

Gold Rush



Warm-Up

Think about the topic.

Many years ago, Americans went to California to look for gold. These days, the high price of gold is causing people to try and strike it rich again. Some are trying to make money, but most are just doing it for fun. It's difficult to make a living hunting for gold.

Is there a place in your country where people go to hunt for special things?

- 1 **prospector** a person who looks for gold
- 2 **sluice box** equipment used to filter earth
- 3 **excavate** to dig out of the ground
- 4 **deposit** an accumulation of something
- 5 **trailer** a small house that can be moved to another place



NOTE-TAKING

Listen to the news, and complete the notes.



Americans Still Seeking Gold in California

- **Cause of seeking gold:**
 - Price of gold remains strong, even in a cash economy
 - This is 1 _____ many Americans to seek gold in California
- **Prospector type 1:**
 - Does it for 2 _____
 - Weekend 3 _____ has other jobs and hunts for gold in free time
- **Prospector type 2:**
 - Does it for the money
 - Some have been out of work
 - Way to make extra 4 _____ and keep food on the table
 - Spends many hours a day doing it
 - Few people can find enough to 5 _____



COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions.

- 1 What is the main reason that people look for gold today?
 - a. The price of gold has remained strong.
 - b. It is very easy to find gold in the rivers.
 - c. Many people have found enough gold to be able to retire.
 - d. It is part of a school study program.
- 2 Why did the man bring his young son to pan for gold?
 - a. To try and make a living
 - b. To see if they could find enough to pay for gas
 - c. To live by the river in a trailer and look for gold every day
 - d. To have fun and learn a bit of history
- 3 According to one prospector, how can you find more gold?
 - a. You have to go deeper into the river.
 - b. You have to use machines to move more dirt.
 - c. You have to work only in the early morning.
 - d. You have to find the river with the coldest water.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS

Listen to the sentences twice, and fill in the blanks.



- The bone-piercingly cold _____ be enough to keep most travelers safely on the bank.
- It isn't cold enough to stop a new _____ of gold fever.
- _____, we looked in this book.
- There are also some _____ warriors.

Tips

The w sound → weak, western, which

The w sound is made with the lips. Shape your lips into a tight circle with a small hole in the middle. As you begin to hum, release the circle by relaxing your lips and letting your mouth open naturally. As you do so, push a puff of air out of your mouth.

SUMMARY

Complete the summary.

free prospecting rush price strike deposits



In 1848, California was the scene of a gold 1 _____, as many Americans came to try and 2 _____ it rich by finding gold. The strong 3 _____ of gold today is prompting people to try again. Some are trying to make money, and some are just doing it for fun. These people have other jobs and search for gold in their 4 _____ time. Some people try to make some extra cash, but it is very difficult to make a living by 5 _____. They must work long hours excavating 6 _____ in the riverbed and washing away the sand to try to find gold.



BROAD View



DIALOG A Prospector's Pastime

Choose the best answer.



- Where is this conversation taking place?
 - On a beach
 - At a police station
 - At a jewelry store
- How much actual cash has the man found buried on the beach?
 - Less than \$100
 - \$200
 - About \$5,000
- Why does the man use a metal detector?
 - He makes a living by finding coins.
 - It's part of his job.
 - It's a hobby for him.

EXPANDED READING

Read the passage below, and talk about the following questions.

Even in our modern world, gold is still the ultimate symbol of wealth. A gold Sony PS3 game system recently sold for over \$300,000! But gold isn't just for jewelry and other fancy things. It has many practical uses. As early as 700 BCE, gold was used to fix people's teeth. Although modern materials are more common these days, gold is still used because it does not cause allergies. Perhaps the most important use for gold is in electronics. Gold is an excellent conductor of electric current and does not break down easily. There is a small amount of gold in almost every modern electronic device. Most cell phones, for instance, have about \$0.50 worth of gold in them. In fact, the gold medals for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games contain gold recycled from used electronics.



- Where can you see famous golden items in your country? Are they made of real gold?
- Look around you. How many items can you name that contain gold?

Shorter Summer Break



Warm-Up

Think about the topic.

Schoolchildren in the United States get a long summer vacation. The school calendar was created over 150 years ago. Some people say that it needs to be changed because the needs of America have changed.

How long is your school's summer break? Is it long enough?

- 1 **harvest** to gather crops when they are ripe to eat
- 2 **rural** from the countryside
- 3 **democracy** a government chosen by the people
- 4 **immigration** the act of entering a country to start a new life
- 5 **compromise** an agreement



NOTE-TAKING

Listen to the news, and complete the notes.



Some Adults Call for Shorter Summer Break for US Kids

- **American school history:**
 - Schools had different summer 1 _____
 - 2 _____ schools created after Civil War
- **City school's view: Shorter school year**
 - 3 _____ schools in city
 - No air conditioning; bad pollution
 - Learning 4 _____ on hot days
- **Rural school's view: Longer school year**
 - Protect children from hard work
 - Better 5 _____ for life



COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions.

- 1 According to the report, what did some young people do in the summer long ago?
 - a. They went to special school.
 - b. They helped to harvest crops.
 - c. They went to other countries.
 - d. They explored the universities.
- 2 Why did national leaders want free public education?
 - a. Because it would help prepare workers for new jobs
 - b. Because the schools asked for too much money
 - c. Because people wanted to leave the US and live in other countries
 - d. Because teachers were making too much money
- 3 Which of the following was NOT a reason for long summer breaks in cities?
 - a. Hot weather made it hard for students to learn.
 - b. Children needed to help their families on the farms.
 - c. The classrooms were crowded.
 - d. Pollution from factories was a problem in the summer.

FOCUS ON SOUNDS

Listen to the sentences twice, and fill in the blanks. 

- The _____ American school year begins in late August or early September.
- Immigration was increasing, and so was the student _____.
- There was no modern air _____.
- The school calendar needs to change because the needs of the _____ have changed.

Tips

The -tion sound → education, vacation, pollution

The -tion sound is made by combining the sh, short u, and n sounds. To make the first sound, sh, close your teeth. Push your lips forward into a tense circle. Pull your tongue backward, away from the back of your top and bottom front teeth. Lift your tongue up to the roof of your mouth. The sides of your tongue will touch the roof of your mouth, but do not let the tip of your tongue touch it. Air should be able to flow over your tongue. Push air out of your mouth. From that position, make the short u sound. Open your mouth and drop your tongue. Your tongue should be relaxed, with the tip touching the gums of your mouth just below the base of your bottom front teeth. Hum to make the n sound. Place your tongue behind your top front teeth. The sides of your tongue should make a seal against your top teeth so that no air can escape. When your tongue is in the correct place, you should only be able to breathe through your nose. The sound produced will sound like a hum coming from your nose.



SUMMARY

Complete the summary.

compromise protect calendar law traditional education

The 1 _____ American school year has a long summer break. There are many reasons for this. Long ago, attending school was not required by 2 _____. After the Civil War, national leaders created free public 3 _____. There was disagreement about the 4 _____ City schools wanted a long break because teaching in the summer was difficult. Classes were crowded and hot. Rural teachers wanted a long school year to 5 _____ children from working too much. The two sides reached a(n) 6 _____. Today, experts think the calendar should be changed because America's needs have changed.

BROAD View 

DIALOG Comparing Notes

Choose the best answer. 

- What does the boy do during most of the year?
 - He works in a restaurant.
 - He stays with his family at a lake.
 - He goes to school in America.
- Why does the boy need to work at his uncle's restaurant?
 - He wants to become a cook.
 - He needs to pay for school.
 - He wants to earn money for a big vacation.
- What is the boy's idea of a perfect school schedule?
 - He wants a longer summer vacation so he can work more.
 - He wants smaller breaks instead of one large one.
 - He wants to start school earlier in the morning.

EXPANDED READING

Read the passage below, and talk about the following questions.

All around the world, children have different experiences in school. Although summer vacation may seem too short for most American school students, they should be thankful they don't live in China. According to a recent study, Chinese students are in school an average of 251 days per year. It's the longest school year in the world. Most countries in the world have a school year of around two hundred days. However, there is no typical school day around the world. There are big differences. For instance, in Spain, students receive up to two hours for lunch. Some countries have school on Saturdays. In France, students get Wednesday afternoon off. In some Asian countries, students study until midnight. Elsewhere, students can attend school through the Internet.



- How long is your school day?
- How do you spend your school vacations?