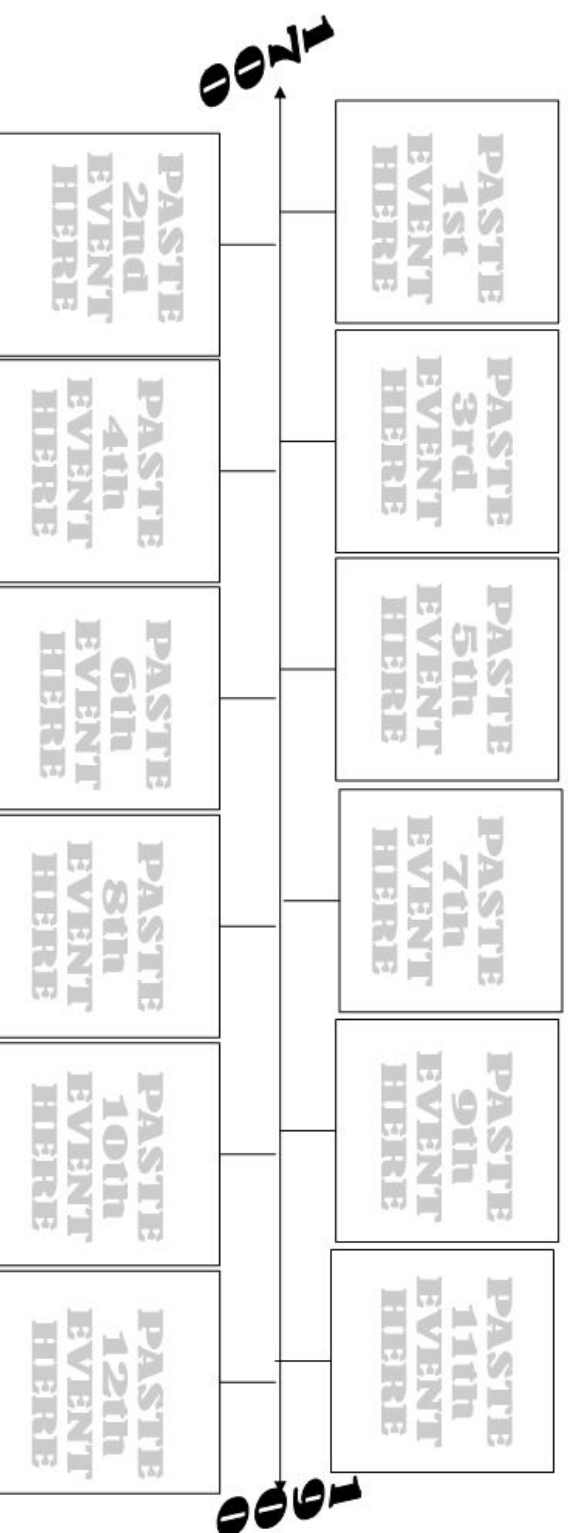
Down

1. The California, Oregon, and Santa Fe are examples of this term.
3. James _____ was the first man to find gold in the foothills.
5. A low hills at the base of mountains.
7. _____ was a mining tool used to scoop dirt and gravel.
8. Sam _____ was a merchant who showed off gold in San Francisco and sold supplies to miners in Sacramento.
11. A shorter sea route to California was formed through _____, a country Central America.

Gold Rush Timeline

Directions

Cut out each event on following page and paste into appropriate box on timeline below.



Timeline Events

Cut out the events and place them on the timeline

February 2, 1848

Treaty of Guadalupe
Hidalgo ends
Mexican-American
War and makes
California part of the
United States

December 5, 1848

President James
Polk confirms that
gold has been
found in California

January 24, 1848

James Marshall
finds gold in the
American River at
Coloma

May 14, 1846

The United States
declares war on
Mexico

April 13, 1850

The state legislature
levies a \$20 per
month tax on
non-American born
miners

May 12, 1848

Merchant Sam
Brannan stirs up gold
fever in San Francisco
by running through
the streets shouting
"Gold from the
American River!"

May 10, 1869

The Transcontinental
Railroad connects
California to the east
coast.

March 4, 1861

Abraham Lincoln
Becomes 16th
President of the
United States of
America

1849

Nearly 100,000
people come to
California in search
of gold

1839

Swiss born Johann
Augustus (John) Sutter
arrives in California,
builds a fort, and
names area New
Helvetia

April 30, 1789

George Washington
becomes first
president of the
United
States of America

September 9, 1850

California named
31st State in the
Union

What Can You Find?



These are the minerals that students can find during the gold panning program. While each student will be able to find something while gold panning, there is no guarantee that the students will find every mineral, just like in the Gold Rush. Each student will be given one clear vial to keep anything they find.

Questions about Gold Panning?

Answer some questions about the minerals you can find Gold Panning. Use the picture of the minerals above to help answer some of the questions.

1.) Is gold light or heavy? _____

2.) Where was gold discovered? Do you know the date? _____

3.) Did all the miners find gold? _____

4.) How long do you think a miner might take on a single pan? _____

5.) Do you think it was easy to be a miner? _____

6.) What mineral did they find more often? _____

7.) What mineral does gold like to stick to? (hint it's a white stone) _____

8.) Which minerals are birth stones and which months are they birthstones for?

9.) Which mineral was used to make arrowheads? _____

10.) Which mineral is your favorite? _____

Newspaper Article

Your Task:

Imagine that you are living in California. Write a short article or poem for the local newspaper describing your life and experience in California.

Getting started:

Are you a miner? Are you a merchant? Are you a business woman?

Did you migrate to California from a foreign country or from the Eastern U.S.?

Are you struggling or do you have a good life?

What does California look like? Describe the landscape. Talk about the mining camps.

Write about California cities like Sacramento & San Francisco.

[illegible]

Illuminated Letter Activity

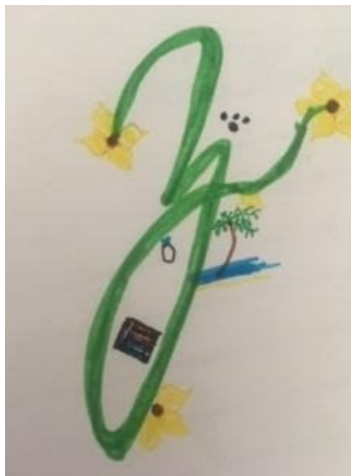
Before the invention of the printing press, books and documents were handwritten. The documents were often decorated or “illuminated”. Typically the first letter would be much larger than the other letters and have designs. The designs could be very simple or it could contain an image that might depict a part of the story. Below are some examples of historic illuminated letters



Activity:

Make your own Illuminated Letter!

Your Illuminated Letter can be as decorated or as simple as you like. Try using shapes, symbols, colors, or pictures you like to make your letter special to you. For example, below this person's name starts with the letter Z. They like yellow flowers, the beach, and reading. They also have a ring and an animal footprint, so those things are important to them.



Types of Mining

Placer Mining vs Hard Rock Mining

Placer Mining is mining directly at the river. Typically miners would work at the side of the river or directly in the river to find gold. They used shovels, pans, and rockers for this type of mining.

Hard Rock Mining was used later when most of the gold had been found in the river. Hard Rock mining looks for gold underneath the ground. One method was hydraulic mining which used a large water cannon to wash away hillsides. Another method was to dig mines sometimes hundreds of feet underground to look for gold.

Placer mining gold is much smoother because the water from the river has washed over it for years and years as you can see below on the left. On the right, you see gold that has sharper edges and has to be taken out of hard rock, like quartz, to mine.

Gold from Placer Mining



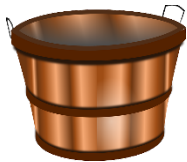
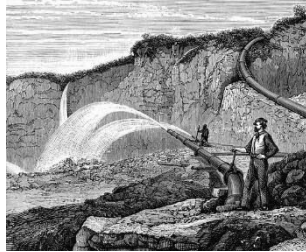
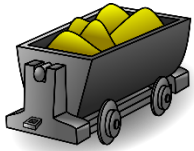
Gold from Hard Rock Mining



Matching Activity

Based on the description of the different types of mining, match the items that are used for each type. Cut out the items below and paste them under the type of mining they belonged to. If the items could be used for both types of mining place them in the middle.

<u>Placer Mining</u>	<u>Both Type Of Mining</u>	<u>Hard Rock Mining</u>



Can you think of other items that would be important for mining?

List them below!