

The
**GOLD
RUSH**
Answers

Who, When, Where and Why?

- 1) Edward Hargraves was the first person in Australia to discover payable gold in Orange, NSW.
- 2) Many Indigenous Australians worked on sheep stations, shared their knowledge of the land with miners, rescued people stranded or lost, provided warnings, located food and water, prepared shelters, traded items with the miners such as clothing (e.g. possum skin cloaks), performed corroborees for payment, and joined the Native Police Corps.
- 3) Many Irish people left their country for Australia due to the Great Hunger (Irish Potato Famine), which resulted in the death of over 1 million people.
- 4) When people abandoned their posts and rushed to the goldfields, businesses around Australia suffered. Sea ports were clogged due to a build-up of abandoned ships, and many industries and farms lost workers and were unable to perform their daily tasks. Many men left their families behind to go to the goldfields, leaving women to take care of the children and house.
- 5) Gold has been considered valuable since the time of ancient Egypt because it's strong, easy to shape, and beautiful in colour and shine.
- 6) a. During the gold rush, the Native Police Corps were the first police on the goldfields. They were responsible for regulating the diggings and maintaining order amongst the miners. They helped track people lost in the bush, policed violence, escorted travellers, and delivered mail across the colonies.
b. Aboriginal people were recruited for this job instead of Europeans because they were more affordable (they were paid less), often did tasks that Europeans were reluctant to do, and they had useful skills such as reading the land and tracking. The job provided another way to assimilate them into the European way of life.

Research Task

What is the name of the biggest gold nugget ever found?

Welcome Stranger

When was it found?

5 February, 1869

Who found it?

John Deason and Richard Oates

Where was it found?

Bulldog Gully, near Moliagul in central Victoria

What was its size and weight?

72 kilograms, 61 centimeters long

What was its value when it was found?

£10,000 (approx. \$3-4 million today)

Answers

Life on the Goldfields

- 1) The canvas towns were well-organised living areas for gold miners. They were mostly basic tents made of canvas material. The streets were well-signed and named after famous British streets.
- 2) Miners in the goldfields faced poor health and rapidly spreading disease, repetitive meals that often lacked fresh fruit and vegetables, a lack of clean water, and the working conditions were harsh (miners worked from dawn til dusk, six days a week). There was violence and theft of claims, racism, brutality from the police during 'license hunts', and poor housing conditions.
- 3) Many women joined their husbands in the goldfields when conditions improved. They helped in the fields by mining for gold (through fossicking, cradling, and puddling) while also cooking, washing, and looking after the children. Women also worked in paid jobs such as storekeepers, milliners, dressmakers, cattle dealers, printers, quarry workers, brick makers, and blacksmiths.
- 4) Many Chinese migrants experienced racist attitudes from European miners. They were often faced with brutal behaviour, violence, bullying, name-calling, practical jokes, and claim-jumping (where Europeans group together and steal someone else's claim). Chinese miners were also taxed a £10 fee when they arrived in Victoria, and were the only nationality who faced this tax.
- 5) The Lambing Flat riots were violent attacks made against Chinese miners by Australian, European, and American miners between 1860 to 1861. The purpose of these riots were to bully the Chinese miners out of the goldfields.

There were two events that prompted the riots: the Sydney Legislative Council rejected the anti-Chinese bill, and a widespread untrue rumour that a new group of Chinese miners were heading to the Burrangong goldfields.

6) *Fossicking*: The process of sifting through natural materials to try and find bits of gold by using small hand-held instruments (such as a pan – also known as *panning*). The pans were made of metal and had sloping sides, with some having a narrow groove stamped into one of the sides.

Cradling: Gravel was shoveled onto a perforated iron plate in the cradle, and water was poured over it. This caused finer material to drop through the perforations and onto an apron that distributed it across the riffles. As the material moved through the cradle, the gold was caught on the riffles which enabled miners to extract it.

Puddling: Claims had to have their dirt removed before puddling could begin. Puddling machines were powered by horses and could process multiple tonnes of soil per day. Puddling machines had a circular wood-lined ditch, with a raised mound in the middle. On this raised mound was a wooden pivot post. A long, wooden pole was attached to the pivot post with an iron pin, with a horse harnessed to the other end. Iron rakes were hung from the pole which were dragged around the ditch to break up the clay to expose the gold. The water required for this process was taken from a dam or water race.

Research Task

Students answers' will vary.

Answers

The Eureka Stockade

1) A *stockade* is a barrier made of tall wooden posts and used as defence against an attack.

2) Students' answers may vary, but should make reference to the fact that miners were required to have a gold license which cost a high fee (1 pound and 10 shillings per month). Miners believed the fee was expensive and unfair because they were required to pay the sum whether they found gold or not and many could not afford it. They also felt it unfair that they were taxed even though they were not represented in parliament which meant they could not vote or own land. The police often conducted brutal 'license hunts' to catch those without one.

The miners organised meetings to discuss the unfair treatment experienced and demanded action, often creating petitions to voice their requests. These ill-feelings towards authorities and the unfair treatment of diggers led to the organisation of the Eureka Stockade at Bakery Hill in November, 1854.

Research Task

Date of birth:

February 5, 1827

Place of birth:

Raheen, Queen's Country, Ireland (now County Laois, Ireland)

Date of death:

February 9, 1889

Place of death:

Richmond, Victoria, Australia

When did he arrive in Australia?

December 12, 1852

Why did he travel to Australia?

He was part of the mass-migration from Ireland after the Great Hunger.

What part of his body had to be amputated after the Eureka Stockade?

His left arm after being shot.

What did he go on to do after the gold rush?

He joined the Victorian parliament and was later appointed as the Chairman of the Clunes Water Commission, Postmaster General, Commissioner for Trade and Customs, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and representative for South Grant.

Answers

The Eureka Stockade

Timeline Task

October 7, 1854:

Scottish miner, James Scobie, is killed in a brawl at the Eureka Hotel in Ballarat.

October 17, 1854:

The Eureka Hotel is set alight by a group of diggers who are then arrested.

November 29, 1854:

12,000 diggers gather at Bakery Hill, Ballarat where the Eureka flag is unveiled as a sign of protest.

November 30, 1854:

An aggressive licence hunt is held during the morning by troops.

December 1, 1854:

Diggers meet again at Bakery Hill and appoint Irish miner Peter Lalor as the leader in the fight against the government.

December 3, 1854:

The government sends 300 troops on foot and horseback to destroy the stockade constructed by the diggers. This is followed by a bloody battle that lasted less than 20 minutes, resulting in at least 22 miners and 6 soldiers dead.

Answers

Long-Term Impacts

1) 10-mile towns were built along routes to the goldfields and provided stopovers for traveling diggers. 10 miles was the average distance a digger would walk in a day, so here they could rest and find food and accommodation.

2) Students' answers will vary. They may include the following:

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The beginning of a multicultural society• New-found wealth enabled communities to build new infrastructure, industries and buildings (e.g. train stations, churches, banks, schools, other industries besides mining)• The beginning of a democratic Australian government where regular citizens could elect people in parliament to represent them• Indigenous Australians were able to compete with white laborers on equal terms, and they were able to conduct trade and use their expertise of the land• The significant boom in population made Australia a desirable place to build a new life• The establishment of 10-mile towns created new settlement areas in Australia which are now significant regional communities• Maps of each state were developed as they were settled by diggers• The beginning of an egalitarian society where everyone can have a 'fair go'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polluted fresh water supplies due to mining• Desecration of significant spiritual sites for Indigenous Australians• Natural landscape was stripped for mining settlements and never able to return to its original state• Settlements were not ready for the significant population boom and were overburdened. They suffered a shortage of accommodation, food, materials, and other supplies• Racist attitudes in the goldfields contributed to future racist policies (e.g. White Australia Policy in 1901)• Agriculture and introduction of new foreign plant and animal species would permanently change the environment's biodiversity• Rapid spread of disease through the settlements due to poor sanitation and fresh water, which resulted in many deaths (especially infants)

Research Task

Students answers' will vary.