



A Miner's Life for Me!

4th Grade

Duration

Visit: 20-30 minutes

Post Visit: 15-20 minutes

Location

Gem & Mineral Hall

Supplies

- Worksheet
- Pencil
- Clipboard (optional)

Standards

Social Studies 4.4.3.3

Vocabulary

Gold Rush

Gold

Miner

Tools

Concepts

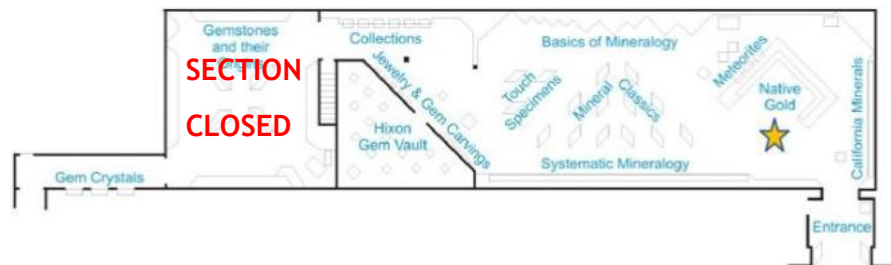
- Miners used a variety of tools to look for and acquire gold during the Gold Rush.
- Mining tools had a direct impact on the daily life of a miner.

Objectives

- Students will analyze the use of the tools in mining gold and be able to identify at least three tools used by gold miners in California.
- Students will use these tools to imagine what life was like during the gold rush.

Outline

1. At the Museum make and record observations about tools used during the Gold Rush.
2. Back at in the classroom, share and discuss observations.



Museum Visit

Lead students to the Gold Rush section of the Gem & Mineral Hall and have them observe the diorama, using their worksheet to record observations and answer guided questions.

The questions are geared toward the students walking away with enough information from the exhibit to analyze how the Gold Rush impacted daily life by looking at the tools used, the gear the miners wore, and pictures of what life was like during the gold rush. Examples of tools in the exhibit include:

- Miner's hat
- Compass
- Pick
- Prospector's companion
- Lantern
- Miner's shoe
- Clothes worn by miners
- Shovels
- Mining pans

Post- Visit

Back in the classroom (or upon completion of the worksheet if you would like to do it at the Museum) together review what tools were used and how. Take this time to clear up any misinformation. Then, facilitate a discussion about what impact these kinds of tools might have had on the daily life of a miner.

Guiding questions might include:

- Was this an easy or fun job?
- What did the miners use to get the gold out?
- How do their clothes look? Was it fancy or new? What did they do in their clothes?
- Why would someone need a prospector's companion?
- What else do we know about how people mined for gold at this time?
- What tools are not in this exhibit that we know about?
- What tool would have made daily life easier for the miners?



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Use the prompts below to record observations about the Gold Rush

1. Identify and draw at least three tools used by Gold Miners:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

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2. Examine each tool closely, and infer what they might have been used for:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



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3. Look closely at clothes worn by miners. Write a paragraph analyzing what they might mean for a Gold Miners life, consider—was it easy to work in these clothes? How might have the items they wore helped or hindered them in their job or other every day activities?