Episode 2

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010



# Activity Gold Rush

## **Key Learning**

Students will develop a deeper understanding of gold as a resource and the history of gold mining in Australia.

## The Australian Curriculum

History / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / The Australian Colonies

The impact of a significant development or event on a colony; for example, frontier conflict, the gold rushes, the Eureka Stockade, internal exploration, the advent of rail, the expansion of farming, drought. (ACHHK095)

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The reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia, and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.  $\underline{(ACHHK096)}$ 

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The nature of convict or colonial presence, including the factors that influenced patterns of development, aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants (including Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) and how the environment changed. (<u>ACHHK094</u>)

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History / Historical Skills / Chronology, terms and concepts

Sequence historical people and events (ACHHS098)

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#### Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

- Achievements and contributions of the peoples of Asia
- Asia-Australia engagement

http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/CrossCurriculumPrioritie s/Asia-and-Australias-engagement-with-Asia

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. When was gold first found in Australia?
- 2. Describe what happened after the first discovery.
- 3. Why do gold mines close?
- 4. Describe the different ways gold was mined.
- 5. If the costs outweighed the benefits the mine would close'. What are the costs and benefits of mining gold?
- 6. Why are they now opening some gold mines again?
- 7. What has happened to the price of gold recently?
- 8. Why are some people against mines being re-opened?
- 9. Illustrate an aspect of the Gold rush story.
- 10. Name three facts you learnt in the Gold rush story.



## Activities

Students will learn more about gold and the history of gold mining in Australia through the following activities. Negotiate with students how many activities they will need to complete.

#### Remember and Understand

- List and illustrate some uses for gold.
- Research and create a map of gold fields and mines (both past and present) in Australia.
- Create a glossary of key gold fossicking and mining words.
- Which of the bushrangers operated on the gold fields? Make a list, and select one to research in depth.
- Find out what the value of gold is at the moment. Calculate the value of an ounce of gold in Australian dollars.

#### Apply and Analyse

- Research what the role and responsibilities of women were during the gold rush. Using a Venn diagram (two overlapping circles) compare the life of women during the gold rush to that of women today.
- The gold fields were Australia's first experience of a truly multicultural population. Investigate the cultural differences and racism in the gold fields. Present your findings in a 1-2 minute talk to the class.
- What was the Eureka Stockade? Create a brochure, booklet or poster that addresses: Who, what when, where and why. To extend the activity, investigate why it was a key event in the development of democracy in Australia.
- Investigate the effect that the gold rush had on the Aboriginal population. Create a list of advantages and disadvantages for Indigenous people.

#### **Evaluate and Create**

- Working with 2-3 other students, invent a new use for gold. Create an advertisement that persuades people to buy it.
- Imagine you a person living and working in the gold fields. Either write a journal entry describing a day in the gold fields or write a simple song about your experiences on the gold fields, using a tune you already know.
- Create an artwork that represents an aspect of life in the gold fields.
- Research and create a `how to' book on the methods used to find gold. Each method will need to be written as a procedure. The following website has information about how to write a procedure. http://www.writingfun.com/



## C Related Research Links

ABC Stateline – Gold rush http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/02/12/2818529.htm

Australian Government – The Australian gold rush <a href="http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/austn-gold-rush">http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/austn-gold-rush</a>

Kidcyber – Gold http://www.kidcyber.com.au/topics/gold.htm

SBS – Gold http://www.sbs.com.au/gold/

National Museum of Australia – Gold and Civilisation: Student Activities http://www.nma.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0003/18966/gold civilisation student colour.pdf

National Museum of Australia – Gold rush interactive for kids <a href="http://www.nma.gov.au/kidz/learn">http://www.nma.gov.au/kidz/learn</a> and <a href="http://www.nma.gov.au/kidz/learn">play/gold rush/</a>

