

GOLD NOTES 2.0

Gold Rush Documentary (The Edge of the World):

(I) In The Beginning:

- Salmon is a valuable/essential aspect of Indigenous Culture (Fraser River)
- Salmon was vital to trade and food
- Respect between people and salmon/nature

(II) European Colonization:

- 1770s: Most of the world had been mapped
- 3 nations fought for BC's land (Britain, Spain, French?)
- (Simon Fraser) 1805; embarked on journey to BC and travelled down the Fraser River
- 1840s; United States and Britain fought for ownership of the west
- Hudson's Bay Company found Vancouver Island (Port Victoria)
- 1846; 49th parallel
- 1850s; only a few settlers past the Rockies (Port Victoria furthest west)

(III) Gold Rush:

- Gold Rushes brought settlers further west
- Gold found on the Fraser River
- Prospectors began attempting to find gold (mostly men)
- 1858; British Columbia founded
- (Halpenny) left home to find gold in BC, returned with nothing
- "Wild West" (lawless small towns in the west)
- Caribou Gold Rush in BC
- (Fraser Canyon War) 1858; Indigenous communities overrun by settlers, conflict between Indigenous and settlers
- (Matthew Begbie aka the Hanging Judge) Establishing laws/court in the West
- (James Douglas) 1858; freed slaves immigrated to BC
- Civil War Ended; Many returned to the US or stayed in Victoria
- Billy Barker struck gold in the Caribou Gold Rush (30 million dollars)
- Barkerville was established with his fortune
- Barker died after unsuccessful investment and poverty
- 1882; small pox infections in BC's Indigenous populations
- Two thirds of the Indigenous population died from small pox

(IV) Joining Canada:

- Chinese immigrants escaped poverty and moved to BC
- 6000 hired to work for the railway (expendable, no rights, excluded)
- Many workers died in harsh and dangerous conditions
- 1874; Miners stranded in snow storm
- (Natalie Cashman) escaped Irish potato famine and led rescue operation to save trapped miners

- 1884; Federal Government outlawed Indigenous potlatches
- The potlatch ban lasted 69 years (ended in 1951)

(V) Growing Economy (1885-1900):

- Logging industry becomes prominent and successful in BC
- Many workers died in dangerous working conditions
- Logging industry deemed unsustainable
- 1899; 250 million's worth of lumber exported out of BC
- Coal Mines also becomes more prominent
- More dangerous working conditions for workers
- Many die in mine explosions
- 150 men lost their lives in the worst mining explosion in BC
- 1890s; Sandon Village thrives (first town in BC to be powered by electricity)
- CPR station in Sandon was exploded/destroyed
- Sandon is a ghost town
- 1891; Leprosy spreads amongst some immigrants and the sick are exiled to Darcy Island
- Darcy Island remained a prison for 31 years (remaining patients moved to a better facility)
- Hannah becomes first BC female photographer (moved to BC with husband during gold rush)
- Took exposure/artistic photographs in Victoria BC
- Maynard's photography (sought after portrait photographer)
- 1912; Hannah retires

(VI) Birth of Vancouver:

- European settlers attracted by deep waters and massive trees
- Logging industry forms Vancouver
- Gassy Jack opens the first pub
- Gastown becomes the terminal city for CPR (name changes to Vancouver)

Royal BC Museum ([Website](#)):

Gold Rush Interactive Experience:

- Gold changed the course of history (building empires, driving conquest, exploration & migration)
- Most gold looted from South America was lost
- 1800s; gold fever spread worldwide
- 1858; The legend of El Dorado resurfaced in BC (discovery of gold in Fraser River)

Overview:

- 1858; The Pacific Northwest was changed forever with the discovery of gold (large scale migration followed with gold fever)
- BC's Gold Rush connected the West to the rest of the world
- New immigrants changed the lives of the Indigenous peoples (changing rivers, widening trails into roads, felling forests)
- 1865; Governor James Douglas made BC a province
- 1871; BC joined Canada

Chinese Legacy in BC:

- Hop Kee & Co. Of San Francisco played an important role of bringing Chinese immigrants to Victoria
- 1858; Allan Lowe & Co commissioned to ship 300 Chinese men and 50 tons of merchandise to Victoria (\$3,500)
- 1858-1859; Chinese immigrants arrived from the US
- 1859; Immigrants brought from Hong Kong
- Victoria serves as a major port between Canada and Asia (second largest Chinese population in North America)
- 1885; Vancouver became last stop on the newly completed Canadian Pacific Railway (economic activities shift to the west)
- Gold rush; immigrants benefitted from booming trade
- Immigrant workers contribute to the building of BC (mining, telegraph poles, Cariboo Wagon Road, trails, canals, reclaiming wastelands)
- Conditions on voyages are harsh (1 meal per day, 14 inch sleeping space)
- Some immigrants returned home while others stayed to create settler communities

The Fraser River War (Overview):

- 1850s; Origins traced to when the Nlaka'pamux people of the Thompson and Fraser Rivers began selling gold to the HBC
- (James Douglas) attempted to keep discovery of gold secret
 - HBC profiting from gold trade
 - Avoid large #s of American settlers (maintain British control)
- Mid 1850s; rumours of gold circulate
 - US settlers cross the 49th parallel
- 1857; Nlaka'pamux people expel gold miners from their land
 - Affect gold trade with HBC
 - Negative affect on salmon (food supply)
- (James Douglas) sent many letters to urge the British government to establish it's authority in the region

- 25,000-30,000 American & European settlers poured into BC from California and Oregon
 - Drove the Nlaka'pamux peoples from their territory and gold trade
- 1858; conflict (Nlaka'pamux outnumbered and threatened some settlers)
- (James Douglas) appointed government officials to represent authority (two revenue collectors and a justice of peace)
- Tension increases; settlers ambushed Indigenous, stole/destroyed provisions, and killed 10-12 people
- Settlers harassed their people, trespassed on their land, and excluded them from their gold, and mistreated them
- Nlaka'pamux sent downstream the headless bodies of two French miners (miners allegedly attacked a woman)
- (Captain Snyder) convinced miners to use a show of force to pressure the Nlaka'pamux into a peace settlement
- August 9; the militias moved upstream and sent peace reports
- August 14; 3 Indigenous villages were burned and their people were killed by the settlers
- Captain Snyder and 27 chiefs gathered to create a peace treaty (ultimatum; accept peace or face being driven from their lands)
- 1858 August; Crown Colony of British Columbia established
 - Little formal government presence in the Fraser Canyon
 - Douglas notified of conflict and met with both the Indigenous peoples and the miners to investigate the situation

The Gold Rush Trail (Website):

California Gold Rush (1848)

- (1848-1850s) First Gold Rush in North America
- (James W. Marshall) found gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California
- The news of gold brought 300,000 people to California
 - The Rush attracted tens of thousands from Latin America, Europe, Australia, & Asia (not just America's east)
- Half arrived by sea and the other half came overland from the east (California Trail & the Gila River Trail)

Vancouver Island and the British Colony (1849)

- Creation of the Imperial Government of a proprietary colony (Vancouver Island)
- (March 11, 1850) Richard Blanshard became Governor
- First Crown Colony to be established in British Territory west of the Great Lakes
- (1851) James Douglas appointed the second governor of Vancouver Island
- Douglas known as "the father of BC" (managed the BC territory)

The Fraser River Gold Rush (1858)

- (James Douglas) 800 ounces of gold sent to the "San Francisco Mint" sparked rumours of gold in BC
- Prospectors arrived in Victoria and New Westminster searching for gold
- Within two months the population of Fort Victoria grew to over 20,000
- New Caledonia was renamed BC
 - Territory proclaimed a crown colony at Fort Langley
 - Douglas named first governor of the new colony
- (1851 - 1864) Douglas was governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island
- (1858 - 1864) Douglas named governor of BC to assert British authority during the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush
- (1857) Rumours of gold in the Thompson River area
 - 10 - 20 thousand men moved into the region around present-day Yale (sparked the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush)

Cariboo Gold Rush (1860s)

- Gold Rush brought immigrants from Hong Kong to the port of Victoria
- Chinese miners worked in sites abandoned by white miners
- Many immigrants moved to the Cariboo
- More Canadian & British prospectors involved in the Cariboo Rush
- Barkerville; commercial centre for the Cariboo Rush
- (1862) William Barker found gold in Williams Creek
- (1868) Barkerville was wiped out by fire
- Gold Rush sparked the creation of the Cariboo Wagon Trail
 - 650km road from Yale into the interior of the Cariboo mountains
 - Important transportation route for further development of the mainland colony

- Lillooet Camels used as pack animals in the canyon
 - Was not a success (miners let them loose)
 - (1905) Last camel roamed the area
- (1861) The Overlanders left Fort Gary (Winnipeg) for the Cariboo goldfields
- (Mid-1850s) gold finds were slowing (rumours of “easy gold” on the Fraser River”
- Prospectors found gold around the area (William’s Creek)
- Richfield; small town was founded