



Gold Fever Lesson Plan

Film Summary: Gold Rushes attracted people from around the world to British Columbia. As this film suggests, hopes were high, but very few struck it rich.

Curriculum Application
Social Studies 10

The Essential Question: How did the Gold Rush affect the development of British Columbia?

Summary of the Lesson Activities

1. Focus questions for the vignette provide a short lesson option (15 Minutes)
2. Discussion questions
3. Photographic interpretation

Learning Objectives

1. To examine the challenges, opportunities, risks, and rewards of British Columbia's early prospectors and independent gold miners
2. To examine how the colonial government of British Columbia responded to the influx of a diversity of gold seekers and opportunists
3. To explore the construction of the Cariboo Road as a means to provide access to the gold fields, and also to establish colonial power and authority over the region
4. To examine written and visual primary sources from the 1860's Gold Rush period of early British Columbia, and analyze them for a critical understanding of who was it that actually benefitted the most from the Cariboo Gold Rush.

Materials and Resources Provided

- [Gold Fever: Working People: A History of Labour in British Columbia](#)
- Extension Activity 1
- Extension Activity 2
- Extension Activity 2a – 1 set of Photographs per 3 /4 students
- Photographic Analysis sheet (Document 1)

Additional Suggested Materials

- [The Labour Movement in British Columbia 1840-1914](#)
- [The Edge of the World: BC's Early Years: Dreams of Gold](#)
- [The Edge of the World: BC's Early Years: Barkerville](#)

Vignette Questions

1. What problems did the Gold Miners face in their search for Gold in BC?
2. How did the Colonial Government of British Columbia help the development of the Gold Rush?
3. Explain the quote in the film; 'the vast wealth in the Gold Rush was not by the Miners but from the miners'
4. How did the changing nature of mining operations in BC change the lives of Gold Miners?

Lesson Activities

1. Extension Activities #1 Questions for further investigation.

Suggested Instructional Strategy: Provide Library and/or computer lab time for students to investigate the questions in this lesson extension. Students could work in pairs or groups of 3 to investigate information relating to 1, 2, or 3 of the questions. Provide a copy of Extension Activity #1 questions for the students to follow in this task.

Students can report their findings back to the class at the start of the next class.

2. Extension Activity #2 Photographic Analysis

Suggested Instructional Strategy: Review the photographic analysis sheet with the class prior to the start of the activity if the students have not had previous experience in working with historical photographs. Divide class into small groups of 3-4 and provide each group with a set of the photographs. (Extension Activity 2a) A projected view of each of the photographs may be helpful in seeing detail not easily seen in photocopied images. Provide a copy of Extension Activity #2 questions for the students to follow in this task.

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by Gavin Hainsworth