



JUNIOR RANGERS



# VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS ACTIVITY BOOK



  
Parks  
VICTORIA

Sharing  
Nature's  
Stories



# WHERE DID GOLD COME FROM?



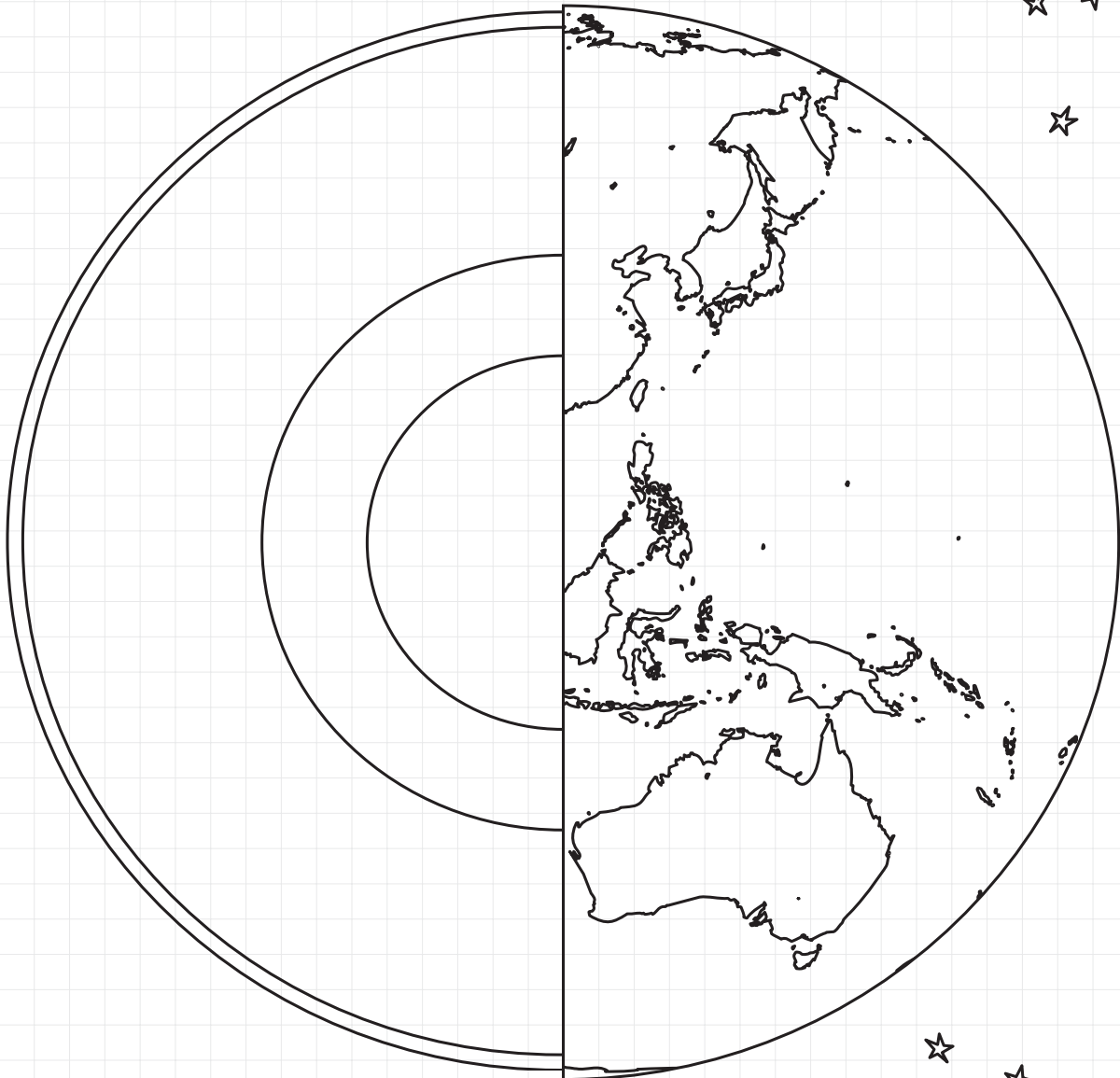
What's shiny, yellow and found in the ground?  
Why, gold of course!  
But how did this metal get to Earth if it didn't arrive on a spaceship?

Long ago, a faraway star exploded. The explosion sent gold and other metals flying through space. Scientists think that when Earth formed it took in lots of metals from space, hugging them tight in its core. The super-hot core bubbled and boiled for millions of years. Over time it pushed metals to Earth's surface, called the crust.

Water, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions moved rocks and metals around the crust. Gold and white quartz are best friends – that's why they stay together. Over time, big chunks of quartz called reefs were pushed up into white hills and ridges. Little bits of gold have been hiding amongst the quartz ever since. It might exist all over the world, but gold is very rare to find on Earth!

## Colour in the different layers of the earth – which layer would you find gold in today?

Read the description above and think about how gold has moved around the Earth over millions of years. Draw how you think gold might have journeyed through and across Earth's crust.



# GOLD AND QUARTZ ON COUNTRY

Traditional Owners discovered gold long before Europeans arrived in Australia. However, they didn't find it very useful because it was too soft to make tools with.

Traditional Owners are Victoria's first scientists, first farmers and First Peoples of Country. They describe Country as the lands, seas, waterways, plants, and animals that they are connected to.

Country can mean many different things. It can mean the language, spiritual belief, family, identity, place and law.

DID YOU KNOW?

Traditional Owners in Victoria use quartz crystals as tools for building, and miners would look for quartz to then find gold.

Traditional Owners have been living on and caring for Country for at least 65,000 years. During this time, people from other cultures around the world began prizing gold and using it for jewelry, money and treasure.

Can you name the Traditional Owners of where these gold rush towns were built? Scan the QR code to learn the Registered Aboriginal Parties in Victoria. Find the towns and write who the Traditional Owners are.



## GOLDFIELD

## REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY (RAP)

Ballarat

Castlemaine

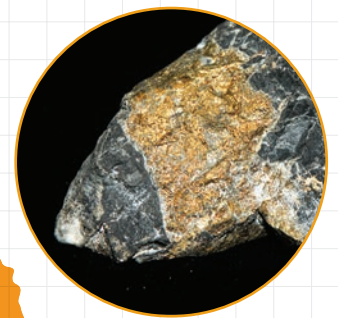
Alexandra

Warrandyte

Bendigo

Walhalla

Ararat



gold in granite and quartz rock

# EUREKA!

If you wanted to try your luck at finding gold today, scan this QR code to find parks where you can fossick.



## NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

All of the gold that has been mined in history would fill only three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Victoria's gold rush began in 1850. People left their jobs, families, and homes, hoping to strike it rich.

A lot of people came by boat from England, Ireland, China and America and many other places all over the world. These people brought new technologies, language and food.

In six years, the number of people in Victoria grew from 77,000 to 411,000 – that's more than four MCG's worth of people! Over 11,000 children grew up on the goldfields.

Tent cities popped up across Victoria, with blacksmiths, butchers, hotels and schools. Life was hard. Water and gold were rare. Poverty and sickness were common. Some miners got lucky and became very rich. Their money helped to build towns like Ballarat and Castlemaine.

Traditional Owners in the places where gold was found had to deal with lots of people arriving who did things on Country that didn't fit with looking after Country – they cut down trees, diverted creeks and rivers and dug holes in the ground.

For a while, the Victorian goldfields were the richest in the world. But the gold didn't last forever. When it ran out, people moved away. By 1900, many mining areas were referred to as 'ghost towns' because they were so quiet.

How many Victorian gold mining sites can you unearth in the Word Find? The names can go across or up and down.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | U | L | W | O | O | W | O | O | K | A | R | U | N | G | K | H | X |
| T | S | T | E | I | G | L | I | T | Z | J | Q | I | L | E | G | E | W |
| I | P | I | N | K | C | L | I | F | F | S | Y | Y | G | N | R | P | A |
| V | U | C | H | I | N | A | M | A | N | S | W | A | L | L | R | U | L |
| S | P | R | I | N | G | G | U | L | L | Y | P | C | E | M | Y | J | H |
| D | E | U | R | E | K | A | R | E | E | F | W | B | E | C | S | N | A |
| V | J | L | H | O | W | Q | U | A | H | I | L | L | S | E | I | Q | L |
| W | T | E | W | B | E | N | B | E | E | C | H | W | O | R | T | H | L |
| C | H | I | N | E | S | E | D | I | G | G | I | N | G | S | R | O | A |
| Z | E | L | D | O | R | A | D | O | D | R | E | D | G | E | Y | W | N |
| P | Q | O | R | I | E | N | T | A | L | C | L | A | I | M | S | V | F |
| G | D | I | A | M | O | N | D | H | I | L | L | G | S | N | F | P | V |

**Beechworth**  
(Historic Area)

**Castlemaine Diggings**  
(National Heritage Park)

**Chinamans Wall**  
(Mt Buffalo National Park)

**Chinese Diggings**  
(Wandi and White Hills)

**Diamond Hill**  
(Bendigo Regional Park)

**Eldorado Dredge**  
(Historic Area)

**Eureka Reef**  
(Castlemaine Diggings)

**Howqua Hills**  
(Historic Area)

**Oriental Claims**  
(Historic Area)

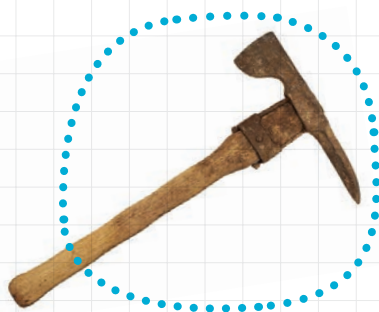
**Pink Cliffs**  
(Geological Reserve)

**Spring Gully**  
(Castlemaine Diggings)

**Steiglitz**  
(Historic Park)

**Walhalla**  
(Historic Area)

**Woowookarung**  
(Regional Park)





# WORK ON THE GOLDFIELDS

It took many hands to keep a gold mining town alive.

There was no electricity during the gold rush, so jobs were done by hand. Children helped with mining, around the house and in the garden. Collecting wood, carrying water and washing clothes was hard work! At night time, people sat around the fire and cooked, talked, sang or played music.

On Sundays, miners didn't have to work. They did their shopping, went to church, had picnics, went to dances and played sports.

Miners could get everything they needed from the general store, from tea, sugar and flour, to beds, gold pans and tools. Hotels served meals like mutton stew with damper and billy tea – not the chicken parma we are used to!

There were many jobs to be done on the goldfields. Using the pictures, fill in the blanks with a vowel (a,e,i,o,u) to discover the job.

Someone who drew maps of towns and mines:

s \_ r v \_ y \_ r



A person who made and fixed shoes and boots:

c \_ b b l \_ r



A person who made horseshoes and tools for mining:

b l \_ c k s m \_ t h



Someone who helped children learn:

t \_ \_ \_ c h \_ \_ r



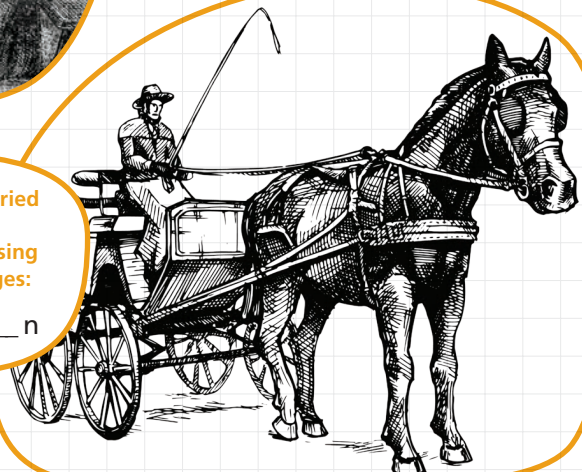
The person who ran the mine and made sure nobody stole the gold:

m \_ \_ n \_ \_ g \_ \_ r



Someone who carried goods and people between towns using horses and carriages:

c \_ \_ \_ c h m \_ \_ n





# THEN AND NOW

As time moves on, the way we live and use land changes.

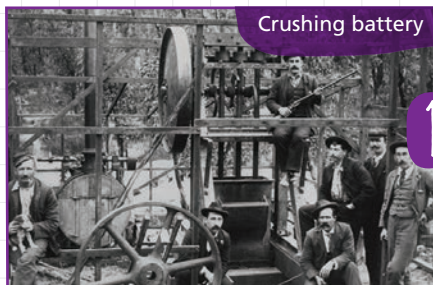
Clues of how people used to live can still be seen today. Evidence of the gold rush in our parks might include old buildings, machines and objects.

## TONGUE TWISTER

The diggers dug deep below ground to discover the gold down under.



Can you match the black and white pictures of gold mining activities to the coloured photos of the clues left today? Write the letter of the matching black and white picture next to the correct number.



Crushing battery

1



Miners hut

2



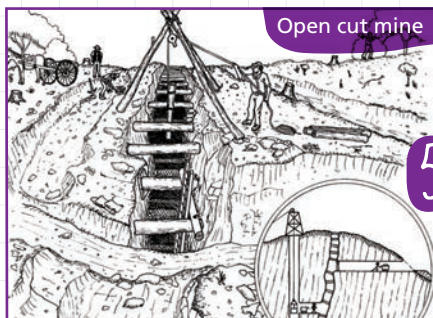
Puddling machine

3



Mineshaft

4



Open cut mine

5



B



D



A



C



E

Historic images courtesy of the State Library of Victoria. Illustrations by Robert Kaufman.

ANSWERS  
1 = D, 2 = B,  
3 = C, 4 = A,  
5 = E

## BORN TO EXPLORE

Junior Rangers are born to explore. If you have an interest in nature, animals and the outdoors then Junior Rangers is for you.

Junior Ranger activities are led by a park ranger and are designed to get families outdoors, have fun and learn about Victoria's wonderful parks.

Visit [juniorrangers.vic.gov.au](http://juniorrangers.vic.gov.au) for more information.



# RECOVERING FROM THE GOLD RUSH

The landscape changed quickly during the gold rush. Miners cut down forests, dug up land and changed the flow of water in their search for gold. It will take a long time for these places to heal and fully recover.

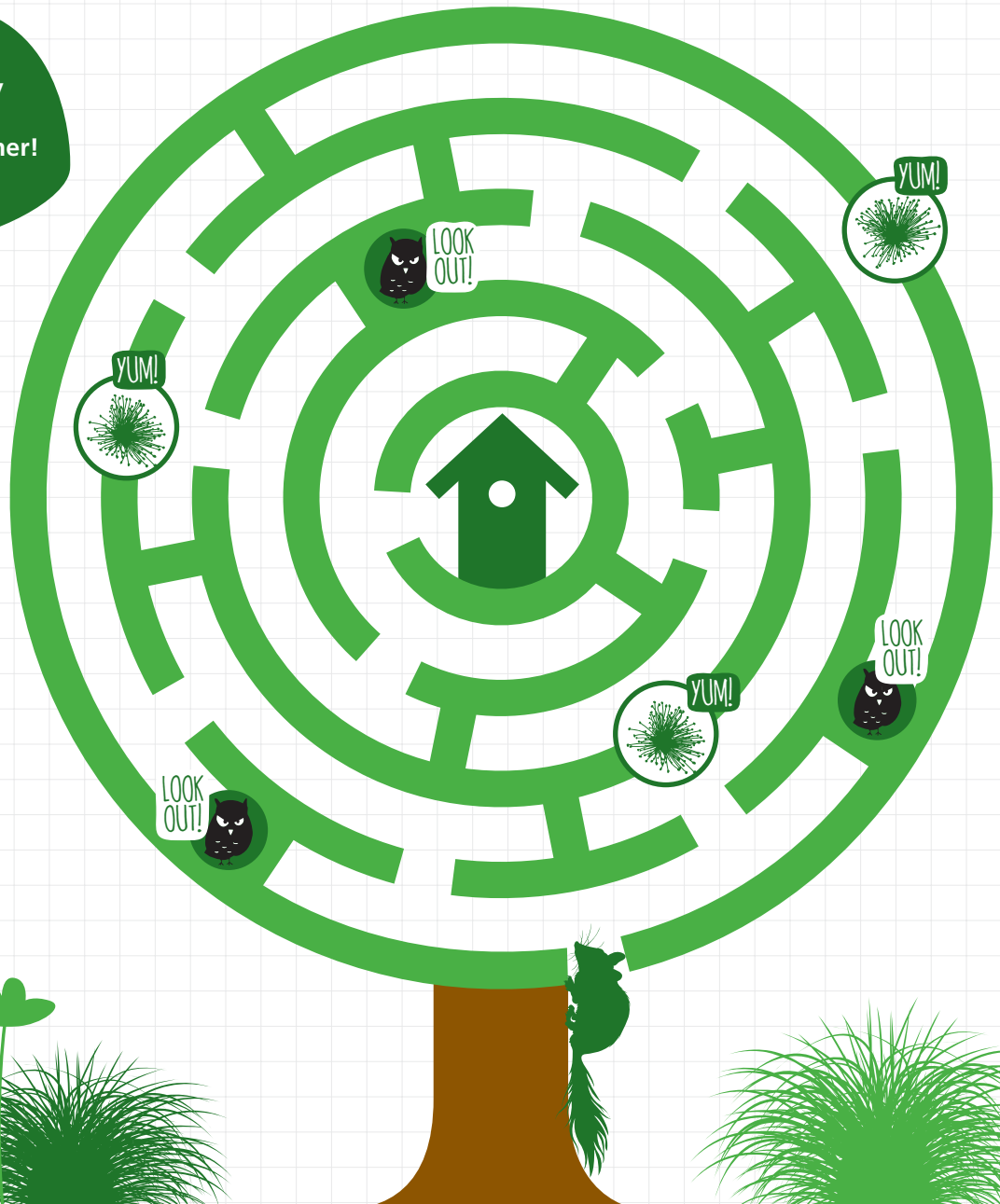
Traditional Owners of these places are working very hard to heal Country.

Today, young trees are starting to grow again on the goldfields. Animals are starting to come back to their homes. Sadly, there aren't many big ancient trees with hollows in them. Animals like possums, phascogales and some birds make their homes in these hollows. When there aren't enough hollows to go around, Rangers and

friends put nest boxes up in the trees. Brush-tailed Phascogales sometimes use these nest boxes as a home.

The Brush-tailed Phascogale is a small nocturnal marsupial. It eats small animals and insects, and drinks nectar from flowering trees. Phascogales make a home inside tree hollows and hide inside fallen logs. We can help Phascogales by protecting our trees and not taking firewood from the forest.

Can you help Pippa the Phascogale find her way home to the nest box? Don't let the owl catch her!





# CARING FOR PLACE



Victoria's networks of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria acknowledges the continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country on which we learn, play and live.

## Cultural heritage is what we call people's connections with place.

In one place, there can be many layers of history that have built up over time. For example, in a park you might see a scarred tree, a rockwell and ruins from the gold rush. These pieces of evidence help everyone understand different people's connections.

Parks Victoria doesn't just look after nature. We also care for cultural heritage in our parks and protected places.

Looking after and celebrating cultural heritage is important. It tells the stories of our past, and helps us to better understand ourselves, others and our place in the world. Here are some small steps you can make to help protect cultural heritage in Parks:

- 1 Respect any evidence of the past that you might find in our parks.
- 2 Keep yourself safe and protect our shared cultural places by staying on walking tracks.
- 3 Take all food scraps and rubbish home to put in the bin or recycle.
- 4 Leave everything as you find it. The best souvenirs of your adventure are your memories.

Scan the QR code to listen to Traditional Owner Trent speak about Dja Dja Wurrung Country.



Scan the QR code to listen to Andrew Swift talking about his connection to gold.



**TELLING YOUR STORY:** What is something special in your life that you would want to share with people in the future? It might be a place, an object or a plant or animal. Why is it special to you and what would it tell others about your life? Draw or write your answer below.



Scarred tree



Rockwell



Garfield Water Wheel