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- K \ Uia cHj UHX`H Y'a]bYfg?
- 8]X`Uk `UbX`cfXYf`cb`H Y[c`XZ]YXg]a dUWiH Y'a]bYfg3
- K ci `X`H YfYVY`]cb` UddYb`tcXU8

Panning for gold (MAP 12)

Ballarat's early gold rush (1851 - 1854) had tens of thousands of male miners (and a small number of women and children) living in tents and simple huts within a few months of the announcement that Europeans had discovered gold here. By 1854 all men and women on Victoria's goldfields had to buy a "Gold License" - 1 pound a month to be on the diggings, whether they were a miner, baker, or priest. It entitled gold seekers to pan for gold in the creek or claim (approx. 3.5m by 3.5m) area of ground where they could sink a shallow mineshaft. If a man was caught by the troopers (gold rush police officers) without a Gold License in his pocket, he was fined roughly 5 pounds. If he couldn't pay this fine, he would spend 3 months in the Melbourne Gaol, where he would be crammed into a crowded cell. The high cost of Gold Licenses, and the corrupt troopers who enforced the rules about them, were one of the main frustrations that led to the Eureka Rebellion.

Q. Describe some of the risks you think migrants and immigrants took to participate in Victoria's gold rushes? A. The journey from Europe/China/the USA was dangerous, living conditions on the diggings were dirty and violence was common. Nutritious food was scarce, and mining is perilous work.

Q. How would a miner have survived on Victoria's goldfields if he couldn't find gold? A. They often didn't. There was no government welfare back then, so when you ran out of money/gold you either died of starvation, begged on the streets, sought the help of a local church or moved on to some where else. There was lots of movement between different goldfield areas or people got other jobs. Wives supported families by selling food, refreshment or goods.

Government Camp (MAP 6)

The only place to purchase a Gold License on the Ballarat goldfields was at the Government Camp. This is where the Gold Commissioner and his troopers lived and worked when they weren't riding horses or walking around the goldfields on a "License Hunt". These police officers were also responsible for arresting thieves, murderers etc. However, as they could keep half of the money generated by Gold Licence sales and the fines taken from those found on the diggings without one, they were very focused on Gold Licence law enforcement. Some corrupt troopers made even more money by stealing Gold Licenses and then fining the miner it was stolen from for having no licence. This kind of behaviour negatively impacted the reputation of the whole force and was one of the leading causes for the Eureka Rebellion.

Q. Who do you think the miners turned to for help if they were being bullied by a corrupt trooper? A. They could talk to the Gold Commissioner (the boss of the troopers), or send a letter to the Colony of Victoria's Governor, Lt Governor Charles Latrobe and then Sir Charles Hotham, but they didn't feel heard.

Q. How do you think miners could have worked together to protect themselves from License Hunts? A. They would shout code words like "Joe" to let others know that a trooper was approaching.

St Alipius Parish (MAP 15) Joss House (MAP 10)

Many of the people involved in the Eureka Rebellion were Irish Catholics including the leader of the rebels, Peter Lalor (pronounced Lawlor). This exhibit is a copy of a Catholic church and school that existed in gold rush Ballarat. Many Irish people came to Australia's goldfields because food was scarce at home thanks to the British occupation of Ireland. Some historians argue that the Eureka Rebellion was a continuation of the conflict between the English and Irish that had long raged on the other side of the planet. This conflict over land ownership and religious differences (most English people were Anglicans, while most Irish were Catholics at this time in history), still impacts the relationship between England and Ireland (now split into two countries: Northern Ireland [currently part of the UK] and the Republic of Ireland).

Q. Why do you think many different cultural groups were quick to build churches and temples on Victoria's goldfields? A. To pray to their god/s for protection and success, and as community and education spaces – you might also visit the Joss House in the Chinese Village to see a different sacred space. The Joss House is part worship (Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Ancestor worship) and part community space.

Q. The flag flying behind St Alipius' Parish is the flag of Saint Alipius. He lived more than 1500 years ago and studied law before establishing the first monastery in North Africa. Does it remind you of another famous flag? A. Similar in colour and design to the Eureka Flag. Family legend says the St Alipius school mistress Anastasia Hayes was one of the people who helped make the Eureka Flag.

Redcoat Soldier Parade (Map 36 or 341- check the daily program for PM parade times as they change)

Every afternoon, Sovereign Hill's Redcoat Soldiers parade through the township and finish by firing a musket salute. In the 19th century, the British Empire's army was the most powerful in the world due to their sophisticated weapons and training. During Queen Victoria's reign, this army helped her Empire become the largest the world has ever seen; she ruled roughly ¼ of the planet, including Australia. Redcoat soldiers from the 12th and 40th regiments fought the rebels in the Eureka Stockade Battle, during which at least 8 soldiers were killed. The rebels' old-fashioned and homemade weapons were no match for the Redcoats' rifles, and at least 22 rebels died on the day of the battle. Interestingly, until the Eureka Stockade Battle, the British army had never gone to war on a Sunday because in Christian cultures it is supposed to be observed as a day of rest (Sabbath). Even the Gold Licence mandated Sunday as a day of rest!

Q. Why do you think training to do things as a unified team is important for soldiers? A. Before tanks, machine guns and aeroplanes, strength in numbers was extremely important to an army. Fast decisions and effective actions can be made by the leader when soldiers are trained to obey without question.

Q. Today, soldiers' uniforms tend to be camouflage patterned ("camo"). Why do you think soldiers in the 1850s wore bright red? A. Red was a cheap dye and the colour of England's army uniforms for hundreds of years by this time. Being colourful on a battlefield stopped you from accidentally shooting your mates - the musket guns of old made for smoky conditions with poor visibility.

SOVEREIGN HILL LEARNING



VISIT THE PRECINCTS

THE DIGGINGS

1851 - 1854: Daily life in a tent city, including housing, mining, business, law and order as gold seekers searched for a better life. **Why was gold so valuable, and how did it change peoples lives?**

SPEEDWELL STREET

1856 - 1861: Aligned to Main Street, highlighting the change in living conditions, business and technology that improved daily life. **How do we measure change? Were we more sustainable in the past?**

MAIN STREET

1855 - 1861: Ballarat as a town with the building of permanent structures and amenities to service the needs and wants of the community, economically and socially. **How did the gold rush shape modern Australia?**

STEAM, MINING INDUSTRY

1861 - 1914: Showcasing technology and innovation that contributed to the rapid development of Ballarat and the broader region. **How does technology shape and change lives?**

CHINESE VILLAGE

1857 - 1860: The cultural and social living conditions of Chinese immigrants within the larger narrative of the gold rush, exploring their struggles and successes. **Why do people risk everything in search for a better life?**

WADAWURRUNG CULTURAL

First Nations artists share their reflections of culture, history, and heritage. **What creates a sense of belonging and connection to the place you call home?**

VISITOR SERVICES

- Information
- Food & Drink
- Toilets
- All Gender Toilets
- First Aid Kit
- Beware of Horses
- Suggested Stroller & Wheelchair Route
- Emergency Evacuation Point
- Accessible Toilet
- Parenting Room
- Water Tap
- Post Office
- Gift Shop
- Ramps

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR OUR INTERACTIVE MAP



We acknowledge the First Nations of the land upon which Sovereign Hill and Narmbool sit, the Wadawurrung, and their ongoing connection to this land and pay respect to their culture and their Elders past, present and future.