



# School-Home Connection

**Your child is reading “The Gold Rush” by Bobbie Kalman.**

This nonfiction selection traces the history of the gold rush in the western United States during the 1800’s. The author describes how people from all over the world traveled west, staked claims, found gold, built mining towns, and struck it rich.

## Write Letters to Gold Rush Participants

Work with your child to choose people who lived through the gold rush – prospectors, boomtown residents, landowners, children, or relatives left behind, and write letters with questions about their lives. Write an answer to one of the letters, using what you know about the gold rush days.

## Vocabulary

### Word Scramble

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “The Gold Rush”:

beckons	abandoned
fares	rugged
profitable	multicultural

Discuss the meaning of these words. Then play a word-scramble game. Choose a word, and scramble the letters to create a nonsense word. Have your child try to unscramble the letters to make a word and then use it in a sentence. Your child can now choose a word to scramble and repeat the process.

## Uses of Gold Pamphlet

Talk with your child about the uses of gold – in coins, in jewelry, and in other objects. Then make a poster for the refrigerator that shows some of these uses.

## History Here and There

Find out what was happening in your community during gold rush days. Visit a local museum or historical society with your child. Look for displays or other information about the 1850’s.



## TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

