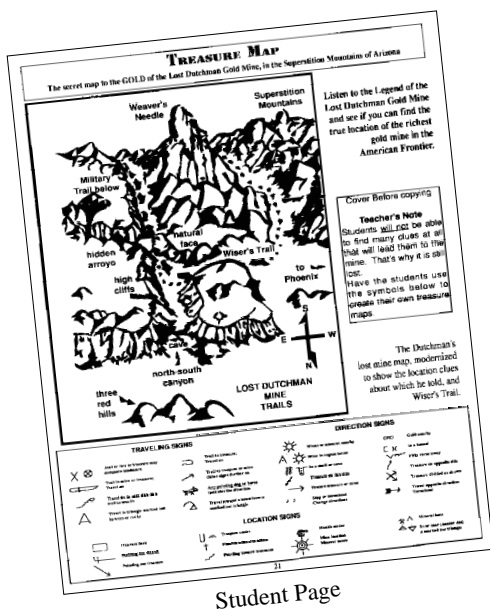


# MINING LEGENDS

Objective: To enrich and expand study of natural resources with literature and history.



## A Few Facts

The first documented discovery of gold in the United States was made by 12-year-old Conrad Reed in 1799 while shooting fish with a bow and arrow in a North Carolina stream. Because gold was unknown in this part of the country, the boy's father kept the piece for several years and used it as a doorstep. In 1802, it was properly identified by a jeweller as gold.

Gold was mined in the U.S. prior to the Revolutionary War, but authentication of those discoveries is still missing. Some regions of Arizona have been mined for more than 600 years. The fabled Seven Cities of Cibola directed Spanish exploration of the New World in the 1500's.

The discovery of gold lured thousands of people to the American Frontier, and these prospectors settled the West and Canada.

The first authenticated U.S. gold rush was in Georgia in 1828, (though many believe that the lure of gold in Georgia did not create a true gold rush). The famous California Gold Rush began in 1849; it was followed by Colorado in 1859, South Dakota in 1874, Alaska in 1898 and Nevada in 1902.

- Gold is weighed in Troy ounces: 1 pound avoirdupois = 14.58 Troy oz.
- Gold content in jewelry and other applications is measured in karats.

1 karat = 1/24th part. 24k is pure gold; 18k is 18 parts gold and 6 parts other metals. Most gold jewelry is 14k gold.

## Read More About It!

Check out these children's books for your class:

- *Gold!...* by Milton Meltzer; Scholastic
- *One Earth (A National Audubon Series)* by Ron Hirschi; Bantam Doubleday Dell
- *Klondike Fever* by Michael Cooper; Clarion
- *White Fang* and *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London; Macmillan Children's Book Group
- Robert Service Series and *Yukon Poems* by Robert Service; Putnam Publishing Group

A teacher reference:

- *A Pictorial History of American Mining* by Howard and Lucille Sloane; Crown Publishing



## Classroom Experience

Discuss the term "legend." What is fact? What is fiction?

Working alone or in groups, students can create their own treasure maps based on various myths, legends and books. By exchanging maps, they may locate the well-known treasure from the map and clues provided.

## Dig A Little Deeper

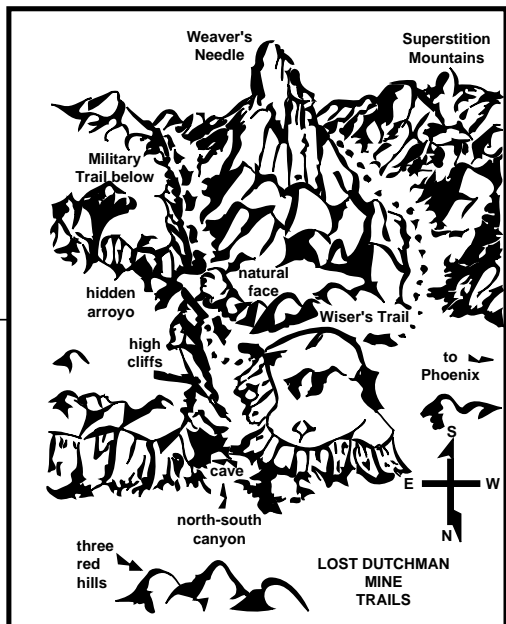
- Research other mining legends or legends of the Old West.
- To recreate the emotion of the California Gold Rush, pan for gold in your own classroom. Special classroom panning kits are available from MII.
- Write the legend of your classroom, or have students create their own legends and share them if they wish.
- Every state has legends of buried treasure or lost wealth waiting to be rediscovered. Research your local treasure.

## Integrating the Curriculum

1. How long is the course in the Iditerod race? How many miles per hour did the most recent winner average?
2. The Egyptians used a great deal of gold. Where did they find it? How was it mined? How much does the gold sarcophagus of King Tut weigh?
3. Why is there a Russian influence in Alaska?
4. What is the basis weight for Troy weight? (12 ounces = 1 pound) Why is it called Troy? How many Troy ounces does each student weigh?
5. Secure a street map of your community and locate the origin of its street names. Were they named for any important historical events, places or people?
6. Form several groups and have each select a decade of your state's history to research and present to the class.

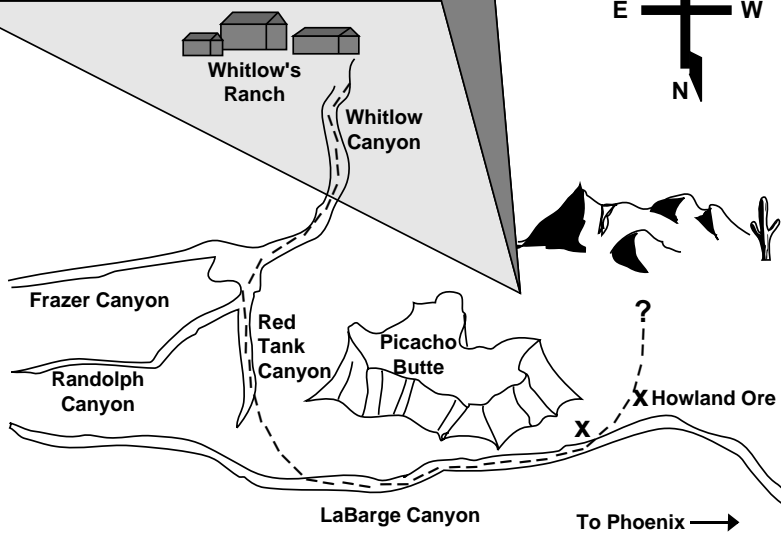
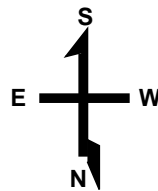
# Treasure Map

The secret map to the GOLD of the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine, in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona



## Wagoner Map

Wagoner's mapped trail to the ledge of rose quartz bonanza ore which he found in the Superstitions



Listen to the Legend of the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine and see if you can find the true location of the richest gold mine in the American Frontier.

### Teacher's Note

cover before copying

Students will not be able to find many clues at all that will lead them to the mine. That's why it is still lost.

Have the students use the symbols below to create their own treasure maps.

The Dutchman's lost mine map, modernized to show the location clues about which he told, and Wisner's Trail.

### TRAVELING SIGNS

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | Trail or line to treasure may designate landmark |  | Trail to treasure; Travel on                      |
|  | Trail to mine or treasure; Travel on             |  | Trail to treasure or mine Other signs further on  |
|  | Travel on to next sign on a trail to wealth      |  | Any pointing dog or horse indicates the direction |
|  | Travel to triangle marked out by trees or rocks  |  | Travel around a bend from a marked out triangle   |

### DIRECTION SIGNS

- |     |                                   |     |                                     |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
|     | Mines or mineral nearby           | ORO | Gold nearby                         |
|     | Mine in region below              |     | In a tunnel                         |
|     | In a shaft or cave                |     | Fifty varas away                    |
|     | Treasure on this side             |     | Treasure on opposite side           |
|     | Toward treasure or mine           |     | Treasure divided as shown           |
| E 3 | Stop or turnout Change directions |     | Travel opposite direction Turnabout |

### LOCATION SIGNS

- |  |                       |  |                           |  |                             |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
|  | Treasure here         |  | Treasure under            |  | Wealth under                |  | Mineral here                                   |
|  | Pointing out wealth   |  | Church treasures below    |  | Mine location Mineral below |  | In or near (locator dot) a marked out triangle |
|  | Pointing out treasure |  | Pointing toward treasures |  |                             |  |  |

# THE LEGEND OF THE LOST DUTCHMAN

## America's Most Famous Gold Mine

The Lost Dutchman Gold Mine, still hidden in the Superstition Mountains east of Phoenix, Arizona, has it all—fabulous wealth, Spanish treasure maps, Apaches, claim jumping and murders, including mysterious 20th Century deaths and disappearances.

450 years ago, Coronado searched the area for the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola, the legendary wealth of earlier civilizations of the Indian and Mexican empires. For centuries, the Apaches watched as foreign men brought invading hordes in search of gold in the mountains that were their god—the Superstition Mountains.

In the winter of 1847-48 the Apaches began to attack in earnest; and when all foreigners had been destroyed, the medicine men holding solemn council upon the matter stated that, should foreigners come again to disturb the gods, the Apaches might be “forever cursed by storms and floods and all manner of the natural disasters which angry deities could contrive.” So it was decreed that a band of thirty squaws and two youths would be sent back into the Superstitions to cover the mines and destroy all traces of the fabulous workings.

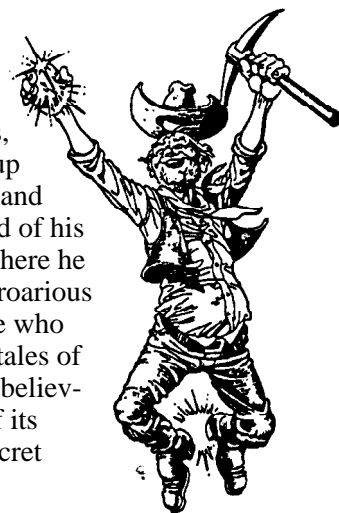
And there in the mountains this work party labored for one full moon, throwing ore and hastily abandoned tools back into the shafts. Then they covered the mines with stout logs, which in turn were covered with the natural caliche cement that hardens into rock. Over this they placed in cunning Indian fashion yet another covering of dirt and surface stones to match the surrounding ground.

In 1871, with the help of old Spanish treasure maps, Jacob Walz, “The Dutchman” and his partner, Wiser, were prospecting the Needles Canyon area of the Superstitions looking for lost Spanish gold. Both were well known throughout Arizona as “thorough-going scoundrels, capable of most anything.” At the unmistakable sound of hammering by miners, Walz grabbed his .45-90 Sharpes, and Wiser his .45-70 Springfield, and they proceeded to ambush two miners (Jacobs and Ludi) near Weaver’s Needle. Jacobs and Ludi, both mortally wounded, fled with Ludi dying soon. Jacobs stumbling on alone, finally reached Andy Starr’s cabin in the desert, where he collapsed in Starr’s arms, babbling wildly about Spanish-mapped mines and hidden ambushers before he, too, died.

Meanwhile, Walz and Wiser were examining the mine in a veritable frenzy of activity, for the fantastic ore was almost a third solid yellow gold. And, thought the Dutchman, wouldn’t that ill-gotten wealth be worth twice as much to one of them alone? The Sharpes fired again, and Wiser was left to die in the mine. However, Wiser, like the miners before him, was able to crawl from the mine and, when found delirious in the desert by friendly Pima Indians, was taken to Col. Walker’s ranch near Florence. There for days Wiser hovered between life and death, telling his incredible story of murder, bonanza gold and greedy treachery before he, too, died.

Source: *Thunder Gods Gold*, by Barry Storm

Back in the Superstitions, the Dutchman had gathered up his first sack of fabulous ore and gone to Florence, where word of his strike spread like wildfire. There he squandered his gold in an uproarious manner and regaled everyone who would listen with expansive tales of old Spanish workings and unbelievable amounts of gold. But of its location—ah, that was the secret worth a king’s ransom!



Walz vanished from Florence as abruptly as he had appeared. Then, weeks later, he turned up again with more of his fantastic ore, but this time in Phoenix for another drunken spree. He told even wilder tales than before of his bonanza, which promptly whipped the little village into such a frenzy that practically every able-bodied man there made immediate and secret preparations to follow the Dutchman. However, Walz was no fool, drunk or sober. He vanished suddenly one night, dragging a blanket behind him to wipe out his trail.

A few weeks later, he reappeared. This time after his usual spree, the Dutchman, upon leaving town, not only found a stampede-sized crowd waiting to follow but saw that many more were already camped out upon the desert hoping to intercept him. After that, he continuously changed his course. His tracks often ended abruptly, as though he had sprouted wings and flown off.

Shortly afterward, he appeared in Tucson with two burro-loads of ore. It was there it was discovered that Walz had never recorded his claim, meaning anyone who found it could own it. By this time everyone in Arizona was convinced the Dutchman was secretly working a hidden bonanza. In fact, there could have been no doubt of it in the face of his well-known ore sales and continued production of the same fabulous ore for more than six years.

In Phoenix, he rented a plot of ground and an adobe hut near Henshaw Road and 16th Street and settled down at last to a life of ease and the prosaic pastime of raising chickens and wine grapes. There he guarded his secret with all the delighted perversity of a child who knows something but won't quite tell it.

Whenever he needed money for himself or for his small group of friends (who were in frequent need), he simply went into his backyard to a certain spot, but different each time, and dug up a tin can containing gold dust and nuggets. He did that for the next 14 years, until he died on February 22, 1891.

The Dutchman gave numerous clues, and even drew maps, as to the site of his now legendary mine, and more than a dozen have died trying to find it. The clues and maps are readily available, but America's most famed lost gold mine is still lost.

# The First Authenticated Gold Discovery in America

1799

There is no doubt that gold mining occurred in "America" before the country was founded, but authentic records of discovery cannot be found. Therefore, the generally accepted first gold discovery is credited to the seventeen-pound nugget found by 12-year-old Conrad Reed in Cabarrus County, North Carolina in 1799.

According to *Historical Sketches of North Carolina 1584 to 1851*, by John H. Wheeler:

**T**he first piece of gold found at the mine was in the year 1799, by Conrad Reed, a boy of about twelve years old, a son of John Reed, the proprietor. The discovery was made in an accidental manner. The boy above named, in company with a sister and younger brother, went to a small stream, called Meadow Creek, on a Sabbath day, while their parents were at church, for the purpose of shooting fish with bow and arrow, and while engaged along the bank of the creek, Conrad saw a yellow substance shining in the water. He went in and picked it up, and found it to be some kind of metal, and carried it home. Mr. Reed examined it, but gold was unknown in this part of the country at that time, he did not know what kind of metal it was: the piece was about the size of a small smoothing iron.

Mr. Reed carried the piece of metal to Concord, and showed it to a William Atkinson, a silversmith, but he not thinking of gold, was unable to say what kind of metal it was.

Mr. Reed kept the piece for several years on his house floor, to lay against the door to keep it from shutting. In the year 1802, he went to market to Fayetteville, and carried the piece of metal with him, and on showing it to a jeweller, the jeweller immediately told him it was gold, and requested

Mr. Reed to leave the metal with him and said he would flux it. Mr. Reed left it, and returned in a short time, and on his return the jeweller showed him a large bar of gold, six or eight inches long. The jeweller then asked Mr. Reed what he would take for the bar. Mr. Reed, not knowing the value of gold, thought he would ask a "big price" and so he asked three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50)! The jeweller paid him his price.



After returning home, Mr. Reed examined and found gold in the surface along the creek. He then associated Frederick Kisor, James Love, and Martin Phifer with himself, and in the year 1803, they found a piece of gold in the branch that weighted twenty-eight pounds. Numerous pieces were found at this mine weighting from sixteen pounds down to the smallest particles. The whole

surface along the creek for nearly a mile was very rich in gold.

The veins of this mine were discovered in the year 1831. They yielded a large quantity of gold. The veins are flint and quartz.

*I do certify that the foregoing is a true statement of the discovery and history of this mine, as given by John Reed and his son Conrad Reed, now both dead.*

*George Barnhardt      January, 1848*