

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

## Golden Opportunities

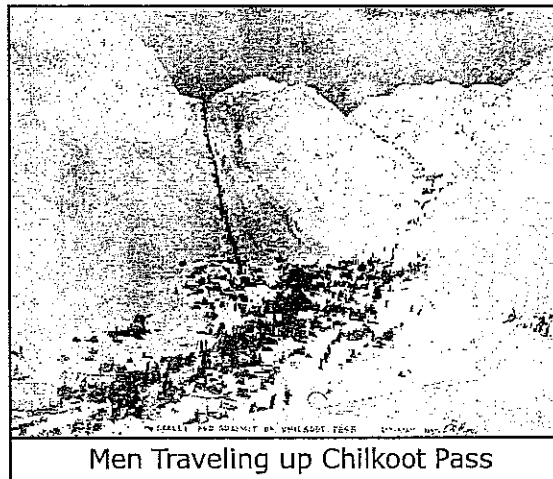
- 1 On August 17, 1896, three men discovered a thumb-sized gold nugget near the Klondike River in the Yukon Territory of Canada. This marked the beginning of the Klondike gold rush.
- 2 During the 1890s the United States was experiencing an economic depression. News of the gold find gave people hope. Fortune seekers from all over the United States departed for the goldfields.
- 3 While many people did become rich as a result of the gold rush, very few of them made their money by digging for gold. Demand for equipment and services created thousands of jobs as gold seekers prepared to travel by ship and overland to the Yukon. For people with a good head for business and a flair for adventure, the opportunities were limitless.

### Moneymaking Venture 1: Comforts

- 4 One clever entrepreneur was Belinda Mulroney. Before traveling to Canada, Mulroney invested \$5,000 in clothing and hot-water bottles. When she reached Dawson—the closest town to the goldfields—she sold these items for seven times the amount she purchased them for. Within days she was \$30,000 richer. She used this money to open a restaurant. Before the gold rush was over, Mulroney had opened several restaurants and hotels in Dawson.
- 5 Fred Trump, the grandfather of real-estate tycoon Donald Trump, earned his fortune by operating a hotel along one of the routes to the goldfields.

### Moneymaking Venture 2: Transportation

- 6 Other noteworthy businesses involved leading expeditions and transporting goods along the trails to the goldfields. Ships carrying prospectors docked in Skagway, Alaska. From there the prospectors crossed 600 miles of wilderness



Men Traveling up Chilkoot Pass

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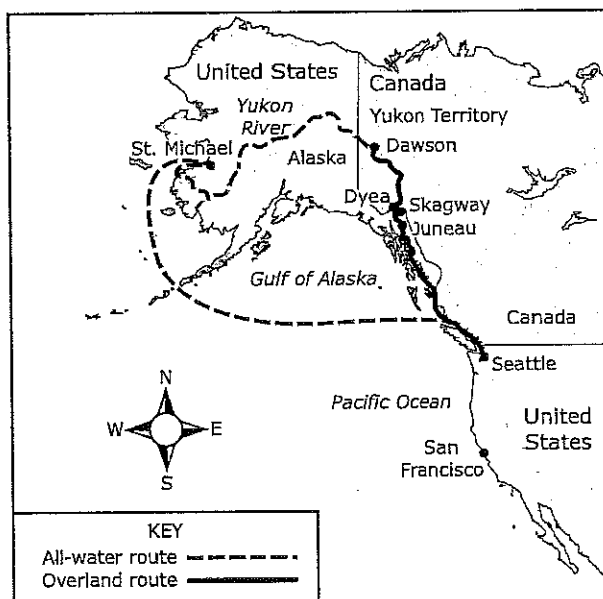
en route to the Yukon. Because prospectors were not allowed over the Canadian border without a year's worth of supplies, most were burdened with more than 1,000 pounds of provisions.

- 7 The trails to the Yukon were famously grueling. The Tlingit, people native to the area, offered their services as guides. They charged per mile and by weight when they helped carry supplies.
- 8 One of the most popular trails traversed Chilkoot Pass, an incredibly steep slope that was covered in ice during the cold months. It took an average of three months and 40 trips to haul the supplies of each person over Chilkoot Pass. One industrious group of men carved 1,500 steps into the icy slope. The men made their fortune collecting tolls from travelers.

### **Moneymaking Venture 3: Supplies**

- 9 As many people discovered, it was not even necessary to travel to the Yukon in order to profit from the gold rush. One city that was drastically changed by the discovery of gold in the Yukon was Seattle, Washington. Because Seattle was one of the northernmost ports before entering Canada and Alaska, it became the launching point for most people traveling to the goldfields.

Routes to the Yukon Goldfields from Seattle



- 10 Thousands of businesspeople came to Seattle ready to offer goods and services to the prospectors. The Seattle Chamber of Commerce moved quickly to take advantage of this upswing in the economy. It publicized Seattle as the "Gateway to the Golden Fields," hoping to bring the prospectors' business to Seattle.
- 11 During 1898 some \$10 million in gold was found in the Yukon. In that same year businesses that provided goods and services to the prospectors brought in over \$60 million. Clearly, the fortunes made during the gold rush depended more on finding unique opportunities than on finding shiny gold nuggets. Either way, the gold rush helped pull the United States out of a staggering economic slump.

"A Gold Miner's Tale" is from Bobbi Katz's collection *We the People*. In this poem, Katz writes in the voice of Frank Wexler, a gold miner who lived during the era of the Klondike gold rush.

## A Gold Miner's Tale

FRANK WEXLER—DAWSON CITY, YUKON TERRITORY, 1898

by Bobbi Katz

I was twenty-one years old.  
Fired up by dreams of gold.  
Rushing West in '49  
to stake a claim to my own mine!  
5 What did I find when I got there?  
Thousands of "rushers" everywhere!  
Water and sand. That's ALL it takes.  
Swish your pan. Pick out the flakes!

A meal?  
10 A horse?  
A place to stay?  
Who'd believe what we had to pay!

Bought a shovel. Bought a pan.  
Soon I'd be a rich young man.  
15 Water and sand. That's ALL it takes.  
Swish your pan. Pick out the flakes!  
Pan after pan, I'd swish and wish  
for a glint of pay dirt in my dish.  
Asleep at night, what did I see?  
20 Nuggets the daylight hid from me.  
It takes more than a flash in the pan  
to make a rusher a rich young man.

The gold I found? Just enough to get by.  
I gave up when my claim went dry.

25        Water and sand. That's ALL it takes.  
             Swish your pan. Pick out the flakes!  
             Got a job in a hydraulic mine.  
             Hated the work, but the pay was fine.  
             So when I heard about Pikes Peak,  
30        I  
                     was  
                             in  
                                     the Rockies  
   within a week!

35        Water and sand. That's ALL it takes.  
             Swish your pan. Pick out the flakes!  
             I should have known better.  
             With a grubstake so small,  
             I left Colorado with nothing at all.  
40        No job. No gold. Just a shovel and a pan.  
             But I walked away a wiser man.

**"Gold in the Klondike!"**

             Wouldn't you think  
             I'd be up there in a wink?

45        But with my new plan to pan gold flakes,  
             I didn't make the same mistakes.  
             Before I joined the great stampede,  
             I thought: What will stampedeers need?  
             Now I'm a Dawson millionaire!

50        I sell them ALL long underwear.

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Use "Golden Opportunities" (pp. 18–20) to answer questions 20–24.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

1. The reader can conclude that Belinda Mulroney's first restaurant —
- F was the only restaurant in town
  - G also sold clothes and mining supplies
  - H was a successful business investment
  - J offered miners good food at low prices
- 
2. Which phrase from paragraph 6 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word grueling in paragraph 7?
- A *Other noteworthy businesses involved*
  - B *prospectors were not allowed*
  - C *burdened with more than 1,000 pounds of provisions*
  - D *transporting goods along the trails*
- 
3. The author wrote this selection most likely to —
- F explain different ways people profited from the gold rush
  - G describe the prospectors' journey to the goldfields in detail
  - H highlight how the search for gold gave people hope for the future
  - J relate the history of how the gold rush began

4.

Which sentence supports the idea that goods were in demand during the Klondike gold rush?

- A *They charged per mile and by weight when they helped carry supplies.*
- B *When she reached Dawson—the closest town to the goldfields—she sold these items for seven times the amount she purchased them for.*
- C *The men made their fortune collecting tolls from travelers.*
- D *It publicized Seattle as the "Gateway to the Golden Fields," hoping to bring the prospectors' business to Seattle.*

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5.

The map is included in the selection most likely to —

- F explain why gold was found in the Yukon Territory of Canada
- G illustrate why Seattle became an important port during the Yukon gold rush
- H emphasize how dangerous the trails to the Yukon were
- J demonstrate how much gold was found by prospectors

Use "A Gold Miner's Tale" (pp. 21–22) to answer questions 25–29.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

**6.** Read this line from the poem.

But I walked away a wiser man.

This line suggests that at the end of the poem the speaker —

- A** knows how valuable a small amount of gold can be
- B** realizes the most effective technique for panning for gold
- C** understands why so many people looked for gold during the gold rush
- D** gains a new perspective about the outcome of panning for gold

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**7.** The repetition of the lines "Water and sand. That's ALL it takes./Swish your pan. Pick out the flakes!" is used to emphasize the —

- F** importance of gold mining to the economy
- G** physical hardships and obstacles faced by miners
- H** additional tools needed by miners in the goldfields
- J** false promise that gold mining is an easy way to get rich



8.

Read line 37 from the poem.

I should have known better.

From this line, the reader can infer that the speaker feels regret about —

- A giving up his search for gold
- B leaving his job to prospect for gold
- C having the wrong equipment for panning for gold
- D taking too long to locate an area to search for gold

9.

This poem is mostly about a young man who —

- F follows people going west in search of gold and tries different locations without success
- G looks for a better alternative to a job that he does not enjoy doing and becomes a gold prospector
- H goes west in hopes of finding gold and after several unsuccessful attempts finally realizes a better way to earn money
- J tries the same method for finding gold and is unsuccessful because of his unwillingness to change

10.

The poet's use of short sentences helps create the poem's —

- A vivid imagery
- B rhythm
- C tone
- D conflict

Use "Golden Opportunities" and "A Gold Miner's Tale" to answer questions 30–34. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

11.

How are the selection and the poem different?

- F The selection encourages mining, while the poem discourages mining.
- G The selection focuses on several events, while the poem focuses on one event.
- H The selection relates facts, while the poem relates a personal experience.
- J The selection focuses on failures, while the poem focuses on successes.

12.

An idea explored in both the selection and the poem is that gold mining —

- A attracted miners for only a short time
- B did not appeal to many people in the United States
- C was important to the U.S. economy
- D did not lead to riches for most miners

13.

Who profited from the Yukon gold rush in the same way as the speaker in the poem?

- F The Tlingit
- G Belinda Mulroney
- H Fred Trump
- J Members of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce

14.

Read these lines from the poem.

Before I joined the great stampede,  
I thought: What will stampedeers need?  
Now I'm a Dawson millionaire!  
I sell them ALL long underwear.

Which sentence from the selection best matches an idea presented in these lines?

- A *During 1898 some \$10 million in gold was found in the Yukon.*
- B *Thousands of businesspeople came to Seattle ready to offer goods and services to the prospectors.*
- C *This marked the beginning of the Klondike gold rush.*
- D *The Seattle Chamber of Commerce moved quickly to take advantage of this upswing in the economy.*

15.

Read line 14 from the poem.

Soon I'd be a rich young man.

Which sentence from the selection best matches the feeling expressed by the speaker in line 14 of the poem?

- F *The Tlingit, people native to the area, offered their services as guides.*
- G *One city that was drastically changed by the discovery of gold in the Yukon was Seattle, Washington.*
- H *News of the gold find gave people hope.*
- J *Before the gold rush was over, Mulroney had opened several restaurants and hotels in Dawson.*