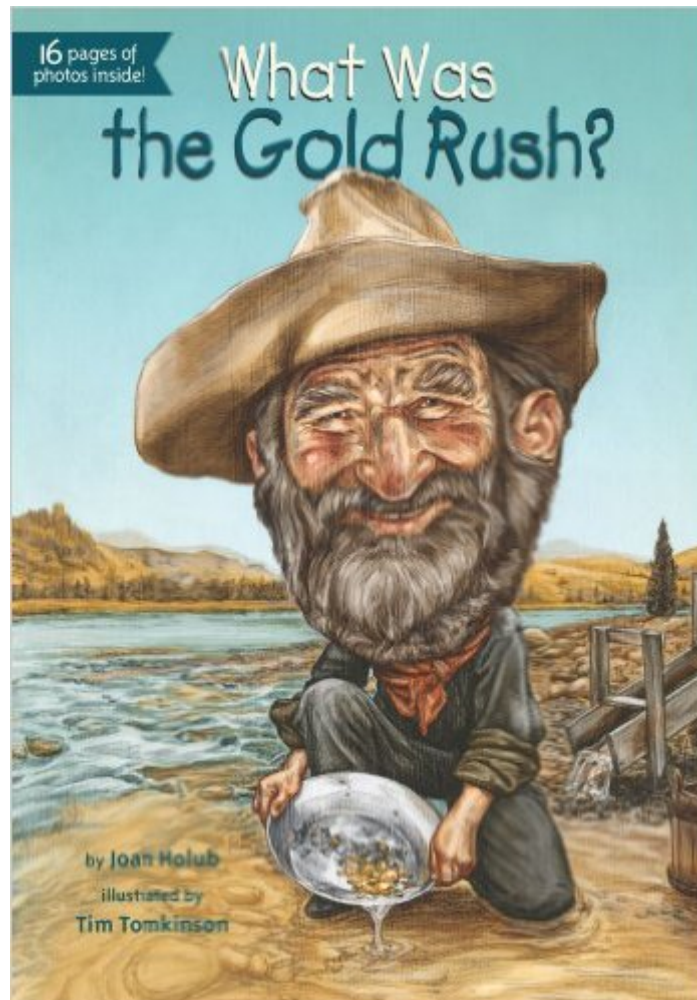


The book was found

What Was The Gold Rush?



Synopsis

In 1848, gold was discovered in California, attracting over 300,000 people from all over the world, some who struck it rich and many more who didn't. Hear the stories about the gold-seeking "forty-niners!" With black-and white illustrations and sixteen pages of photos, a nugget from history is brought to life!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0680 (What's this?)

Series: What Was...?

Paperback: 112 pages

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ISBN-10: 0448462893

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (47 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,705 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery](#) #29 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #3519 in [Books > History](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

When everyone thinks about a gold rush, inevitably they think about the California Gold Rush of 1849. It actually wasn't the first gold rush in the United States. In 1799 a twelve-year-old boy discovered a nugget in a creek. Not thinking much about the seventeen-pound rock he dredged up, the family used it as a doorstop. Naturally once it was found to be gold, word got around and the rush was on. James Marshall was building a sawmill for John Sutter early in 1848 when he saw something very unusual in the waters below. He saw what appeared to be gold in the water, but was it fool's gold or the real thing? Testing proved that it was indeed the real thing, but the only problem was that John Sutter didn't own the land. A bit greedy, he needed to gain control of it, and fast. The Nisenan Native Americans were more than happy to accept his trinkets and sign a treaty, but only the US government had the power to make treaties. Try as he

might, his little secret soon became known. Everyone from his farmhands to the masses in San Francisco learned about it. The simple headline, "Gold Found," let loose a torrent that resulted in the famous California Gold Rush of 1849. Men like Sam Brannan believed they could get rich selling tools and supplies to the prospectors. Thousands of gold-hunters began to arrive by ship and over land. President James K. Polk's belief in Manifest Destiny spurred even more to move west. Traveling was fraught with unforeseen danger and disease. Not all was what it seemed. Unscrupulous business men were there to grubstake prospectors when they made their claims. Prices for everything were high and dishonest merchants sold them fake gold-mining gadgets.

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