

Chapter 4.2 Reading Guide - The Gold Rush Era

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1. What gold rush towns were founded on the Kenai Peninsula?
2. What area of Alaska saw the most intense gold exploration and mining? What is placer gold?
3. How did Circle City illustrate the life cycle of many mining towns?
4. What was government like in early mining towns? How was law and order maintained?
5. What started the Klondike Gold Rush? Where was it located? Who were “stampedeers”? How many estimated “stampedeers” set off to reach the Klondike?
6. What was the all-water route to the Klondike? What were the most popular overland routes? Which route did most stampedeers choose? What was the “Golden Staircase”? What percentage of people turned around before reaching the Klondike?
7. How many stampedeers reached the Klondike? What was the experience of many of them once arriving? What gold discovery led to thousands of stampedeers leaving Dawson for Alaska?
8. Where was gold found near Nome that anyone could mine without a claim? Why were conditions in Nome considered worse than those of other mining camps?
9. What gold field produced the most gold? How was the gold near Fairbanks different from placer gold? How did mining in Alaska change after the Fairbanks discoveries?
10. What changes did the 1900 civil code make to governance in Alaska? Describe the local governments this provided for.
11. What were the mining claim rights of Alaskan Natives? What are examples of discrimination towards Alaskan Natives?
12. How did gold discoveries change the population of Alaska between 1880 and 1900?

13. What towns were founded during the Gold Rush? When and why did Juneau become the capital?

14. Besides new towns, what were other legacies of the Gold Rush?