Thematic Unit

Gold Rush

1 Properties of Gold
Brainstorming / Chart making in groups
Shiny, yellow, pure, will not corrode or stain, high melting point, heavy, malleable and ductile, conducts electricity, soft, rare and considered precious.

2 Uses of Gold
Brainstorming / Chart making in groups
Money, jewellery, decoration, electronics, shielding and health.

3 Australia gets Gold Fever 1800’s – 1850’s
Reading / Discussion / Comprehension Activity
Why were the Authorities concerned about gold being found in the early part of the 19th century?
Why did they change their minds?
What did they decide to do?
Who was credited with finding the first payable gold?
Why didn’t the Tom brothers and John Lister want to tell about the gold?
What happened as a result of this news?

4 Guest Speaker / Qld Mining Council
Looking at Mining Today - Open cut / Underground mines - Machinery / Safety / Clothing

5 Techniques Used for Finding Gold in the Australia’s Golden Age
Reading / Writing / Illustrating
Children research and present a short article with a picture of at least 3 of the following techniques.
Alluvial Gold – panning, cradles / sluices, long toms, puddling
Reef Gold – shaft mining (using windlasses), dry blowing

Teacher Reading / Discussion
- Each day read and discuss one or two sections from
- ‘A Goldfields Journal’ (Published 1854)

Drama / Role Plays
- Act out scenarios of things that may have taken place as people left their jobs, packed up and travelled to the goldfields.
- Role play happenings at the goldfields as the children learn each new fact. Eg. Panning for gold, buying supplies, staking a claim, etc.
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6 The Gold Rush – Population Explosion
Graphing / Questioning
* A simple graph could be presented on the chalkboard using just some of the data available.
Teacher Reading
Growth in population as a result of finding gold and advertising those finds.
OHP showing statistics for the States of the time.

7 Goldfields Characters
Teacher Reading / Discussion / Drama
Read ‘The Stew That Grew’
Role Plays of diggers working on the goldfields meeting people from other countries and asking about their homelands.

8 Ellen’s Letter
Reading / Grammar / Spelling
Ellen’s family have moved to the goldfields.

9 A Letter to my Mother
Personal Letter
* Written in character
* Male / Female perspectives

10 Gambling For Gold
No Licence – No Dig
Reading / Teacher Reading / Discussion
Writing short answers
Examine the rules and regulations of fossicking on the early Australian goldfields.
Why were licenses (sic.) so unpopular and considered so costly?
Glue a copy of a real licence and the Gold Rush licence into books.

11 Eureka Stockade
Research on computers / Information Writing
Children present a Mini Project outlining the events leading up to the Stockade, the conflict and the outcome.
Must include the Southern Cross flag.
Chinese on the Goldfields
Teacher Exposition / List Making

What made the Chinese so effective and so despised?
They were healthier, better organised, efficient, etc.

Where was gold found in Australia in the colonial years?
Mapping / Reading Atlases

Using an atlas mark on a map of Aust. the major gold seeking areas.

Australian Songs
Music / Singing

Learn 2 periodic songs to share on the excursion.
Make lagerphones and bases to accompany the songs.

GOLD RUSH EXCURSION

Thank You
Letters to the Trooper or Captain Lucas for their part in the Gold Rush Excursion.

The Discovery of Gold
Reading / Discussion / Cloze – Comprehension
Children read a simple cloze activity individually, complete the cloze activity then discuss the contents.

Life on the Goldfields
Reading / Discussion / Cloze / Comprehension
Children read a simple cloze activity individually, complete the cloze activity then discuss the contents.

Glittering Gold
Fact finding / Report Writing
Children read information, select 5-8 facts and note them down, then use those facts to write information reports in their theme books.

Wanted Poster for Captain Lucas
Art / Writing