

# GOOD YEAR BOOKS

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# **GOLD NUGGETS**

**Enhancing Reading and Language Arts Skills**

**Marty DeJonghe  
and Caroline Earhart**

v1.0





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# How to Use Gold Nuggets



This activity book is designed to **teach several main subjects** at the same time. You will teach a reading/language arts lesson that is part of the regular academic curriculum—but the content of the lesson will include accurate information about the California Gold Rush.



The lessons are presented **in the order in which events occurred during the time of the California Gold Rush**. Thus, a lesson about gold discovery (1848) is at the beginning of the book, while a lesson on hydraulic mining (1880s) is toward the end of the book.



The language arts and reading concepts included in this book have been chosen to **enhance basic skills**—exposing students to “real life” in historical times in California. Easier academic concepts are found at the beginning of this activity book. Emphasis has been placed on teaching **thinking, problem-solving, and team-building skills** to help students reach meaningful conclusions. **Activity-oriented**, hands-on lessons are used throughout this activity book.



The **Table of Contents** lists the social studies topics and the academic skills being taught in each lesson, as well as the Common Core standards. At the back of this book you will find a variety of valuable and helpful information. The **Teacher Pages** include teaching suggestions, background information, handy hints, vocabulary lists, and ways to enhance each lesson. **Answers** to all questions are included. There is also a **Glossary** and an **Index**.



Each lesson is designed with the objective of keeping **students enthused, involved, and interested** in learning. Lessons have been designed with both the gifted learner and the student who needs additional guidance in mind.



## Key to Abbreviated California Standards:

R = Reading

W = Writing

NS = Number Sense

MG = Measurement and Geometry

WO = Written and Oral Language Conventions

H-SS = History-Social Studies

SDP = Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability

VA = Visual Arts



## Dedication

Over our many years of working with children, our lives have been touched by so many wonderful teachers and mentors, all of whom have made such a difference in the lives of our students. We are better teachers because of you.



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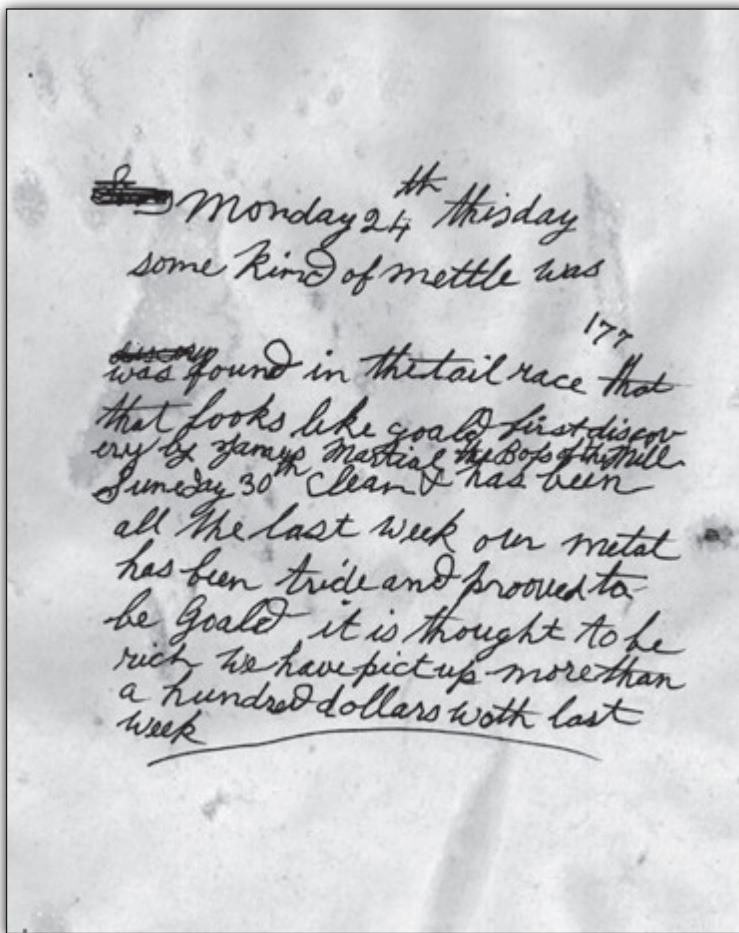
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## Lesson 5: The Diary of Henry Bigler

- ➔ It is important that your written work be the highest quality you can do. Before completing your final copy, check for spelling and punctuation errors. Also, make sure that the content is clear and easy to understand.

Miners wrote in diaries and recorded what was happening around them. Shown here are the actual words that Henry Bigler wrote. He tells about the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill. As you can see in this diary, many miners had little formal education and made many errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.



Replica of the original

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

this day some kind of mettle was was found in the tail race that that looks like goald first discovered by James Martial the Boss of the Mill.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

Clear & has been all the last week our metal has been tride and prooves to be Goald it is thought to be rich We have pict up more than a hundred dollars woth last week



- ### Henry's Spelling List (with corrected spellings)

- ### Henry's Diary Entries Rewritten in Modern-day Language

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Combining Sentences

WO: 1.1, 1.2: H-SS: 4.3

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



## Lesson 6: Sam Brannan, California's First Millionaire

To make your writing read more smoothly, you can combine two or more short sentences into one sentence.

1. John Sutter owned a fort in Sacramento. He needed lumber from a lumber mill on the American River.

**John Sutter, owner of a Sacramento fort, needed lumber from a mill on the American River.**

2. To look for gold, people came from the California foothills. People came from Oregon and Mexico. Later, people came from all over the world.

**To look for gold, people first came from the California foothills, then from Oregon and Mexico, and later from all over the world.**

3. Sutter wanted to keep the discovery of gold a secret. Many mill workers bragged about the gold they found.

**Sutter wanted to keep the discovery of gold a secret, but many mill workers bragged about the gold they found.**

4. Miners took over Sutter's land. Sutter moved to a small farm. Sutter died a poor man.

**Because miners took over Sutter's land, he moved to a small farm and died a poor man.**

Sutter's Mill



**Directions:** Combine the short sentences on the next page to make your written work more interesting and easier to read.

1. On another piece of paper, write the title on the top of the page.
2. Organize your paper neatly as you write the ten combined sentences.



1. Sam Brannan was a leader in the Mormon Church. He came to San Francisco in 1846. He brought 238 Mormon passengers on a ship.
2. Sam Brannan was an ambitious man. He was energetic. He was outgoing.
3. Sam Brannan owned a hotel in San Francisco. He had a supply store. He was editor of a newspaper in San Francisco.
4. Sam Brannan ignored rumors about the discovery of gold. He visited Sutter's Mill. He learned that the rumors were true.
5. Brannan wanted to increase his business at his supply store. His store was located near Sutter's Fort.
6. He bought all the shovels. He bought the picks. He bought flat pans.
7. Brannan thought all the other men could look for gold. He wanted to earn the gold by selling supplies to the miners.
8. Brannan wanted to spread the news about the gold discovery. In San Francisco he showed the gold. He ran through the streets. He shouted, "Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!"
9. He had all the business he wanted! He became very rich. He was one of the wealthiest men in San Francisco.
10. Sam Brannan died in 1889. He had lost all of his fortune.