Lesson: Gold Fever

**Extension Activity 1**-Questions for Further Investigation

1. What are the reasons that people at this time would choose to leave their homelands to search for gold?
2. What were the challenges, opportunities, risks, and rewards of British Columbia’s early prospectors and independent gold miners?
3. What was the impact of mass gold-rush based settlement upon the Indigenous peoples in the countries where it occurred?
4. Why did governments and business interests encourage prospectors in their countries?
5. How did they respond to the large number of gold seekers to serve their own needs, and not those of the gold seekers themselves?
6. How did the gold rushes of British Columbia change the area from frontier fur trading to crown colony?
7. What was different about the type of mining done in B.C. compared to the prospecting and mining in California and Australia?
8. How did the Cariboo Road construction both “open up” the province to settlement and employment opportunities?
9. Why was it primarily men who came to seek the gold, and how did the absence of gender balance affect the men? What employment opportunities did this provide to enterprising service industries?
10. How did the “boom” and “bust” nature of gold rush prosperity affect the towns supporting the mining fields, and the people who lived and worked in them?