

Name _____ Date _____

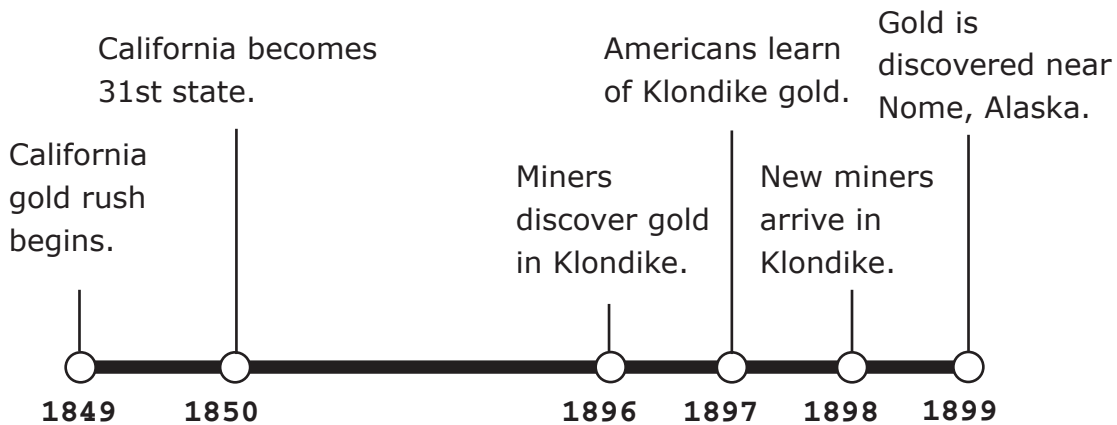
Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Gold Fever in the Klondike

- 1 When gold was discovered in California, thousands of people in the East took notice and looked to the West. More than 100,000 people moved there in one year. That was 1849. Few people got rich from the gold rush, but many decided they liked California and settled down there. Cities like San Francisco and Sacramento grew rapidly. This increase in population helped California gain recognition as a state.
- 2 A lonely area of Canada had a gold rush, too, but the results were quite different. In 1897, about seventy passengers arrived by boat in Seattle, Washington. They had come from a rough, remote area near the Klondike River in Canada. They had traveled overland to Alaska and then by boat to Seattle. They brought about 2,000 pounds of gold as baggage. People in Seattle quickly bought every ticket for boats going back to Alaska in order to reach the Klondike area in Canada. In fact, about 100,000 people set out for the Klondike gold fields in 1897. Even the mayor of Seattle resigned from his job to try his luck.
- 3 But getting to the Klondike area wasn't easy. Most people took an international route through Alaska into Canada. A few people paid a lot of money to sail all the way. But the rivers froze, and they could not go on. Some rode horses or hiked through dangerous mountain passes. Many did not survive. The miners who made it through the mountains still faced a few hundred miles of hiking or dangerous river boating.

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- 4 Fewer than 30,000 prospectors actually got to the gold fields. They arrived two years after the first gold was discovered. Most of the land was now owned by the earliest miners. These “Klondike Kings” had already gotten rich from the gold. Now they offered jobs at low pay. But life in the Klondike was hard. The new miners suffered terribly in the subzero temperatures, or they soon returned home.
- 5 Only about 300 people got rich from Klondike gold. Many of the new miners moved on when gold was discovered near Nome, Alaska. The Klondike gold rush helped Seattle grow into an important port city. But unlike what happened in California, few of the towns in Alaska that served the miners lasted. In 1898, the town of Dyea, Alaska had about 8,000 people, fifty hotels, and twenty freight companies. Today, none of that survives in Dyea. Gold fever along the Klondike came and went but left little behind.



1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A and then Part B.

Part A Which sentence states a main idea of the passage?

- A People looking for gold should be better prepared.
- B The Klondike gold rush improved transportation in the area.
- C A discovery of gold can change an area very quickly.
- D The “Klondike Kings” deserved to become rich.

continued 

2. This question has two parts. Answer Part A and then Part B.

Part A How does the author organize and present most of the information in this passage?

- A by describing a problem and then the solution
- B by comparing and contrasting two gold rushes
- C by asking questions and then giving answers
- D by explaining how to find gold and then giving examples

Part B Which **two** sentences from the passage illustrate the structure identified in Part A?

- A "More than 100,000 people moved there in one year."
- B "A lonely area of Canada had a gold rush, too, but the results were quite different."
- C "In 1897, about seventy passengers arrived by boat in Seattle, Washington."
- D "A few people paid a lot of money to sail all the way."
- E "The new miners suffered terribly in the subzero temperatures, or they soon returned home."
- F "But unlike what happened in California, few of the towns in Alaska that served the miners lasted."

3. According to the time line and the text, what important event happened in California as a result of the 1849 gold rush?

- A California grew and became a state.
- B Miners discovered gold in the Klondike area.
- C Americans learned about the gold in the Klondike.
- D Many miners left and went to Nome, Alaska.

4. Choose **three** inferences that can be drawn from the sequence of events described in the passage. Check the box next to each detail you choose.
- The period when people rush to an area to find gold usually lasts only a few years.
 - The California gold rush led to pollution problems in San Francisco and Sacramento.
 - Most people went to the Klondike area because California was too crowded.
 - Most of the Klondike miners did not find gold there because they arrived too late.
 - The Klondike miners would have become rich if they had stayed longer.
 - A gold rush does not always lead to positive changes in an area.
 - Most large discoveries of gold come after people have worked in an area for several years.
5. Which town served the miners going to the Klondike and then disappeared?
- A Seattle
 - B Nome
 - C Sacramento
 - D Dyea
6. Which sentence from the passage **best** explains why so many miners did not survive on the way to the Klondike?
- A "A few people paid a lot of money to sail all the way."
 - B "The miners who made it through the mountains still faced a few hundred miles of hiking or dangerous river boating."
 - C "They arrived two years after the first gold was discovered."
 - D "Most of the land was now owned by the earliest miners."

continued

7. According to the time line, about how long after gold was discovered in the Klondike did Americans hear about it?
- A one year
 - B two years
 - C five years
 - D ten years

