

Early British Columbia History

The Cariboo Gold Rush



Name: _____

Date: _____

Block: _____

How did the Cariboo Gold Rush have an impact on the development of BC?

Do you want to 'get rich quick'? In the 19th century, people were influenced by the dream of instant wealth much like today. Thousands of people immigrated to Canada and the USA with the hope of finding a better life. At this time, this optimism was fueled by the **gold rushes** in North America. One of these gold rushes was directly responsible for the early development of British Columbia...

The Cariboo Gold Rush.

The California Gold Rush 1848 (p.213)

1. **Where in California was gold discovered in 1848?**

Name the area and shade in the general area on the map here:



2. What does it mean if someone is '*prospecting for gold*'? Explain what it means.
3. How much \$\$ was a pan of gold in 1848?
4. Miners would find gold then 'stake a claim' along the creek bank. What was the problem with the claims in California? Explain.
5. How many people actually 'struck it rich' in the California Gold Rush? What happened in San Francisco and Sacramento Valley?

The Fraser River Gold Rush (in BC) (p.214)

In late 1857, an HBC trader arrived at Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island carrying gold dust and nuggets that he had panned along the banks of the Thompson River. He presented what he had found to Governor Douglas. Douglas was aware of what happened in California and feared that news of gold in the colony of Vancouver Island might spark thousands of people flocking to the area in search of gold. His fears came true in the winter of 1857-1858 when prospectors in Washington and Oregon began moving north to the banks of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers...

1. What happened when miners found gold on the sandbars of the Fraser and Thompson rivers?
2. How many men arrived by the summer of 1858 to work along the Fraser Canyon?
3. Who was already living along the Fraser River along the Fraser Canyon when the miners arrived?
4. What was the '**Fraser Canyon War**' all about? Explain...
5. What is the name of the town where the Thompson & the Fraser Rivers meet?
6. What was the impact of the gold rush on the culture of local Indigenous First Nations?
Look at the Figure 6-7 on p.214 to help answer.



7. Using the map below, identify the following areas in BC:

- Vancouver Island
- Victoria
- Vancouver
- Yale
- Spuzzum
- Lytton
- Clinton
- 100 Mile House
- Quesnel
- Barkerville
- Richfield
- Prince George
- Fraser River
- Thompson River
- Strait of Georgia
- Quesnel River

Map of British Columbia & Cariboo Wagon Road (p.216)



The Cariboo Wagon Road (p.216)

Yale to Barkerville up the Fraser Canyon

8. Why was getting to the goldfields extremely difficult in the early 1860's? Explain and give examples.

9. What did Douglas order in 1862? Where did it begin, and end? How long was it?

10. How much did this project cost in 1862?

11. What is this project known as today? 😊



12. What year did the Cariboo Gold Rush finish?

13. The main town of the Cariboo Gold Rush was _____.

14. Who was this town named after and why?

15. Describe what the town of Barkerville was like and give at least FOUR examples.

16. In the mid-1860's how many people lived in Barkerville? _____.

17. Describe the various people who lived in Barkerville. Who came for gold?

The End of the Gold... (p.218)

18. What happened to Barkerville on September 16th, 1868?



19. In Figure 6-11 on p. 218, What animal was brought to BC to help carry supplies to the gold fields? What was the problem with these animals? What happened to them?



20. What happened to Barkerville in the 1920's?

21. What did the BC Government do for Barkerville in the year 1958?

Reflection Question:

Why was the building the Cariboo Wagon Road so essential to the Cariboo Gold Rush and to the development of British Columbia? Explain your answer.