

Assignment 47

The Cariboo Gold Rush
Pages 217 - 224

Imagine you were an unemployed gold miner in San Francisco in 1858. You hear about the discovery of gold in British Columbia and make a decision to travel north to make your fortune. After four years of working farther and farther up the Fraser, you eventually wind up in Barkerville in 1862. Write a diary of your experiences and the changes that take place in British Columbia between 1858 and 1862.

To do this assignment successfully, read all the material in these pages including pp.221 and 222-223. Consider the effect of disease on the native peoples, the role of Chinese immigrants, and transportation issues. Use your imagination and previous knowledge of the gold rush to complete your diary.

Remember that your diary entries need to be in a logical time sequence and match the events as they take place. You should have at least TEN entries.

Examples of diary entries:

1858 - February - Exciting news. A ship from Fort Victoria, in the British territory north of the Oregon Territory, has brought news of gold on Fraser's River. As there is no work here in Frisco, I will book a ticket on the next ship out of here for the north, and seek my fortune as a gold miner. Don't know much about the area, so I will have to have my wits about me.

1862 - July - Small pox. The dreaded disease is killing off many of the native people in the area. I will have to be especially careful as I have not yet had the pox. A number of the miners in camp are down with the disease, but most seem to be recovering, although they look quite awful from the pock marks. Bill, my partner, has been quite sick so I have been working the claim alone for the past week. Its been hard and slow, with no one to help with the heavy work