

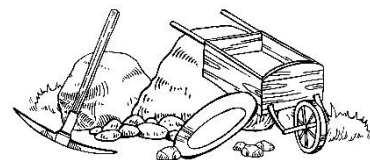
# Gold Rush

In 1841, small particles of gold were discovered in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. The governor at the time, Governor George Gipps, believed the discovery of gold had the potential to disrupt the colony. Authorities feared 'gold fever' would lead to an uprising among the convicts if it were discovered that gold could be found close by. They were also concerned that settlers would abandon their towns to try their luck on the goldfields. This would spell trouble for the young colony. For these reasons, the discovery of gold in the Blue Mountains was hushed by the government, as were the discoveries of other potential goldfields.

In 1848, gold was discovered in California, America. This discovery saw thousands of settlers make the long journey to seek their fortune on the American goldfields. The departure of workers meant the colony faced labour shortages and an economic downturn.

This ultimately led to a change in the government's position. New South Wales Governor, Charles FitzRoy, believed that the discovery of gold in local areas would help stop the flow of workers leaving the colony. The government enlisted the services of geologist Samuel Stutchbury. His job was to conduct a geological survey and to confirm gold finds in the area. The government also offered a reward for the discovery of payable amounts of gold in the colony.

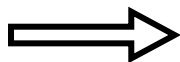
Edward Hammond Hargraves had heard the rumours of the discovery of gold on the western slopes of the Blue Mountains. Hargraves' team discovered payable gold and Hargraves claimed the government's reward of 10,000 pounds.



Hargraves named the area 'Ophir', which refers to a location rich in gold. Word of the discovery travelled quickly, and Australia's first gold rush was born. The prospect of striking gold brought excited people from all over the world. Miners were given the nickname 'diggers'. Diggers worked long hours in difficult and sometimes dangerous condition to try their luck in the goldfields.

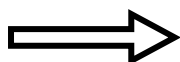
**Find five cause-and-effect relationships from the text and show them below.**

cause (why?)



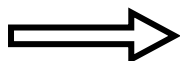
effect (what happened?)

cause



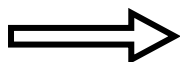
effect

cause



effect

cause



effect

cause



effect

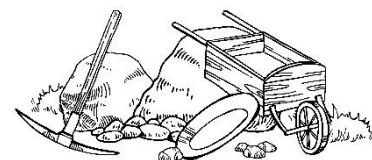
## Gold Rush Answers

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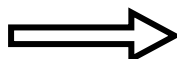
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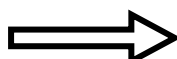
Answers may vary.

cause  
Governor believed gold discovery would cause convicts to become unruly



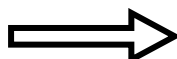
effect  
Governor kept gold discovery in Blue Mountains a secret

cause  
Gold discovered in California



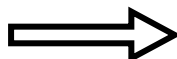
effect  
Many settlers left the colony for California

cause  
Many settlers left the colony for California



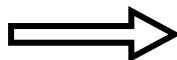
effect  
Labour shortage, economic downturn

cause  
Government wanted gold discovery to attract people to colony



effect  
Government offered reward for discovery of gold, enlisted Samuel Stutchbury (geologist)

cause  
Word of Hargraves' discovery travelled quickly



effect  
People travelled to the colony from around the world to look for gold