

- Read the Vocabulary Words and their definitions. Then write the Vocabulary Word that best completes each sentence.

**beckons:** invites; attracts; calls

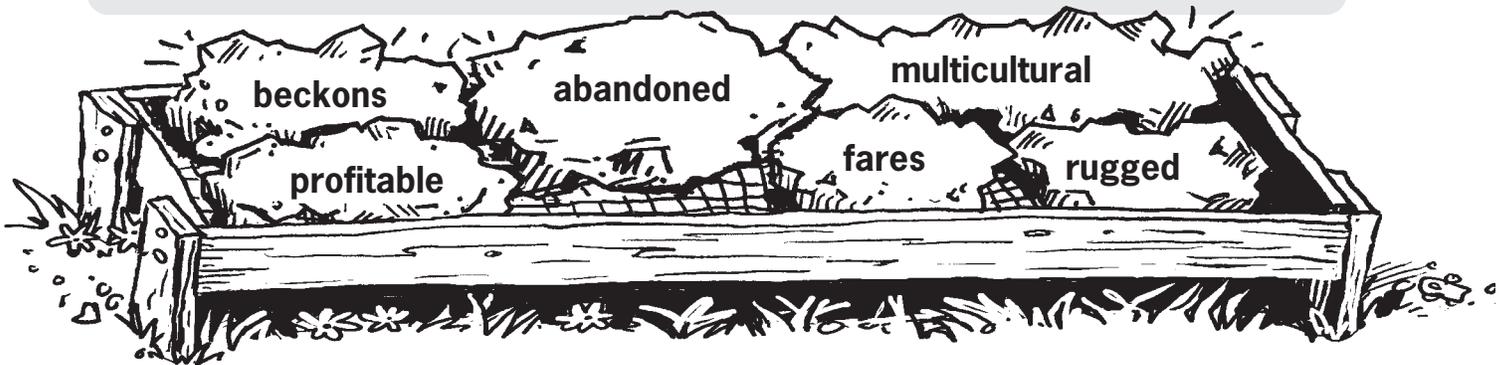
**abandoned:** left behind; deserted

**fares:** fees charged for services, such as transportation

**rugged:** rough and uneven

**profitable:** money-making

**multicultural:** diverse; made up of many cultures



- The town was \_\_\_\_\_ after the Gold Rush. No one lives there anymore.
- There is a bus that goes to the deserted town, but the \_\_\_\_\_ are expensive.
- The bus tours are \_\_\_\_\_ for the bus company because many people take the trip despite the high cost.
- Some of the roads are unpaved, so the ground is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The population of the town was \_\_\_\_\_. The settlers came from across the United States and even from other countries.
- Even though all the people moved away, something about the town still \_\_\_\_\_ new visitors.



Imagine that you are a gold miner. Write a letter to the family you left behind. Use two Vocabulary Words in your letter.

- **Read the paragraph. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each question.**

January 24, 1848, is the most important date in California's history. That is the day James Marshall found a gold nugget in a ditch beside the American River. We should thank Marshall for changing California forever. His discovery brought thousands of new people to California. The luckiest newcomers got rich. Over the next few years, people found almost \$2 billion in gold. Most of the new people didn't stay miners for long. The smartest became shopkeepers or farmers.

- 1** Which sentence is an opinion?
- A** January 24, 1848, is the most important date in California's history.
- B** Over the next few years, people found almost \$2 billion in gold.
- C** His discovery brought thousands of new people to California.

**Tip**

An opinion is something an author believes to be true but cannot prove. Which answer choice cannot be proven and uses a word or phrase that signals an opinion?

- 2** Which sentence is a fact?
- F** The smartest became shopkeepers or farmers.
- G** His discovery brought thousands of new people to California.
- H** We should thank Marshall for changing California forever.

**Tip**

Facts can be proved to be true. Find the sentence that you could prove is true by looking in a reference book or other resource.

- 3** Which of the underlined words or phrases in the sentences below tells you that the sentence is an opinion?
- A** Most of the new people didn't stay miners for long.
- B** We should thank Marshall for changing California forever.
- C** His discovery brought thousands of new people to California.

**Tip**

Opinions often give one person's thoughts about what is best, how people should behave, or what is important. Find the underlined word or phrase that points to a person's belief rather than a fact.

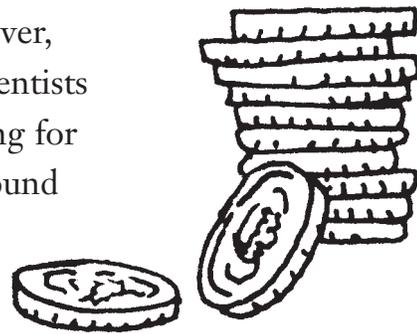


- Read the following paragraphs. Then complete the outline below.

The history of gold dates back thousands of years. Experts believe that early humans probably used gold as a tool. The ancient Egyptians learned to work gold into beautiful jewelry and carved statues. In China, people began using gold squares as money about 3,000 years ago.

In the United States, people first discovered gold in North Carolina in 1803. For more than twenty-five years, North Carolina supplied the country with all its gold for gold coins.

People still mine gold in the United States. However, most of the gold close to Earth's surface is gone. Scientists study photographs of Earth taken from space, looking for signs of buried gold. Then they dig pits or underground mines to find the gold.



### Gold

- I. People have used gold for thousands of years
  - A. Early humans used gold as a tool
  - B. Egyptians \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. The Chinese made gold coins 3,000 years ago
- II. Gold in the United States
  - A. Gold was discovered \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
- III. Mining in the United States today
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Gold at Earth's surface is gone
    1. Scientists study photographs to look for buried gold
    2. \_\_\_\_\_



**SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION** With your child, watch a television show about a science or history topic. Have your child make a brief outline as you watch the show.