

**KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**



**MUSEUM
TEACHER
GUIDE**

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

Sixty-Eight Rich Men on
the Steamer Portland.

STACKS OF YELLOW METAL!

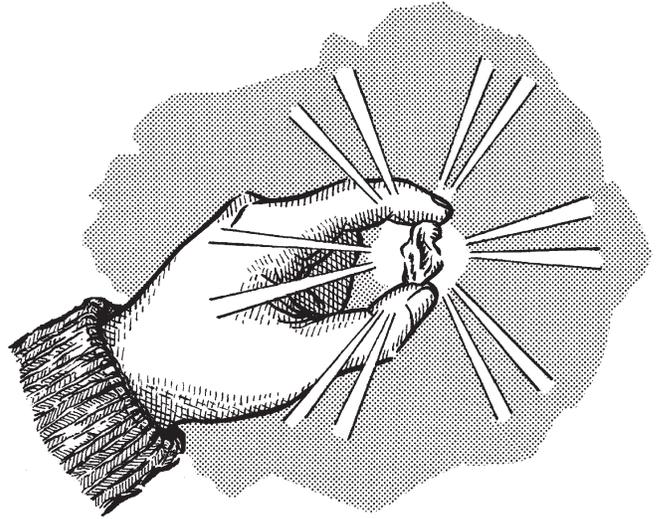
Some Have \$5,000, Many Have More, and
a Few Bring Out \$100,000 Each.

THE STEAMER CARRIES \$700,000.

Special Tug Chartered by the Post-Intelligencer
to Get the News.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 17, 1897

KLONDIKE FEVER STRIKES



On July 14, 1897, the SS Excelsior landed in San Francisco with over 750,000 dollars worth of gold from the Yukon Territory. Three days later, the SS Portland landed in Seattle with a huge amount of gold; over two tons!

These two ships signaled the start of the Klondike gold rush. Thousands of men, women, and children raced towards Skagway and the Klondike to strike it rich. What would it have been like to be one of the Stampeders?

GO FIND THE VAULT

Look at the route map to help answer the questions below.

How many routes are there from Seattle to the gold fields?

Three

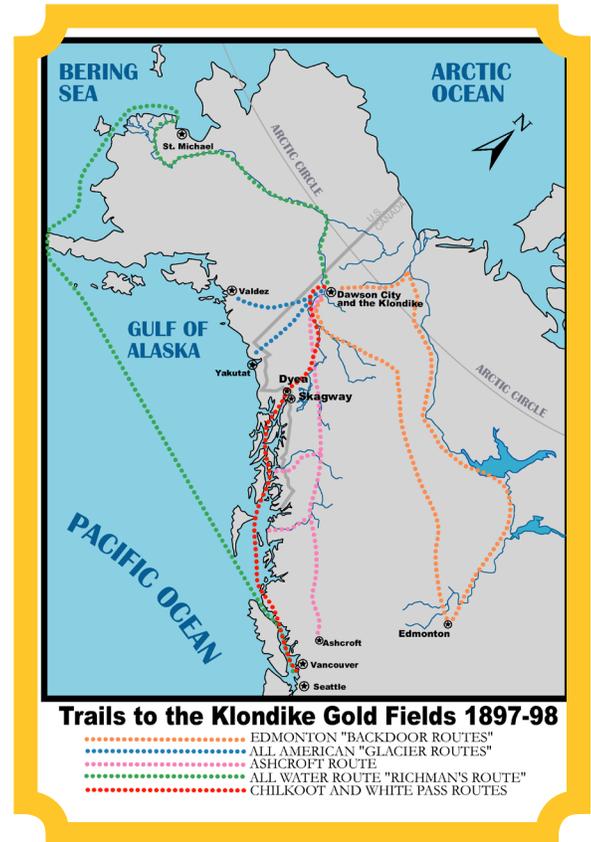
The Over Land Route/ Edmonton route

The all water route/ Rich Man's route

The inside Passage

What do you think the easiest way to the gold fields was in the year 1898?

In 1898 it would have been the rich mans route that would have taken you by steamer on the ocean to the mouth of the Yukon River and then by steam ship up the river to Dawson. the route was only open when the river was not frozen. It was very expensive.



Now read the sign in front of the vault.

Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

What was the easiest way to the gold fields in 1900?

Take a ship from the west coast and then the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad over the White Pass. Then a steamship Dawson City.

Why do you think this building needed a vault?

To store the gold that the train was taking out of the Yukon

Which route would you choose to the gold fields and why?

Interview each other and write down the answers on the back of this page

This is up to the students to decide. Thier discussion can be based off of cost, time, effort etc....

GO FIND THE STOVE

Read “A Year’s Supply of Goods” and the Canadian Government Requirements to help answer the questions below.



Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

Canadian Government Requirements

At the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Canadian Northwest Mounted Police set up a checkpoint. Stampeders would pay duties on their goods, and the Mounties would inspect each outfit. To insure that those who entered Canada were prepared for the rough winter conditions, the “One Ton Law of 1898” was put into effect. Early in 1898, no one was allowed entry into Canada without enough food, clothing, and equipment to exist safely for one year. The outfit consisted of 1,200 pounds of food and 800 pounds of clothes and equipment, totaling 2,000 pounds or one ton.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Seattle

1. Who made the Stampeders carry the year’s supply of goods over the mountain passes into the Yukon Territory?

The Canadian Government. It was the Northwest Mounted Police who enforced the action.

2. Why would the Mounties ask the Stampeders to carry all of their food for a year to the gold fields?

To prevent famine

3. Can you guess what the Stampeders nicknamed the year’s supply of goods? A “ton of goods” because it weighed a ton.

GO FIND THE LIST OF GOODS

Read the list of recommended goods the Stampeders should carry on their trip to the gold.



Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

How many pounds of flour were needed for a year?

400

How many pounds of bacon were needed for a year?

150

How many socks were needed for a year? 1 dozen

What would you need to bring on a trip with you?

Interview each other and write down everybody's most important item.

Answer is up to the students to determine. For Ideas ask the students what they can not do without.

Go look for the picture on the wall called "On The Beach at Dyea".

How do you think these men felt about carrying all this stuff?

This is an opinion question but have them think about the need to find the gold it might make you do things you do not normally want to do.

Would you want to carry all of this stuff?

Opinion question

Guess why the men would be carrying all of this stuff if they look so unhappy? _____

For the gold!

Look at their faces for a clue.

GO FIND THE STAMPEDER

Read the sign in front of the Stampeder.



Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

How much could the pack on the back of a Stampeder weigh?

Look for a range between 50-80 pounds

Here is a problem you might not have thought about....

If you want to get to the gold and the Chilkoot Trail is 33 miles long, how many miles will you have to walk to get your “ton of goods” over the Chilkoot Pass?

(You are a strong Stampeder and can carry 50 pounds a trip)

~ How many pounds are in a ton? ²⁰⁰⁰ _____ pounds

~ Divide the number of pounds in a ton ²⁰⁰⁰ by 50 to get number of trips. ₄₀ _____ Trips

~ Times number of trips by 2. ⁸⁰ _____ (you can't only go one way)

~ Multiply 33 miles by the number of trips ⁸⁰ _____ to get ₂₆₄₀ _____ miles traveled.

You may want to think twice about your answer. One man sold fifty kittens for an ounce of gold a piece and became rich.

Would you have taken anything extra with you, like kittens?

GO FIND THESE THREE EXHIBIT CASES



Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

The Canadian North West Mounted Police made each stamper carry a ton of goods up to the gold fields. Most Stampeder carried their goods on their back. But there were options to carrying the ton of goods on your back.

Divide your group up and read the signs in the cases. Then get back together to answer the questions below.

What were three different ways to carry Stampeder goods.

Trams, dogs, horses, and peoples backs. Look at all of the cases in the second room for clues

Have each person in the group do a quick sketch of how they would carry their goods up the trail.

Use the paper and pencils that are attached to your clip board. Make sure you label the sketch.

You can use the back of the booklet to draw your pictures

Why do you think the Stampeder left trash on the trail?

Look in the case with the tram for clues. What we call trash is actually called artifacts by archeologists.

FIND THE BIG WHITE MOUNTAIN MAP

**Have you been on a long hike or climbed a mountain?
Was it hard to do? Why?**

Interview each other and write down a one sentence answer for each person in the group.

Personal opinions

**Look at the map and the legend, find the two trails the
Stampedeers would have used to get to Lake Bennett.**

Which one is out of Skagway? White Pass Trail look at the ledger for the name of the trail

Which one is out of Dyea? Chilkoot Trail look at the ledger for the name of the trail

Read the section on the map that says “Chilkoot Pass Summit”.

Is it easier to hike the trail in the winter or the summer? Says Winter

**Look at the picture on the wall called “On the Summit of White
Pass” and guess what season does it show the trail?** It is in winter

Does it look easy to you?

Why do you say that? Opinion question

FIND THIS LOCATION

Read the first two sentences on the sign.



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Was the trip to the gold over when the Stampeders got to the top of the passes?

No, they have to travel up to 550 more miles.

What town were the Stampeders trying to get to? Dawson City

Look for and read about the trip of Jack London.

What date did Jack London arrive in Dyea? August 7

What date did Jack London arrive at Lake Lindemann?

September 8

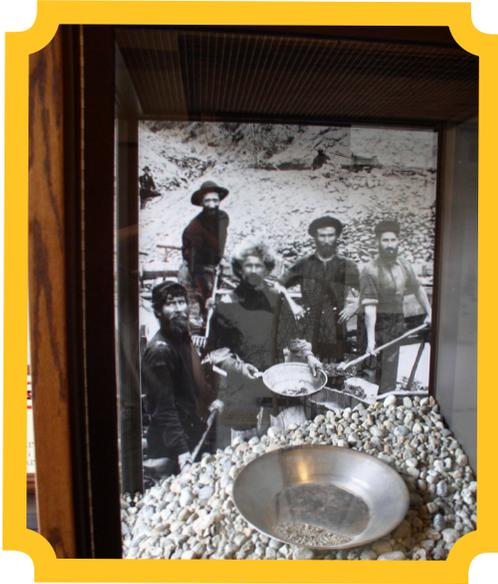
How long did it take him to build his boat? September 8-September 21 14 days

Could you build a boat?

Interview each other and write down the answer

Opinion question

FIND THE GOLD PAN



Klondike Gold Rush NHP files

Read this statement out loud to your group.

One hundred thousand people went to find gold in the Klondike. Only about 30,000 to 40,000 people made it to Dawson City and finished their journey. Out of the people who made it to Dawson City, only 4,000 people found gold, and of those only 300 found enough gold to make themselves rich.

Did everybody strike it rich who went to the Klondike? No

What percent of people became rich?

.003 or 300/100000

Look at the picture behind the gold pan.

Why do you think these men look happy? They found gold.

Look around and find the picture called “The Gold Miners of the Klondike.”

Why do think these men look unhappy?

They did not find gold and have had to go and work for other men earning a wage.



