

Australian Gold Rush

The Australian Gold Rush began in 1851 and is a significant event in Australia's history. The gold rushes changed Australia from a convict settlement to a free settlement.

Gold was actually discovered by convicts as early as 1815 in the Blue Mountains but authorities kept this information quiet to prevent a convict uprising.

Convicts and workers were needed to build roads, buildings, transportation and to run farms - among other things - and authorities didn't want workers to leave their jobs. Authorities were able to keep gold discoveries in New South Wales and Victoria secret until 1851.

In 1851, Australia changed forever when Edward Hargraves discovered gold in Bathurst in New South Wales. He announced his discovery in the Sydney Herald newspaper.



Within a month, over a thousand men had left their jobs and rushed to Bathurst, in the hope of finding gold and becoming rich.

As more gold was found in New South Wales, gold fever took over the country. Many workers left their jobs and headed into the gold fields.

The first gold found in Victoria was in 1851 in Bendigo by two women, Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy. It led to a thriving Melbourne, with visitors coming from Britain, Germany, Italy, France, USA and China to join in the boom time.

In the ten years from the first gold being discovered in New South Wales, the population

tripled. This led to convicts no longer being needed as there were plenty of workers to help in construction and farms.

Colonial life was changed from the wealth created by the gold. New towns were formed and telegraph poles were built - allowing increased communications between people through telegraphs.

A few people struck good finds of gold and became rich, but many did not and had to struggle with living and working on a mine site in very tough conditions.

Telegraphs

The telegraph is a device for communicating over a distance. It sends coded messages through wires and in the 1800s was the fastest way to communicate over long distances.



Questions

1. What was Australia before it was a free settlement?

2. When was the first gold actually discovered in Australia?

3. List three jobs that the workers were needed for in 1850s Australia?

4. Who found gold in 1851 and announced it in the Sydney Morning Herald?

5. After Bathurst, where was the next gold found in Australia? Who found the gold?

6. Why were convicts no longer needed?

7. What countries did people come from to mine for gold in Australia?

8. Describe what a telegraph is used for?

Answers

1. What was Australia before it was a free settlement?
Before it was a free settlement, Australia was a convict settlement.
2. When was the first gold actually discovered in Australia?
Gold was actually first discovered in 1815 by convicts in Bathurst, New South Wales.
3. List three jobs that the workers were needed for in 1850s Australia?
Workers were needed to:
build roads
build transportation
construct railways
run farms
4. Who found gold in 1851 and announced it in the Sydney Morning Herald?
Edward Hargraves found gold in 1851 and announced it in the Sydney Morning Herald.
5. After Bathurst, where was the next gold found in Australia? Who found the gold?
After Bathurst, the next place gold was found in was Bendigo, Victoria and it was discovered by two women Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy.
6. Why were convicts no longer needed?
Convicts were no longer needed as there were lots of workers in Australia who could build roads, transport and do all the things needed to progress Australia.
7. What countries did people come from to mine for gold in Australia?
People came from Britain, Germany, Italy, France, USA and China to mine for gold in Australia.
8. Describe what a telegraph is used for?
A telegraph is used for communicating over a distance. It sends coded messages through wires and in the 1800s was the fastest way to communicate over long distances.

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Gold was actually discovered by convicts as early as 1815 in the Blue Mountains but authorities kept this information quiet to prevent a convict uprising. Convicts and workers were needed to build roads, buildings, transportation and to run farms amongst other things and authorities didn't want workers to leave their jobs. Authorities were able to keep gold discoveries in New South Wales and Victoria secret until 1851.

In 1851, Australia changed forever when Edward Hargraves discovered gold in Bathurst in New South Wales. He announced his discovery in the Sydney Herald newspaper, and within a month over a thousand men had left their jobs and rushed to Bathurst, in the hope of finding gold and becoming rich.

As more gold was found in New South Wales, gold fever took over the country. Businesses had to increase workers wages just to try and keep them. But many workers left their jobs and headed into the gold fields. It became such a problem that a committee was formed in Victoria called the Victorian Gold Discovery Committee. It offered a reward to anyone who found gold within 200 kilometres of Melbourne.

The first gold found in Victoria was in 1851 in Bendigo by two women, Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy. It led to a thriving Melbourne, with visitors coming from Britain, Germany, Italy, France, USA and China to join in the boom time.

Over ten years from the first gold being discovered in New South Wales, the



population tripled. This led to convicts no longer being needed as there were plenty of workers to help in construction and farms. Colonial life was changed from the wealth created from the gold. New towns were formed and telegraph poles were built allowing increased communications between people through telegraphs.

The increasing wealth led to outlaws called bushrangers, who robbed people and held up transportation such as coaches to get money and jewels off people. A famous Australian bushranger of the Gold Rush era is 'Black Douglas' Charles Russell. He was eventually jailed when a group of nearly two hundred diggers got fed up with the bushranger's antics and captured him.

A few people struck good finds of gold and became rich, but many did not. The Eureka Stockade in 1854, was a battle between soldiers and miners about workers' rights, which resulted in 22 miners being killed. The Eureka Stockade is seen as a key event in the development of Australian democracy and Australian identity.

Telegraphs

The telegraph is a device for communicating over a distance. It sends coded messages through wires and in the 1800s was the fastest way to communicate over long distances.



Questions

1. Describe what a telegraph is used for.

2. Circle the definition below that best describes the meaning of the word 'uprising'.

a) an act of resistance or rebellion; a revolt.

b) cause to feel disgust.

3. When was gold first discovered and who discovered it?

4. When Edward Hargraves found gold, what did he do?

5. Why did authorities want to keep gold discoveries quiet?

6. Ten years after Edward Hargraves discovered gold, how had Australia changed?

7. Describe some of the difficulties faced by gold prospectors?

8. Summarise the events of the Eureka Stockade and explain its importance.

Answers

1. Describe what a telegraph is used for.
A telegraph is used for communicating over a distance. It sends coded messages through wires and in the 1800s was the fastest way to communicate over long distances.
2. Circle the definition below that best describes the meaning of the word 'uprising'.
a
3. When was gold first discovered and who discovered it?
Gold was first discovered in 1815 by convicts in Bathurst, New South Wales.
4. When Edward Hargraves found gold, what did he do?
When Edward Hargraves found gold, he put an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald.
5. Why did authorities want to keep gold discoveries quiet?
Authorities wanted to keep gold discoveries quiet because they needed workers to keep building roads and transportation etc.
6. Ten years after Edward Hargraves discovered gold, how had Australia changed?
Ten years after Edward Hargraves discovered gold, Australia had changed in many ways. The population had tripled, new towns were formed, telegraph poles made communication over a distance possible and there was increased wealth.
7. Describe some of the difficulties faced by gold prospectors?
Gold Prospectors faced many difficulties including: working long hours in the sun and heat, having to pay expensive mining fees, lack of facilities such as housing, shops and food in new mining towns and having to avoid bushrangers who would steal their goods.
8. Summarise the events of the Eureka Stockade and explain its importance.
The Eureka Stockade was a battle between soldiers and miners that occurred in 1854. The battle was about workers rights which sadly resulted in 22 miners being killed. The Eureka Stockade is seen as a key event in the development of Australian democracy and Australian identity.

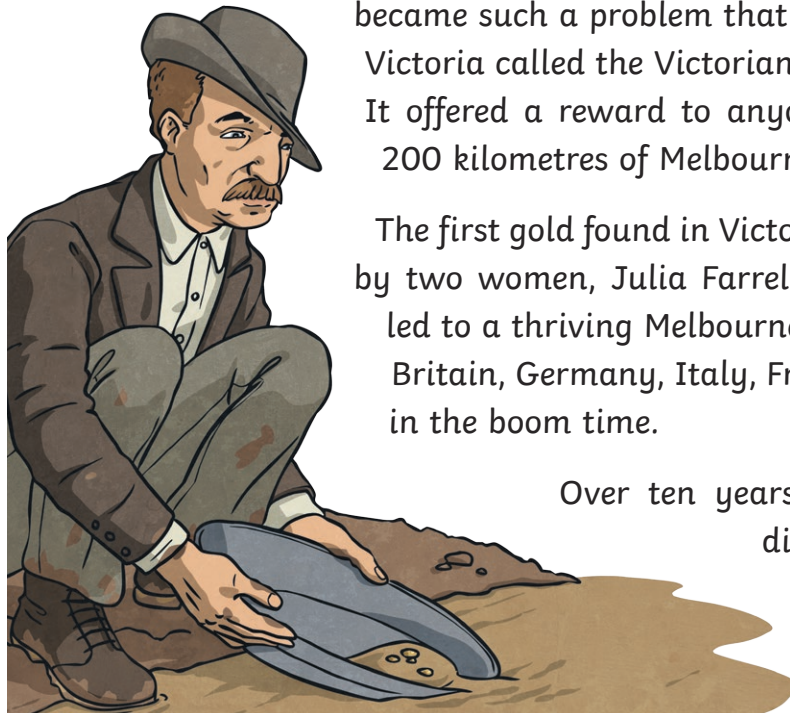
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The Australian Gold Rush began in 1851 and is a significant event in Australia's history. The gold rushes changed Australia from a convict settlement to a free settlement.

Gold was actually discovered by convicts as early as 1815 near in the Blue Mountains but authorities kept this information quiet to prevent a convict uprising. Convicts and workers were needed to build roads, buildings, transportation such as railway lines and to run farms amongst other things and authorities didn't want workers to leave their jobs. Authorities were able to keep gold discoveries in New South Wales and Victoria secret until 1851.

In 1851, Australia changed forever when Edward Hargraves, a gold prospector who had just returned to Australia from gold prospecting in California, discovered gold in Bathurst in New South Wales. He announced his discovery in the Sydney Herald newspaper, and within a month over 1000 men had left their jobs and rushed to Bathurst, in the hope of finding gold and becoming rich.

As more gold was found in New South Wales, gold fever took over the country. Businesses had to increase workers wages just to try and keep them. But many workers left their jobs and headed into the gold fields. It became such a problem that a committee was formed in Victoria called the Victorian Gold Discovery Committee. It offered a reward to anyone who found gold within 200 kilometres of Melbourne.



The first gold found in Victoria was in 1851, in Bendigo by two women, Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy. It led to a thriving Melbourne, with visitors coming from Britain, Germany, Italy, France, USA and China to join in the boom time.

Over ten years from the first gold being discovered in New South Wales the population tripled. This led to convicts no longer being needed as



there were plenty of workers to help in construction and farms. Colonial life was changed from the wealth created from the gold. New towns were formed and telegraph poles were built allowing increased communications between people through telegraphs.

The increasing wealth led to outlaws called bushrangers, who robbed people and held up transportation such as coaches to get money and jewels off people. A famous Australian bushranger of the Gold Rush era is 'Black Douglas' Charles Russell. He and his gang of 16 bushrangers regularly held up diggers travelling to and from the goldfields between Bendigo and Melbourne. 'Black Douglas' was eventually jailed when a group of nearly 200 diggers got fed up with the bushranger's antics and captured him.

A few people struck good finds of gold and became rich, but many did not. Many miners believed they were being treated unfairly as they had to pay expensive mining licenses and did not have a vote. Tensions grew between authorities and the 'diggers' and led to the Eureka Stockade in 1854, which was a battle between soldiers and miners about workers' rights which sadly resulted in 22 miners being killed. The Eureka Stockade is seen as a key event in the development of Australian democracy and Australian identity.

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Diggers

'Diggers' was the nickname given to people who worked in the goldfields. It was also used to describe Australian soldiers who fought in World War 1.



Questions

1. When was gold first found in Australia?

2. List three consequences of the Gold Rush in Australia.

3. Summarise what is known about Edward Hargreaves.

4. Describe some of the difficulties faced by gold prospectors?

5. What do you think was appealing about the Gold Rush to the workers who joined it?

6. What is meant by the term 'boom time'?

7. Gold was discovered in Bendigo by two women, Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy. What do you think the public reaction to this news would have been?

8. Why did miners believe they were treated unfairly and what did this lead to?

9. What do you think the story of the Eureka miners says about Australian identity?

Answers

1. When was gold first found in Australia?
Gold was first found in Australia in 1815.
2. List three consequences of the Gold Rush in Australia.
 - **Australia changed from a convict colony to a free settlement.**
 - **The population tripled and the workers made the roads etc.**
 - **New towns were formed**
 - **Telegraph poles were installed and communication increased.**
 - **Eureka Stockade occurred and formed democracy in Australia.**
3. Summarise what is known about Edward Hargreaves.
Edward Hargreaves was a gold prospector who discovered gold in Bathurst, Australia. He had returned from California and found gold in Australia. He then put a message in the newspaper and that was the start of the Gold Rush in Australia.
4. Describe some of the difficulties faced by gold prospectors?
Gold Prospectors faced many difficulties including working long hours in the sun and heat, having to pay expensive mining fees, lack of facilities such as housing, shops and food in new mining towns and having to avoid bushrangers who would steal their goods.
5. What do you think was appealing about the Gold Rush to the workers who joined it?
The Gold Rush was appealing to many workers as it was seen as a chance to get rich and make a life for themselves. A way to provide for their families and have freedom.
6. What is meant by the term 'boom time'?
Boom time is a term to refer when things are going well. The economy is doing well, people have money to spend, life improves, people come from other places to join in the good times and population increases.
7. Gold was discovered in Bendigo by two women Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy. What do you think the public reaction to this news would have been?
Answers will vary and there is no one correct answer. Possible answer: The public reaction to the news that the first gold discovered in Bendigo was by two women Julia Farrell and Margaret Kennedy would have been one of shock and possible anger or resentment.

8. Why did miners believe they were treated unfairly and what did it lead to?

Miners believed they were treated unfairly as they had to pay expensive miners licenses and didn't have a vote. The frustration of the miners led to the Eureka Stockade and influenced Australia's democratic process.

9. What do you think the story of the Eureka miners says about Australian identity?

Range of answers connected to fairness, determination and endurance, multiculturalism, hope, and/or democracy.