

Gold and Early BC

- **In order to assert their claim on the territory, where did the British establish their first colony? When? Who employed most of the British settlers living there?**

The first British colony was Victoria island in 1858.

The Hudson's bay company employed the majority of the British settlers living on the island.

- **Where was the first gold discovery in "BC"? In what year?**

In 1858 gold was discovered in the Fraser River and many gold miners flocked to the area hoping to strike it rich.

- **What did the discovery of gold do to the population of the region?**

The population increased drastically and the type of people in the region was changed to a much wider scope due to the boom of the gold rush.

- **Why did HBC try to suppress news of gold? What did James Douglas do? What ultimately ended this gold rush?**

The HBC tried to suppress the news of gold, as they did not want anybody to disturb the delicate balance of the fur trade.

James Douglas, who was working for the HBC decided to make it criminally chargeable to take gold without permission.

The gold rush ultimately ended due to the supply of gold running out and prospectors giving up and leaving.

The Fraser Canyon Gold Rush

- **When? Where? Who came and how many?**

The Fraser canyon gold rush occurred on the Fraser river, from 1858 to 1865. Settlers from all throughout Europe came, as well as some Chinese peoples, and lots of Americans that were previously mining in the California gold rush.

- **What motivated these people to relocate?**

The search for gold. People were sick of making little to no money, and they wanted to make something out of themselves. However, many went home empty handed. The prospectors that came from the California gold rush likely headed to BC because the supply of gold there was fresh and richer. Many people who lived in Canada at this time just followed the gold where it went. When there was news of gold somewhere, they went there.

- **How did Douglas and HBC react this time? Why do you think their reaction was different?**

James Douglas, who was working for the HBC at this time was not initially fond of the gold rush, as it posed a threat to the fur trade.

- **What option was open to minority (Black, Chinese, Hawaiian, Chilean) prospectors? Why is this detail significant to the big picture understanding of Canadian history?**

Miners in BC came from all over the place. The accessibility was all there and as long as you were physically capable and willing. There was less discrimination in their industry than many others.

- **Briefly outline the Fraser Canyon War: What was the cause? What happened? What was the outcome? What is the significance, in the big picture understanding of Canadian history, of this outcome?**

The Fraser canyon war began due to tension between First Nations and settlers. A native girl was raped by a settler and in response, numerous settlers were murdered and beheaded. A series of brief battles were then fought between the two groups. The war ended with the arrival of governor Douglas. This event is significant because it's one of the key events of the gold rush in BC.

- **What is the significance of so many American prospectors arriving here?**

The settlement of the Americans in BC changed the dynamic and style of mining. It also brought many different kinds of people in large numbers to Canada. This helped Canada grow and the industry flourish.

- **When and how did BC become a province under Confederation?**

BC became a province in 1871. Federal leaders promised to take on BC's debt and build a railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

- **When did the Fraser rush end, and what were the economic consequences for BC? Make predictions about why this detail is important.**

The Fraser river rush ended in the mid 1860's, as the gold had simply run out. Since BC was so reliant on the gold trade, the economy failed. There wasn't much else to trade at the time, and many towns were abandoned. This also led into the logging industry and made BC very popular for logging and lumber productions.