

Supplemental Information
For Teachers



This Curriculum was prepared by the
San Francisco Maritime National Park Association
In Partnership with the San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park

Activity 1

Estimated Classroom Time: 50 minutes

Seeing Through Different Eyes

James Marshall first discovered gold in January 1848 near Sutter's Fort. Marshall and Sutter wanted to keep the news of the strike quiet, but word quickly spread. Many of the towns of California became ghost towns overnight. Monterey and San Francisco harbors were filled with ships riding empty at anchor, their crews having suddenly left to stake their claims in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

When students arrive at Hyde Street Pier they will be pretending to be gold seekers from the Atlantic coast. They have spent most of their savings on the voyage around Cape Horn to San Francisco and are looking for a new, hopefully prosperous, life.

Each student will have his own perspective of his imaginary journey. However, students should go beyond their personal experience to appreciate history in a variety of ways. When students begin to develop the habit of interpreting the same events from different viewpoints, history becomes rich, alive and exciting.

Divide your class into three groups and read each of the character descriptions below. Choose one of the scenarios listed and discuss how each of the different characters might react to it. Role-play two different characters' reactions to the same situations in front of the rest of the class.



The Captain: The Captain is the Master of the ship and crew. He is responsible for sailing the ship and for earning money for the trading company that owns the ships. He is in a difficult position just now because he has lost his crew to gold fever. Ever hopeful that he will find a loyal crew to sail with him, he tells wonderful tales of the joys of life at sea. Once at sea, he demands that his sailors work hard to make as much money as possible.

The Merchant: The Merchant is a strict businessman. Through hard work, less than honest tactics and luck, he has built a profitable business supplying miners and townfolk with necessary supplies, at inflated prices, of course. He too is looking for a few honest hard-working men to insure that he continues to make a profit. While he talks at great lengths about the fortunes that can be made on shore, he fails to point out that it is the owner of the company, not the workers, who will make the profit.

The Sailor: He appears as the most jovial of the three. He is a common seaman who works for the Captain, but his main priority is his own survival. His latest scheme is to persuade the students to accompany him to the gold fields so they can work as his mining crew. He takes every opportunity to strike deals with the students for their treasured possessions and to exaggerate the riches in store for them once they reach the gold fields.

Scenarios:

1. The ships have anchored in a harbor full of empty ships, their crews gone to stake claims.
2. A man comes running down the pier where you are docked. He is shouting “GOLD!”
3. A group of men and women seek passage to the gold fields, but have no money to pay for the trip.
4. A local wants to trade his antique silver tea service from England for mining supplies.

How would each of these three characters react to these situations? Have the students step inside their shoes to come up with their answers.

Activity 2

Estimated Classroom Time: 50 minutes

Seeing the Elephant

*“Sometimes, a company of these wanderers will find itself upon a Bar, where a few pieces of the precious metal lie scattered upon the surface of the group; of course they immediately ‘prospect’ it... It ‘pays,’ they ‘claim’ the spot, and build their shanties, the news spreads that wonderful ‘diggings’ have been discovered at such a place – the monte dealers, those worse than fiends, rush vulture-like upon the scene and erect a round tent, where, in gambling, drinking, swearing and fighting, the **many** reproduce Pandemonium... while a **few** honestly and industriously commence digging for gold, and lo! as if a fairy’s wand had been waved...a full-grown mining town hath sprung into existence.”*

Louise A.K.S. Clappe, The Letters of Dame Shirley, Indian Bar, 1852

During the Gold Rush you will be learning about the life of a sailor, a merchant and the life in the diggings. At the end of the program you will be asked to make a decision. What do you want to do? You will need as much background information as you can get to help you make a good decision. One thing you will discover is that both the sailors and the miners have a language of their own. You will want to learn the languages of both.



Below is a list of words and expressions from the “diggings.” Divide into your groups. Decide what each word or phrase means. Write your guess next to each word. Once you have finished, match your guesses with the vocabulary list. How close did you come to getting the correct definition?

Alcalde _____

boom town _____

cradle _____

ghost town _____

grubstake _____

hopper _____

Mother Lode _____

“pay dirt” _____

poke _____

“stake a claim” _____

ailing _____

“Color” _____

“Come down with the dust” _____

“Pan out” _____

“Seeing the elephant” _____

Activity 2B
Estimated Classroom Time: 50 minutes

Do It with a Will

On Richard Henry Dana's (author of Two Years Before the Mast) first night at sea he notes that, "Unintelligible orders were so rapidly given, and so immediately executed, that I was completely bewildered." Though Dana may have looked as "salt" as any "jack tar," he soon found that the language of the sea had a vocabulary of its very own. To work as a sailor you have to learn to speak like one.



At the end of the Gold Rush program you will be asked to make a choice concerning your future. To make a good decision you will need as much background information as possible. Below is a list of words and expressions used by sailors. Divide into your groups. Decide what each word or phrase means. Write your guess next to each word. Once you have finished, match your guesses with the vocabulary list. How close did you come to getting the correct definition?

Aft _____

Avast _____

“aye” _____

bow _____

cabin _____

“carry on” _____

galley _____

head _____

line _____

mouse _____

port _____

“Sir” _____

starboard _____

stern _____

“Bend your back and break your oars” _____

“Capitol water dog” _____

“A blowout on sleep” _____

“Do it with a will” _____

“Bear a hand” _____

“California Fever!” _____

“Blowing like scissors and thumbscrews” _____

In the Gold Fields – Words to Know

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Alcalde</i> | the mayor or the judge |
| <i>bar</i> | sand built up at the bend of a river |
| <i>boom town</i> | a town that grew fast, generally as a result of mining |
| <i>cradle</i> | a device to separate rock and gravel from gold |
| <i>dry diggings</i> | mining done without water; digging gold out of cracks in the rocks or from dry riverbeds |
| <i>ghost town</i> | town where few, if any, people live |
| <i>grubstake</i> | a loan of food until the miner could repay |
| <i>hopper</i> | a part of a cradle rocker |
| <i>lode</i> | vein or deposit of gold |
| <i>Mother Lode</i> | vein or deposit of gold running through quartz in the Sierra Nevada Mountains |
| <i>nuggets</i> | lumps of gold in various sizes and weights |
| <i>“pay dirt”</i> | clay, sand or gravel with gold in it |
| <i>poke</i> | bag used to carry gold dust or nuggets |
| <i>quartz</i> | a mineral or rock in which gold may be found |
| <i>stake a claim</i> | marking the boundary line of a miner’s property with a stake or a pile of rocks |
| <i>tailing</i> | the waste pile of rocks and gravel left after washing the gold |
| <i>wet diggings</i> | mining where there is water; digging for gold from rivers or streams |

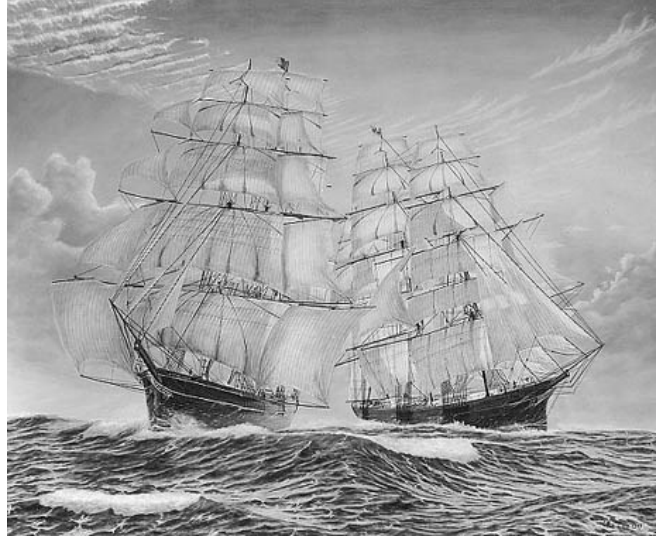


Expressions in the Gold Fields

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>“color”</i> | any trace of gold found |
| <i>“come down with the dust”</i> | pay cash at the time of purchase |
| <i>“pan out”</i> | gold played out or gone |
| <i>“seeing the elephant”</i> | seeing gold in the gold field |
| <i>“throw down the box”</i> | term used by robbers when they held up a stagecoach; it refers to the box that holds the gold |
| <i>“whip”</i> | driver of the stagecoach |

Aboard a Ship – Words to Know

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Aft</i> | direction towards the stern, or rear, of the ship |
| <i>avast</i> | stop, or quit, what you are doing |
| <i>“aye”</i> | yes |
| <i>bow</i> | the front end of the ship |
| <i>cabin</i> | the quarters of the captain and officers |
| <i>“carry on”</i> | the command to get started after orders have been given |



| | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>fall</i> | hauling part of the tackle; line by which a load is hoisted |
| <i>forward</i> | direction toward the bow or front of the ship |
| <i>galley</i> | kitchen on a ship |
| <i>head</i> | the ship’s toilet |
| <i>line</i> | sailor’s word for rope |
| <i>mouse</i> | to fasten a small piece of line or yarn on a hook used in rigging, to prevent the cargo from falling off the hook |
| <i>port</i> | the left side of a vessel as one stands facing forward |
| <i>“Sir”</i> | the Captain’s title, used by no one else |
| <i>starboard</i> | the right side of a ship, as one stands facing forward |
| <i>stern</i> | back end of a ship |

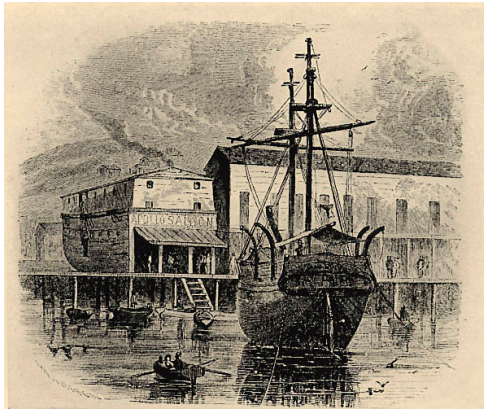
Expressions Aboard a Sailing Ship

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>"Bend your back and break your oars"</i> | hard work |
| <i>"Capitol water dog"</i> | good seaman |
| <i>"A blowout on sleep"</i> | not turning out in the morning until breakfast |
| <i>"Do it with a will"</i> | work willingly |
| <i>"Bear a hand"</i> | help out |
| <i>"California Fever!"</i> | laziness |
| <i>"Blowing like scissors and thumbscrews"</i> | a gale or storm |

Activity 3

Estimated Classroom Time: 50 minutes

Brannan's General Store



One carrier of gold fever was a merchant named Sam Brannan. Sam Brannan perceived his future as the rumors of gold spread – but not as a prospector. If there was gold in the diggings, he reasoned, the miners would need picks, shovels, pans, flour, coffee and other staples. The first merchant who was able to establish himself in the gold fields could sell these at incredibly high prices. Sam Brannan made sure he was there first!

You have arrived in San Francisco with a change of clothes, \$100.00 for supplies and a dream. Carefully check over the list and decide what to buy. Do you need more money than you have? Check the job board and find a job. How long will it take to earn extra money? Remember that you will need some extra for food and lodging.

Supplies

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Beef | .50 lb. | | Flour | .75 lb. |
| Mutton | 1.00 lb. | | Sugar | .65 lb. |
| Veal | .75 lb. | | Potatoes | 1.00 lb. |
| Pork | 1.00 lb. | | Onions | 1.00 lb. |
| Chicken | 16.00 each | | Eggs | .85 each |
| Mackerel | 1.00 lb. | | Molasses | 4.00 gallon |
| Coffee | .55 lb. | | Fruit | .50 each |
| Tea | 5.00 lb. | | Hard Bread | .75 each |
| Shovels | 25.00 each | | Horses | 150.00 each |
| Pans | 10.00 each | | Mules | 100.00 each |
| Picks | 25.00 each | | Saddles | 50.00 each |
| Shirts | 40.00 each | | Rifle | 75.00 each |
| Boots | 40.00 pair | | Pistol | 50.00 each |
| Socks | 10.00 pair | | Knife | 10.00 each |
| Hats | 10.00 each | | Ammunition | 10.00 a box |
| Underwear | 15.00 pair | | Dynamite | 100.00 a box |
| | | | | |
| Haircut | 1.50 | | Billiards | 1.00 game |
| Shave | 1.00 | | Lodging (own blanket on the floor) | 1.00 night |
| Bath | 2.00 | | Laundry | .50 / piece |

Job Board

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Saloonkeeper | \$2.00/day | (meals included) |
| Cargo handler | \$40.00/day | (2 days only) |
| Wagon hauler | \$.50/hour | (10 hour days) |
| Innkeeper | \$10.00/week | (4 days a week) |
| Merchant assistant | \$50.00/month | (room and board included) |
| Riverboat crew | \$15.00/week | (6 days a week) |



Gold Rush Fun!

M G X J N J D D W N A P H A V
U I E L S Q S C P V U D Z O E
B M I F G M E R G J R V Q D T
F I V M W R U P H A T U B L X
A W F N X H H S O E A C Z O G
B V G I H A G B S R D O C D W
Q L A O W N R E T S E L Q E E
C O A S K A H Z T F K P U S F
W R P K T E E J O E A Z P U C
S Y A S A E G N W O T M O O B
D R Y D I G G I N G S Q F M H
G F Y E L L A G R X B H C D L
I J O R I E D P U Z U G B Z T
R A S W N J Y B P N R G N F B
I V R L G U U A D C G L E L C

AYE
AFT
AVAST
BOOMTOWN
BOW
CRADLE
DRYDIGGINGS
GALLEY
GHOSTTOWN
GRUBSTAKE

HEAD
HOPPER
LODE

MOUSE
NUGGETS
QUARTZ
STARBOARD
STERN
TAILING

