

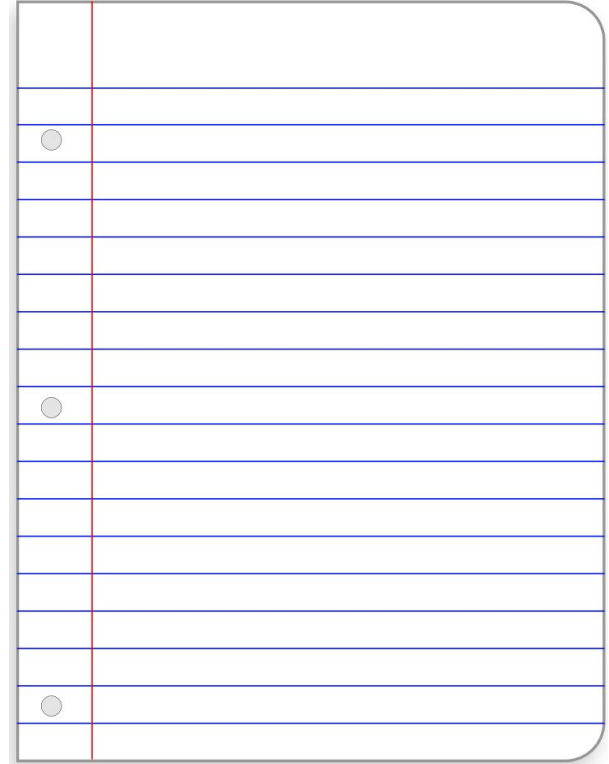
Class: 8th Grade American History Lesson #12: April 7, 2020

Learning Target: I can explain the difficulties and complications surrounding “The Gold Rush.”

Make sure you have a piece of paper and a pencil available available to complete this lesson:

During this lesson you will be asked to complete the task below - make sure you record your thinking on a piece a paper so you can review it later.

- Warm up
- Lesson Activity
- Practice
- Reflection



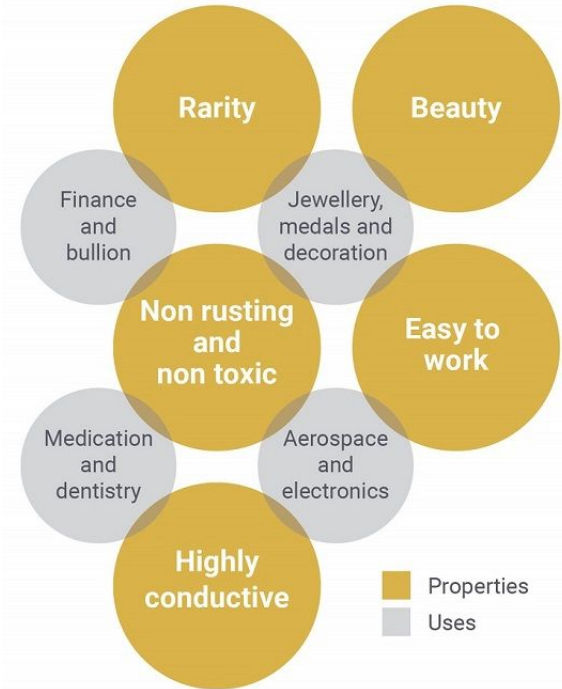
Warm Up

First, look at the picture below - it is a pile of gold - Why do you think people “love” gold so much?



Next, look at the properties and usage of gold below, does this change your opinion of why people “love” gold so much? Explain either point of view, yes it changes my opinion or no it does not change my opinion.

Gold properties and usage



Warm Up Review

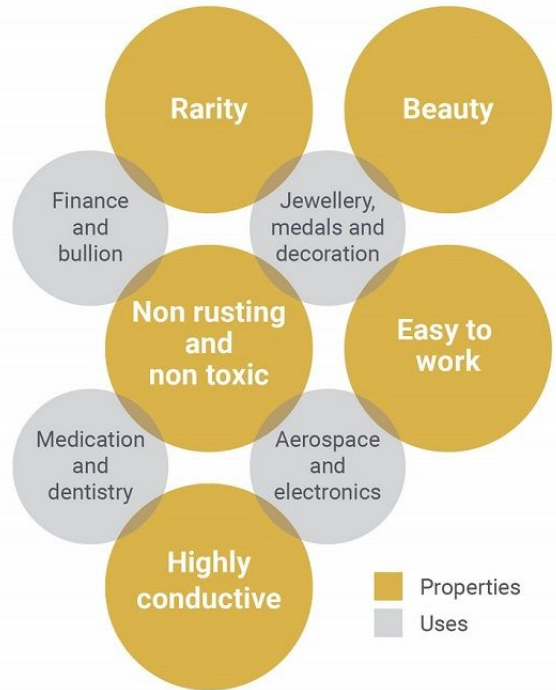
First, look at the picture below - That is a pile of gold - Why do you think people “love” gold so much?



Teacher thinks... I totally thought people liked gold because it was shiny and it made you look important if you had lots of gold. Now I sort of think that, but also think that people like it because they can use gold to make a lot of stuff.

Next, look at the properties and usage of gold below, does this change your opinion of why people “love” gold so much? Explain either point of view, yes it changes my opinion or no it does not change my opinion.

Gold properties and usage



Lesson Activity

Write down this overview on your paper - make sure to try and write it in your own words so that you will remember it better.

California Gold Rush Overview:

- The 1848 discovery of gold in California set off a frenzied Gold Rush to the state the next year as hopeful prospectors, called “forty-niners,” poured into the state.
- This massive migration to California transformed the state’s landscape and population.
- The Gold Rush was characterized by violent clashes among settlers, miners, and Native Americans over access to the land and its natural resources.

Lesson Activity:

Read the short passage (on the next two slides) about how the Gold Rush changed California. As you read, think about and answer the questions below. Make sure to write your answers down on the paper you started earlier.

- 1. List the different ways the demographics (types of people) changed in California during the Gold Rush?**
- 2. What long-term effects do you think the Gold Rush had on California?**

California Gold Rush Reading:

Though migration to California was fueled by visions of easy wealth, life there could be brutal. While a small number of Forty-niners did become rich, the reality was that gold panning rarely turned up anything of real value, and the work was back-breaking. The lack of housing, sanitation, and law enforcement created a dangerous mix. Crime rates in the goldfields were extremely high. Vigilante justice was frequently the only response to criminal activity because there was no effective law enforcement. As prospectors dreaming of gold poured into the region, formerly unsettled lands became populated, and previously small settlements, such as the one at San Francisco, exploded.

As competition flared over access to the goldfields, xenophobia and racial prejudice ran rampant. Chinese and Latin American immigrants were routinely subjected to violent attacks at the hands of white settlers and miners who had an extremely narrow view of what it meant to be truly "American." As the state government of California expanded to oversee the booming population, widespread nativist (anti-immigrant) feelings led to the establishment of taxes and laws that targeted immigrants, particularly the Chinese.

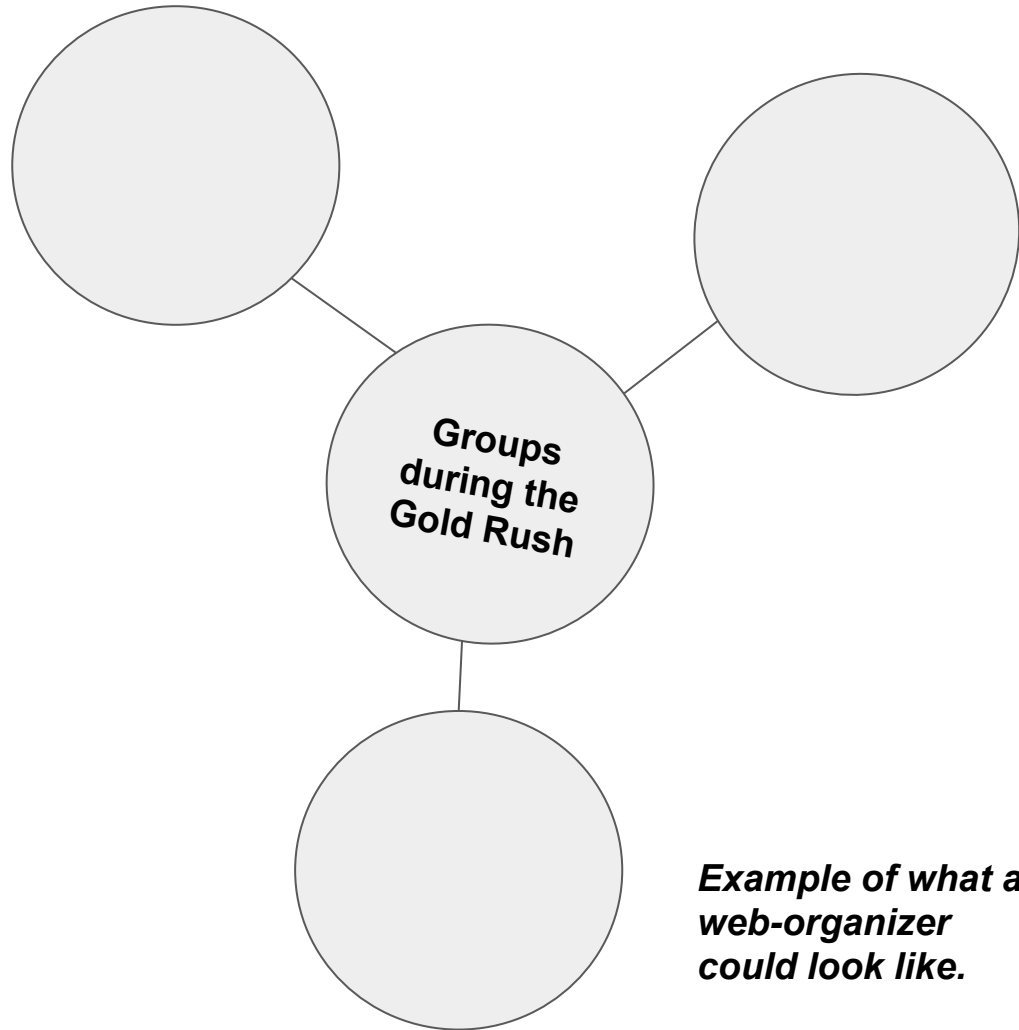
As agriculture and ranching expanded to meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of new settlers, white settlers' violence toward Native Americans grew. Peter Hardeman Burnett, the first governor of California, openly declared his contempt for the native population and demanded its immediate removal or extinction. Under Burnett's leadership, the state of California paid bounties to white settlers in exchange for Indian scalps. As a result, vigilante groups formed to track down and exterminate California's native population, which by 1890 had been almost completely decimated.

Though the Gold Rush had a transformative effect on California's landscape and population, it only lasted for a brief period (1848 to 1855). Easily found gold ran out and gold that remained required increasingly complex gold mining techniques. Individual miners simply could not compete with major mining companies.

Practice:

Use this [website](#) about the different groups of people in California during the Gold Rush to find the information you need.

Next Create a graphic-organizer that shows how the Gold Rush affected different groups in California. Choose three groups to include on your graphic organizer.



Example of what a web-organizer could look like.

Reflection:

Based on what you now know - If you had lived in this time period, would you have participated in the Gold Rush? Why or why not?

SEPTEMBER 20 1849


GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

CALIFORNIA GOLD REGION SEEMS INEXHAUSTIBLE!

After James W. Marshall's great discovery at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, Forty-Niners have been arriving in droves, some from as far away as Europe and Asia, to get their hands on the valuable dust.



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