

American History

Lesson #11: April 6th, 2020

Learning Target: I can explain motivations and circumstances motivating people to pursue "The Gold Rush."

Warm Up

Looking at the table below, **answer the following question...**

Why do you think most people participated in the Gold Rush?

Striking it Rich
Shufelt describes some of his earnings from panning gold:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	\$82.72
2	\$42.00
3	\$61.44
4	\$112.81

Place your cursor on each amount to see its value today



Looking at the image below, **answer the following question...**

Why else might people want to travel to California during the Gold Rush?



Warm Up

Looking at the table below, **answer the following question...**

Why do you think most people participated in the Gold Rush?

Looking at the image below, **answer the following question...**

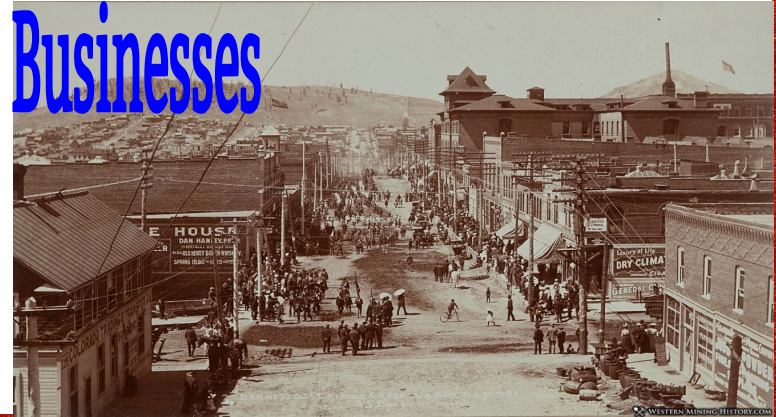
Why else might people want to travel to California during the Gold Rush?

Gold/Money

Striking it Rich
Shufelt describes some of his earnings from panning gold:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	\$82.72
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Place your cursor on each amount to see its value today



Lesson Activity

1. Today you will **read two** passages in order to explain motivations and circumstances motivating people to pursue "The Gold Rush."
2. After reading, you will **take notes** on the two passages recognizing those motivating factors
3. **Analyze primary sources** (first-hand accounts) that express those motivations.
4. **Reflect** on your learning of the Gold Rush

Lesson Activity

Read the following two passages about the California Gold Rush in order to understand participants motivations...

Passage 1

The first lucky arrivals—those who emptied out the California cities over the first few months—were **able to find nuggets of gold** in the stream beds. The American River and other nearby streams regularly gave up nuggets the size of pumpkin seeds, and many were as large as 7–8 ounces. **These people made quick fortunes. It was a unique time in history where individuals with literally nothing to their name could become extremely wealthy. It is no surprise that gold fever hit so heavily.**

Lesson Activity

Read the following two passages about the California Gold Rush in order to understand participants motivations...

Passage 2

The individuals who became the richest were in fact not these early miners but **were instead entrepreneurs who created businesses** to support all of the prospectors. Sam Brannan's store in Sutter's Fort **grossed more than \$36,000** between May 1 and July 10th **selling equipment**—shovels, picks, knives, buckets, blankets, tents, frying pans, bowls, and any kind of shallow dish. **Businesses sprang up to meet the essentials this mass of humanity would need in order to live.** Some of these businesses are still around today, such as Levi Strauss and Wells Fargo.

Lesson Activity

Write down the main factors that motivated people to pursue the Gold Rush

Passage 1- These people made quick fortunes. It was a unique time in history where individuals with literally nothing to their name could become extremely wealthy.

Passage 2- Selling equipment businesses sprang up to meet the essentials this mass of humanity would need in order to live.

Practice

Copy the following chart in order to complete the assignment...

Source	Motivator	Quote
#1-		
#2-		
#3-		

In the following primary sources (first-hand accounts), decide what motivated people during the Gold Rush...

Practice

**Source #1- *California Star*
Saturday, June 10, 1848**

“The gold region, so called, thus far explored, is about one hundred miles in length and twenty in width. The probable amount taken from these mountains since the first of May last, we are informed is \$100,000, and which is at this time principally in the hands of the mechanical, agricultural and laboring classes.”

Motivator

Quote

Practice

**Source #1- *California Star*
Saturday, June 10, 1848**

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Motivator

Money

Quote

“The amount taken from these mountains... we are informed is \$100,000”

Practice

Source #2- *The Miner's Ten Commandments*. 1853

“For thou knowest by staying here, thou mightst strike a lead and fifty dollars a day, and keep thy manly self respect, and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.”

Motivator

Quote

Practice

Source #2- *The Miner's Ten Commandments*. 1853

“For thou knowest by staying here, thou mightst strike a lead and fifty dollars a day, and keep thy manly self respect, and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.”

Motivator

Respect
Happiness

Quote

“...keep thy manly self respect, and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.”

Practice

Source #3- *Letter from Colonel R. B. Mason. August 17, 1848*

“The discovery of these vast deposits of gold has entirely changed the character of Upper California. Its people, before engaged in cultivating their small patches of ground, and guarding their herds of cattle and horses, have all gone to the mines, or are on their way thither. Labourers of every trade have left their work-benches, and tradesmen their shops.”

Motivator

Quote

Practice

Source #3- Letter from Colonel R. B. Mason. August 17, 1848

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Motivator

Labor/Jobs

Quote

“Labourers of every trade have left their work-benches, and tradesmen their shops.”

Reflection

Answer the following question in a paragraph...

Based on what you have learned today, would you have been motivated to pursue the Gold Rush? Why or why not?

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH 1849

