

## Chapter 1 : Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

*The Klondike Gold Rush was a migration by an estimated 100,000 prospectors to the Klondike region of the Yukon in north-western Canada between 1896 and 1899.*

Background[ edit ] Yukon at the time of discovery. The indigenous peoples in north-west America had traded in copper nuggets prior to European expansion. Most of the tribes were aware that gold existed in the region, but the metal was not valued by them. In three years it grew to become "the Paris of Alaska", with 10,000 inhabitants, saloons, opera houses, schools, and libraries. In 1897, it was so well known that a correspondent from the Chicago Daily Record came to visit. At the end of the year, it became a ghost town, when large gold deposits were found upstream on the Klondike. George Carmack or Skookum Jim, but the group agreed to let George Carmack appear as the official discoverer because they feared that mining authorities would be reluctant to recognize a claim made by an Indigenous Person. He discovered new sources of gold there, which would prove to be even richer than those on Bonanza. Despite the winter, many prospectors immediately left for the Klondike by dog-sled, eager to reach the region before the best claims were taken. It began on July 15, 1897, in San Francisco and was spurred further two days later in Seattle, when the first of the early prospectors returned from the Klondike, bringing with them large amounts of gold on the ships Excelsior and Portland. Economically, the news had reached the US at the height of a series of financial recessions and bank failures in the 1890s. The gold standard of the time tied paper money to the production of gold and shortages towards the end of the 19th century meant that gold dollars were rapidly increasing in value ahead of paper currencies and being hoarded. A worldwide publicity campaign engineered largely by Erastus Brainerd, a Seattle newspaperman, helped establish the city as the premier supply centre and the departure point for the gold fields. John McGraw, the former governor of Washington joined, together with the prominent lawyer and sportsman A. Frederick Burnham, a well-known American scout and explorer, arrived from Africa, only to be called back to take part in the Second Boer War. Wood, the mayor of Seattle, who resigned and formed a company to transport prospectors to the Klondike. Clothing, equipment, food, and medicines were all sold as "Klondike" goods, allegedly designed for the north-west. For details see appendix. The Klondike could be reached only by the Yukon River, either upstream from its delta, downstream from its head, or from somewhere in the middle through its tributaries. River boats could navigate the Yukon in the summer from the delta until a point called Whitehorse, above the Klondike. Travel in general was made difficult by both the geography and climate. It led to the ports of Dyea and Skagway plus ports of nearby trails. The sudden increase in demand encouraged a range of vessels to be pressed into service including old paddle wheelers, fishing boats, barges, and coal ships still full of coal dust. All were overloaded and many sank. Michael, at the Yukon River delta, a river boat could then take the prospectors the rest of the way up the river to Dawson, often guided by one of the Native Koyukon people who lived near St. Tlingits or, less commonly, Tagish. Steps were cut into the ice at the Chilkoot Pass which could be used for a daily fee, this 1, step staircase becoming known as the "Golden Steps". A horse at the bottom turned a wheel, which pulled a rope running to the top and back; freight was loaded on sledges pulled by the rope. Parallel trails[ edit ] There were a few more trails established during from South-east Alaska to the Yukon River. One was the Dalton trail: From here, it followed a river to the Yukon, where it met the Dyea and Skagway route at a point halfway to the Klondike. Finally, there was the Stikine route starting from the port of Wrangell further south-east of Skagway. This route went up the uneasy Stikine River to Glenora, the head of navigation. An alternative to the South-east Alaskan ports were the All-Canadian routes, so-called because they mostly stayed on Canadian soil throughout their journey. Chalmers to build a trail, which became known as the Klondike Trail or Chalmers Trail. One went by boat along rivers and overland to the Yukon River system at Pelly River and from there to Dawson. An estimated 100,000 travellers took these three routes, of whom only 25,000 arrived, some taking up to 18 months to make the journey. Their expedition was forced to turn back the same way they had come, with only four men surviving. American businessmen complained that their right to a monopoly on regional trade was being undermined, while the Canadian public demanded action against the American miners. Of these, no

more than 4, struck gold and only a few hundred became rich. Initially, miners had assumed that all the gold would be along the existing creeks, and it was not until late in that the hilltops began to be mined. Mining methods of the Klondike Gold Rush Mining in a shaft, Mining began with clearing the ground of vegetation and debris. The process was repeated until the gold was reached. In theory, no support of the shaft was necessary because of the permafrost although in practice sometimes the fire melted the permafrost and caused collapses. Instead, these mines used rockers, boxes that moved back and forth like a cradle, to create the motion needed for separation. Should the prospector leave the claim for more than three days without good reason, another miner could make a claim on the land. However, their price depended on whether they had been yet proved to contain gold. Some chose to sell their equipment and return south. By contrast, especially the port of Skagway under US jurisdiction in Southeast Alaska became infamous for its criminal underworld.

Chapter 2 : Klondike Gold Rush - Wikipedia

*Seattle Post Intelligencer Klondike Edition, July 17, With cries of "Gold! Gold! in the Klondike!" there unfolded in the Yukon and Alaska a brief but fascinating adventure, which has captured the imagination of people around the world ever since.*

In August, three people led by Skookum Jim Mason a member of the Tagish nation whose birth name was Keish headed up the Yukon River from the Carcross area looking for his sister Kate and her husband George Carmack. After meeting up with George and Kate who were fishing for salmon at the mouth of the Klondike River, they ran into Nova Scotian Robert Henderson who had been mining gold on the Indian River, just south of the Klondike. Henderson told George Carmack about where he was mining and that he did not want any "damn Siwashes" meaning Indians near him. On August 16, the party discovered rich placer gold deposits in Bonanza Rabbit Creek. It is now generally accepted that Skookum Jim made the actual discovery, but some accounts say that it was Kate Carmack. George Carmack was officially credited for the discovery because the "discovery" claim was staked in his name. The group agreed to this because they felt that other miners would be reluctant to recognise a claim made by an Indian, given the strong racist attitudes of the time. From the Canadian National Archives. The news spread to other mining camps in the Yukon River valley, and the Bonanza, Eldorado and Hunker Creeks were rapidly staked by miners who had been previously working creeks and sandbars on the Fortymile and Stewart Rivers. In a fate that many believe to be poetic justice, Henderson, who was mining only a few miles away over the hill, only found out about the discovery after the rich creeks had been all staked. News reached the United States on July 17, when the first successful prospectors arrived in Seattle, and within a month the Klondike stampede had begun. The population in the Klondike in may have reached 40,000, threatening to cause a famine. Here, prospectors built boats that would take them the final miles km down the Yukon River to the gold fields. Stampeders had to carry one ton of goods over the pass to be allowed to enter Canada. At the top of the passes, the stampeders encountered a Mountie post that enforced that regulation. It was put in place to avert shortages like those that had occurred in the previous two winters in Dawson City. The Chilkoot Pass was steep and hazardous, rising a thousand feet in the last half mile in m. It was too steep for pack animals and prospectors had to pack their equipment and supplies to the top. Some 1,000 steps were carved into the ice to aid travel up the pass. It was known as the Dead Horse Trail with about 3,000 animals dying along the route. The other main route was by steamer about kilometers miles up the Yukon River. Many using this route late in were caught by winter ice below Fort Yukon, Alaska and had to be rescued. An estimated 30,000 people participated in the gold rush and about 30,000 made it to Dawson City in By 1898, when the first census was taken, the population had declined to 9,000. Throughout this period, the North West Mounted Police, under the command of Sam Steele maintained a firm grip on the activities of the prospectors to ensure the safety of the population as well as enforcing the laws and sovereignty of Canada. As a result, this gold rush has been described as the most peaceful and orderly of its type in history. The effectiveness of the Mounties in this period made the police force famous around the world, and ensured the survival of the organization at a time when its continued operation was being debated in the Canadian Parliament. The gold rush remains an important event in the history of the city of Edmonton, which to this day celebrates Klondike Days, an annual summer fair with a Klondike gold rush theme. Among the many to take part in the gold rush was writer Jack London, whose books *White Fang* and *The Call of the Wild* were influenced by his northern experiences, and adventurer "Swiftwater" Bill Gates.

**Chapter 3 : Klondike Gold Rush | HistoryNet**

*The Klondike Gold Rush, often called the Yukon Gold Rush, was a mass exodus of prospecting migrants from their hometowns to Canadian Yukon Territory and Alaska after gold was discovered there in*

The creek was promptly renamed Bonanza Creek, and many of the locals started staking claims. Gold was literally found all over the place, and most of these early stakeholders who became known as the "Klondike Kings" became wealthy. Since the Yukon was so remote, word of this find spread relatively slowly for almost a year. On July 17, 1897, eleven months after the initial discovery of gold, the steamship Portland arrived in Seattle from Dawson with "more than a ton of gold", according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. With that pronouncement, the Klondike Gold Rush was on! Within six months, approximately 100,000 gold-seekers set off for the Yukon. Only 30,000 completed the trip. Many Klondikers died, or lost enthusiasm and either stopped where they were, or turned back along the way. The trip was long, arduous, and cold. Klondikers had to walk most of the way, using either pack animals or sleds to carry hundreds of pounds of supplies. Even so, starvation and malnutrition were serious problems along the trail. The story of the Klondiker who boiled his boots to drink the broth was widely reported, and may well have been true. Cold was another serious problem along the trail. Winter temperatures in the mountains of northern British Columbia and the Yukon were normally degrees F. Tents were usually the warmest shelter a Klondiker could hope for. Blockade of Klondikers An even larger problem was the trails themselves. Klondikers had two choices: He also perpetrated the first telegraph scam in Alaska. Nevertheless, he took cash from Klondikers eager to wire home. It was steeper than the White Pass Trail, and few were fully prepared for how difficult it was. Some Klondikers became sick or died from eating the meat of the dead horses found on the White Pass Trail, and it soon became known as the "Dead Horse Trail". Men reportedly went insane on the trail. It is possible that this diet or lack thereof contributed to the reports of insanity. With the influx of the 30,000 who did make it over the trails, Dawson temporarily became the largest city north of San Francisco. It was no longer a tent city, but a bona-fide city, with more amenities than one might imagine. Dawson had fire hydrants on the streets, and was the first city in western Canada to have electric lights. People also felt safe in Dawson. The Northwest Mounted Police kept order in Canada, and nefarious characters such as Soapy Smith were not allowed entry. The growth of Dawson was largely responsible for the creation of the Yukon Territory as a new Canadian Territory on June 13, 1898. It is estimated that over one billion dollars worth of gold was found, adjusted to late 20th century standards. Others found their fame and fortune in different manners. Jack London became well-known by writing of his experiences in the Klondike. Nor were the successful Klondikers limited to men. Belinda Mulroney became wealthy by running a hotel and selling supplies. Many women found their riches running dance halls. Wood should have stayed in Seattle and taken advantage of the wealth the Klondikers brought to the city. Instead, he resigned his post as mayor and set off for the Yukon. He was one of the many who turned back. Exhausted Stampeder Unfortunately for those who did make it as far as the Klondike, few found the hoped-for riches. By the time the masses arrived, all the creeks had been claimed, and the new arrivals found they had to work for the Klondike Kings, rather than for themselves. Nevertheless, when gold was discovered at Nome, Alaska in 1899, few of these Klondikers stopped to think about what they had just experienced. At the first sign of gold, much of Dawson up and left for Nome, where most of the gold-seekers once again lost out on finding fame and fortune.

Chapter 4 : Klondike Gold Rush | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*The Klondike Kings quickly became very rich. It is estimated that over one billion dollars worth of gold was found, adjusted to late 20th century standards.*

In the summer of 1897 Americans caught gold fever. In July the first tattered gold-laden millionaires landed on a San Francisco wharf, dragging suitcases, canvas sacks, and old cartons heavy with gold. Within a matter of minutes the Klondike stampede began. At the height of the gold rush in 1897, more than one million people made plans to go to the Klondike region of the Yukon Territory of and in northwestern Canada, and one hundred thousand actually set off. The prospect of adventure and wealth appealed to many American men who found themselves doing repetitive, dull, and low-paying work day in and day out. By mid July vessels that had been deemed unseaworthy in June were in service transporting men, horses, dogs, and supplies to Alaska, to begin the long overland journey to the Yukon Territory. Crushed together onboard ship would-be miners slept in crowded berths or on the open deck, sometimes waiting seven hours for a meal and suffering storms, explosions, starvation, shipwreck, and even mutiny. Once on dry land, prospectors faced swindlers and shopkeepers eager to make a profit in the tent towns of Skagway and Dyer. Saloons, houses of prostitution, and land offices were among the businesses that prospered. The Journey to Dawson. Within a few miles of Skagway the road became a narrow winding path. The forty-five-mile trail wound around and over a steep mountain. Weakened by infected hooves, heavy loads, relentless beatings, and the icy-cold weather, pack animals died by the thousands. The line of men was spaced so tightly that the queue could pass a given point for five hours straight without a break. Just below the summit of the coastal mountain range, prospectors had to abandon their pack animals and climb on foot through the Chilkoot Pass over the mountains. The mountains were covered with thick icy snow all year long. Because of the difficulty of reaching the summit, men divided their supplies into smaller loads and made several trips from the base camp to the summit. It took many prospectors three months to move their supplies to the top of the mountain. Those who survived the Golden Stairs had to wait on the other side of the mountains for the ice to melt on the lakes and rivers of the Yukon Valley. As they waited, they built boats of all kinds, forming a frontier boating village amazingly well supplied with drills, nails, and tools. When the ice on the lakes and rivers finally melted, 7, kayaks, scows, and canoes traveled the five hundred miles through canyons and rapids. The first boats landed at Dawson, the center of the Yukon mining activity, on 8 June, and boats continued to arrive without a break for more than a month. The boom town of Dawson stood in stark contrast to the rest of the empty Yukon Territory. As the boom continued big steamers brought wood, liquor, food, horses, and more and more people into a city filled with stores, hotels, dance halls, post offices, and newspapers. Others found work in town. As the city grew, thousands of gold seekers indulged themselves in the festive and dramatic atmosphere as gambling, theater, and prostitution expanded to meet the demands of the population. On 26 April a fire completely destroyed the town, but by the end of the summer a new Dawson had been built, fancier and more Victorian than the rugged frontier town it replaced. By then gold had been discovered in Nome, Alaska, and the golden party prepared to move on. The gold fever continued for restless American men hoping for adventure and money. Pierre Berton, *The Klondike Quest: A Photographic Essay*, Boston: Little, Brown, ; David B. Indiana University Press, Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

### Chapter 5 : Klondike Gold Rush: 39 Fascinating Historical Photos

*The Klondike Gold Rush tells the legendary story of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush. Over , people voyage to the far North intent on reaching the Canadian boom-town Dawson City and striking it rich.*

For the first leg of the journey, well-stocked stampeders traveled to port cities in the Pacific Northwest and boarded boats headed north to the Alaskan town of Skagway which took them to the White Pass Trail, or Dyea which took them to the Chilkoot Trail. Dead Horse Trail The next leg of the trip was the most difficult no matter which trail a stamper chose. The White Pass was not as steep or rugged as the Chilkoot, but it was new, narrow and clogged and slippery with mud. The Chilkoot Trail was steep, icy and snowy. It takes a day to go four or five miles and back; it takes a dollar to do what ten cents would do at home. After crossing Chilkoot or White Pass, prospectors had to build or rent boats and brave hundreds of miles of winding Yukon River rapids to reach Dawson City in the Yukon Territory, Canada, where they hoped to set up camp and stake their claims. Many people died during the river trip. Most were gravely disappointed to learn reports of available Klondike gold were greatly exaggerated. For many, thoughts of gold and wealth had sustained them during their grueling journey. Miners who came to the Yukon in the winter had to wait months for the ground to thaw. They set up makeshift camps in Dawson and endured the harsh winter as best they could. With so many bodies crammed into a small area and sanitary facilities lacking, sickness, disease and death from infectious illness were commonplace. Other people stayed in Dawson and attempted to mine gold—they usually came up empty-handed. The Effects of the Gold Rush Although the discovery of Yukon gold made a few lucky miners rich beyond their wildest dreams, many people made their fortunes off the backs of the miners chasing those dreams. Even so, the adventurous stampede for gold united people of all walks of life in a common goal. The influx of people to Dawson turned it into a legitimate city. Still, it had a horrific impact on the local environment, causing massive soil erosion, water contamination, deforestation and loss of native wildlife, among other things. The gold rush also severely impacted the Native people. While some made money off miners by working as guides and helping haul supplies, they also fell victim to new diseases such as smallpox and the introduction of casual drinking and drunkenness. The population of some Natives such as the Han declined rapidly as their hunting and fishing grounds were ruined. Countless miners had already left Yukon Territory penniless, leaving gold-mining cities such as Dawson and Skagway in rapid decline.

**Chapter 6 : Klondike Gold Rush - HISTORY**

*Klondike Gold Rush summary: The Klondike Gold Rush was an event of migration by an estimated , people prospecting to the Klondike region of north-western Canada in the Yukon region between and It's also called the Yukon Gold Rush, the Last Great Gold Rush and the Alaska Gold Rush.*

The Klondike Gold Rush was an event of migration by an estimated , people prospecting to the Klondike region of north-western Canada in the Yukon region between and Reports of the gold in newspapers created a hysteria that was nation-wide and many people quit their jobs and then left for the Klondike to become gold-diggers. Because of the harsh terrain and even harsher weather, it took gold rushers a year to reach the Klondike. The long climb over mountainous terrain and frozen rivers, coupled with the intense cold and frequent snowstorms, made for a long and arduous journey. In the summer of , gold rushers arrived in the Klondike region by the thousands. Around 30, of the , or so prospectors that set out for the Klondike actually made it there. Many gave up to due to the difficulties of the journey and returned home; some were not able to survive the extreme temperatures and died. Those that made it to the Klondike still had their work cut out for them, as the gold was not easy to find or extract. Mining was challenging due to pretty unpredictable distribution of gold and digging was slowed by permafrost. Because of this, there were minors that decided to buy and sell their claims so they could build an investment on the backs of others. Some set up and sold claims rather than digging for gold themselves. Along the Klondike river, boom towns formed that were supported by the miners. Those that found gold spent their time and money in saloons, while those that found nothing continued to labor. In , miners received news that gold had been discovered in Nome and that it was much easier to get, causing the departure of the majority of the miners and the decline of the boom towns. Over the next two years, at least , eager would-be prospectors from all over the world set out for the new gold fields with dreams of a quick fortune dancing in their heads. Only about 40, actually made it to the Klondike, and precious few of them ever found their fortune. Swept along on this tide of gold seekers was a smaller and cannier contingent, also seeking their fortunes but in a far more practical fashion. They were the entrepreneurs, the men and women who catered to the Klondike fever. George Carmack, the man who began it all, was neither a die-hard prospector nor a keen businessman. The California native was simply in the right place at the right time. Not that this son of a Forty-Niner had anything against being rich. There had been rumors of gold in the Yukon as far back as the s, but little was done about it. By , there were perhaps miners panning fine placer gold from the sandbars along the Yukon River. In , gold was found in paying quantities on the bars of the Stewart River, south of the Klondike River. The next year, coarse gold was found on the Forty Mile River, and a trading post, called Fortymile, then sprang up where the river joins the Yukon River. But when news of the strike on Rabbit Creek soon to be renamed Bonanza Creek reached the citizens of Circle City, they decamped in droves. So law enforcement was in place just in time to greet the droves of prospectors who would soon be stampeding to the Klondike region of the Yukon District, which would become a separate territory on June 13, Like his Indian friends, George Carmack believed in visions. Shortly before his dramatic discovery, he had a vision in which two salmon with golden scales and gold nuggets for eyes appeared before him. So lacking in mercenary impulses was he that he interpreted this as a sign that he should take up salmon fishing. Henderson insulted the Indians again by refusing to sell them tobacco. While cleaning a dishpan, one of the three unearthed the thumb-sized chunk of gold that set the great rush in motion. On the way, he bragged to everyone he saw of his good luck. Most of the old-timers just scoffed. But a few cheechakos newcomers went to investigate, and the word spread. Within five days, the valley was swarming with prospectors. By the end of August, the whole length of Bonanza Creek was staked out in claims; then an even richer vein was found on a tributary that became known as Eldorado Creek. If all this had come about early in the year, the news would have reached civilization within a few weeks. But winter was already closing in. Once the rivers froze and the heavy snows fell, communication with the outside was nearly impossible. William Ogilvie, a Canadian government surveyor, sent off two separate messages to Ottawa, telling of the magnitude of the strike, but both were lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. The fever quickly reached epidemic proportions. The

amount of gold in circulation had dropped, helping to cause the deep economic depression that had been eating at the United States for 30 years. The Pacific Northwest had been hit especially hard. People were tired of being poor; many who had jobs quit them for the promise of greater rewards. Streetcar drivers abandoned their trolleys; a quarter of the Seattle police force walked out; even the mayor resigned and bought a steamboat to carry passengers to the Klondike. He was just one of a growing number of enterprising citizens who realized there was a fortune to be made right here at home, simply by selling a product, however dubious in value, with the name Klondike attached. Inventors dreamed up devices that promised to make the task of digging gold positively pleasant. Nikola Tesla, one of the pioneers of electricity, promoted an X-ray machine that would supposedly detect precious metals beneath the ground without all the trouble of digging. A Trans-Alaskan Gopher Company proposed to train gophers to claw through frozen gravel and uncover nuggets. Clairvoyants touted their abilities to pinpoint rich lodes of gold. Several ventures were underway to invade the Klondike by balloon. Even as all these cockeyed schemes and services were being offered, there was one crucial commodity that was in desperately short supply—transportation. Everything that floated was pressed into service—ancient paddlewheelers and fishing boats, barges, coal ships still full of coal dust. A few ships sailed around the Aleutians and through the Bering Sea to St. Michael, Alaska, on Norton Sound. The passengers could then take riverboats upstream from the Yukon River delta to the gold fields, a 1,000-mile trip on the winding Yukon. Most boats went only as far as Skagway in the Alaska Panhandle, where the passengers and their outfits were unceremoniously dumped on the mile-wide tidal flats. Skagway itself was no beach resort. But even in this chaotic setting, legitimate businesses flourished. What the would-be miner needed by now was some way of getting his outfit to the gold fields, so anyone with a wagon and a team or a few mules could do well for himself—or herself. In addition to the boat passage up the Yukon, there were at least five trails being touted as the best route to the gold fields. But three of those were so long and hazardous that only a few men ever succeeded in reaching the Klondike alive on them. The two most heavily traveled routes began in Skagway and the neighboring town of Dyea. In the fall of 1897, the more popular was the mile Skagway Trail over White Pass. At first glance, it seemed the less demanding of the two; it climbed more gradually, which meant that—in theory at least—pack animals could negotiate it. Once on the trail, miners found it nowhere near as easy as it looked. Most of the pack animals were broken-down horses that would have been lucky to survive the trek under the best of conditions. Faced with this nightmare of mud and mayhem, thousands of miners turned back, sold their outfits, and retreated to civilization with spirits broken and pockets empty. But thousands more slogged on and reached Lake Bennett, the headwaters of the Yukon River. Only a very few made it before cold weather choked the lake and the river with ice. The rest were marooned on the shores of the lake until spring. But even there, the Klondikers were forced to hire Indian packers, at as much as 50 cents a pound, or else lug their outfits themselves, pounds at a time, leaving each load alongside the trail somewhere, then going back for the next load and so on, over and over; by the time a miner transferred his whole outfit to the far side of the pass, he might have walked the mile trail 30 or 40 times, and spent three months doing it. The most daunting part was Chilkoot Pass, which lay at the top of a nearly vertical slope, four miles long. An unbroken stream of Klondikers toiled up it day and night—a total of 22, in the winter of 1897. It was an agonizing climb, and the worst of it was that each man had to repeat it again and again until his entire outfit was carried over the pass. The only consolation was that, between loads, he got a free ride down the snowy slope on the seat of his pants. For the entrepreneur, there was money to be made here, too. Several roadhouses went up along the trail, including the grandly named Palmer House at the foot of the pass. Most were no more than large tents or ramshackle wooden structures, but they offered hot meals and a place to sleep, even if it was only on the floor. On the worst stretches of trail, an enterprising man could bridge a mudhole with logs and charge a fee to each miner who crossed. Most passed the time cutting trees from the surrounding hillsides and sawing them into planks for boats that, in the spring, would take them down the Yukon River to the gold fields, still miles away. At the end of May 1898, the ice broke, and a flotilla of flimsy, handmade craft set off downriver, only to encounter one last deadly obstacle—Miles Canyon. The ferocious rapids in the canyon smashed boats to splinters on the rocks, so many of them that the North-West Mounted Police decreed that every boat had to be inspected and then guided through by a competent pilot. The

boats had one more stretch of rapids to endure, and then the Yukon stayed pretty tame all the way to Dawson City. When gold was discovered on Bonanza Creek, a tent camp went up at the junction of the Klondike and Yukon rivers. By the following summer, its population had grown to 5,000. A year later, after the Klondike fever spread worldwide, it swelled to 40,000, becoming one of the largest cities in Canada. Thanks to the North-West Mounted Police, it was a far more law-abiding town than Skagway, though there were only 19 Mounties in the Yukon in late 1897. By November 1897, however, there would be 100 detachments established atop White and Chilkoot passes. In addition, between 1897 and 1898, a militia outfit, known as the Yukon Field Force, also operated in the area, helping the North-West Mounted Police to guard gold shipments, banks and prisoners. Despite the presence of law enforcement officers, the flood of new gold seekers still generally found the Yukon just another stage of Hell. After a miserable, cramped sea voyage, after a weary trek across mosquito-infested bogs and over glaciers, after interminable months spent courting frostbite in a flimsy tent, they had finally reached the fabled gold fields, only to find that all the land along every gold-bearing creek had long since been staked out. For many of them, this was the final blow; they sold their outfits and headed home. The old timers who had spent the winter there, subsisting on a diet of beans and biscuits at best, were eager to trade their gold for luxuries like eggs, fruit, writing paper, or just a bit of news from the outside. As Dawson grew, so did the fortunes of those who made the right business decisions. While most men devoted their energies to working a single claim, Alex McDonald, a Nova Scotian whose shy, awkward manner belied a canny business sense, bought up the claims of discouraged miners and hired others to work them for him. Next, she opened a lunch counter and, with the profits, hired men to build cabins that sold before the roofs were on.

## Chapter 7 : Unique Facts about Canada: Klondike Gold Rush

*Yukon Ho! 39 Photos From The Klondike Gold Rush View Gallery In the late 19th century, there was a fortune in gold hiding in the Klondike Valley, just waiting for anyone brave enough to go north and grab it.*

Gold was discovered in large quantities in the Klondike on 16 August and when news of the finds reached Seattle and San Francisco in July , it triggered a "stampede" of would-be prospectors to the gold creeks. The journey to the Klondike was arduous and involved traveling long distances and crossing difficult mountain passes, frequently while carrying heavy loads. Some miners discovered very rich deposits of gold and became immensely wealthy. However, the majority arrived after the best of the gold fields had been claimed and only around 4, miners ultimately struck gold. The Klondike Gold Rush ended in , after gold was discovered in Nome, prompting an exodus from the Klondike. Prospectors had begun to mine gold in the Yukon from the s onwards. When the rich deposits of gold were discovered along the Klondike River in , it prompted great local excitement. The remoteness of the region and the extreme winter climate prevented news from reaching the outside world until the following year. Newspaper reports of the gold and the successful miners fueled a nationwide hysteria. Many left their jobs and set off for the Klondike, hoping to make a fortune as miners. These would-be prospectors were joined by businessmen, outfitters, writers and photographers. Reaching the gold fields was challenging. The majority of prospectors landed at the ports of Dyea and Skagway in Southeast Alaska. They could then take either the Chilkoot or the White Pass trails to the Yukon River and from there, sail downstream to the Klondike in homemade boats. The advent of winter and thereby freezing of rivers meant that most prospectors did not arrive in the goldfields until summer Only between 30, and 40, of the stampedeers successfully arrived in the Klondike. It was not easy to mine for gold in the Klondike as the gold was distributed in an uneven, unpredictable manner and the permafrost made digging and working the ore difficult and costly. Prospectors could lodge mining claims relatively easily under Canadian law, but most of the best gold creeks had been staked out by early , leaving little good land for the main wave of stampedeers. Some miners bought and sold claims, building up huge investments. Boomtowns sprang up along the routes, especially the Dyea and Skagway route, to accommodate the influx of prospectors. Dawson City was founded in the Klondike at the heart of the gold creeks. From a population of in , the hastily constructed wooden town housed around 30, people by the spring of Poorly built, isolated and located on a mud flat, Dawson City had poor sanitary standards and suffered from epidemics and fires. The newspapers began to turn against the Klondike and the hysteria that had encouraged so many to travel there waned. Dawson City was rebuilt following a serious fire in April , becoming more sedate and conservative. When news arrived in the summer of that gold had been discovered in Nome in west Alaska, many prospectors left the Klondike for the new goldfields, marking the end of the Klondike Gold Rush. The boomtowns in the Klondike declined and the population of Dawson City dwindled. Heavier equipment was brought in to mine the remaining gold reserves but despite this, production diminished after Nonetheless, an estimated total of 1,, pounds , kg of gold had been taken from the Klondike area by Today the Klondike Gold Rush continues to draw tourists to the region and is remembered in novels, poems, photographs and films. They produced dozens of maps, handbooks and guides of wildly varying degrees of reliability for sale to the thousands of Klondikers beginning to make their way north. Among the other routes promoted by various entrepreneurs were the all-water route which passed into the mouth of the Yukon River along the western Alaskan coast, a Canadian overland route that began in Edmonton, and smaller trails to the east and west of the main passes. The two towns competed with each other for stampedeers and their money by claiming to have the easiest passage into the Klondike. Winter travel meant thick snow and treacherous ice. In the spring and fall, stampedeers, animals, wagons and sleds had to slog along through thick, unending mud. Even those who were fortunate enough to travel during the summer had to pick their way along trails littered with sharp, jagged rocks. After a deadly avalanche killed dozens along the Chilkoot Pass, promoters in Skagway boasted that their trail was proven to be safer. Their assignment was twofold, collecting duty on incoming goods and ensuring that every stampeder was adequately outfitted to survive one year in the Klondike. When possible, stampedeers used animals and sleds to move their goods

along the trail. Packs of goods were moved slowly, about five miles at a time. Those who could afford to do so hired packers and freighters. Most carried or dragged their boxes of evaporated foods, their tents, frying pans, shovels, picks, hammers and nails over the passes on their own. Sheep Camp was the last "town" of any substance that the stampedeers would see until they reached Lake Bennett. By 1898, Sheep Camp boasted dozens of tents and a few log buildings. Here, restaurants, saloons and hotels lined the trail. Among the accommodations stampedeers could choose from if they wished were the Palmer House, the Grand Pacific, and the Seattle Hotel and Restaurant not to be confused with the Seattle Restaurant on the other end of town. Tent Cities on the Klondike stampedeers set up camp along the shores of Lake Lindeman and Lake Bennett during the winter of 1898. These men, women and children had managed to drag and carry tons of provisions over the harsh trails down to the lakes, which formed the headwaters of the Yukon River. The crowd had to wait for the river ice to break before they could sail down the Yukon into Dawson. Some stampedeers stayed at Lake Lindeman at the end of the Chilkoot Pass, and many more kept moving down the trail and set up camp at Lake Bennett, which was the terminus of the White Pass trail. The preferred wood cutting technique, known as "whipsawing," led to more than a few disagreements and fights. Logs placed on stands were sawed by one man standing on top of the log with one end of the saw and a second man standing below the log holding the other end. The work was so hard, that no matter which position he took, it was easy for each man to believe that he was doing all the work. Desperate for lumber to use for boats and firewood, stampedeers deforested the areas around the two lakes. When one traveler who crossed the Chilkoot Pass in 1898 first saw the tent city growing up along the shores of Lake Lindeman, he noted that the vast spread of white tents looked "like a flock of seagulls on a distant beach. Their numbers grew to over 1,000 by the end of the year. When the Yukon River began to thaw in late May, over 4,000 people were camped out along Lake Lindeman. Skagway For most stampedeers, deciding to leave for the Klondike was easier than choosing a route. The media and public frenzy surrounding this gold discovery was unlike anything that had come before. The public was flooded with questionable reports, advice and maps, much of it from promoters, con men and self-proclaimed experts scrounging for profits from the tens of thousands scrambling north. Erastus Brainerd, a Seattle civic promoter, wanted stampedeers to consider his city the best departure point for the gold fields. He mailed copies of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, full of breathless stories of the gold discovery, to 70,000 postmasters for display in post offices. From 1898 to 1899, Seattle merchants alone took in millions of dollars from departing stampedeers, considerably more money than miners brought out of the Klondike in the same period. Both towns could be reached by ship and were less than 10 miles apart. By then however, the majority of the stampedeers were already in the gold fields. Men were available for hire to help cart crates and boxes off the beach. By the spring of 1899, that began to change. As word of the strike spread, stampedeers began to trickle into the area. By that winter, the trickle had turned into a flood as thousands of stampedeers slogged through the muddy streets, eating and sleeping in quickly built restaurants and hotels. By 1899, Dyea had outgrown the town plan created only a year before. Stampedeers including many who had purchased tickets to Dyea were often left to make their own way over to Dyea and the Chilkoot Pass trail. The Chilkoot Pass trail may have been easier or better than the White Pass trail, but it could not compete with the railroad. The town faded away quickly. The post office closed down in 1899. By 1900, a man named E. The area that was, for a few short years, a thriving community, has been reclaimed by nature. Little remains of the town today, except for the partial exterior of one building, bits and pieces of debris, and two rows of trees that were planted along the main street and stand out amid the thick forest that covers most of the town. The worst, which hit that morning, killed dozens of stampedeers. Civic promoters in Dyea feared that their counterparts in Skagway would use the tragedy to tout the White Pass as the safer trail. On July 29, 1899, when the mail steamer Queen landed these first anxious would-be millionaires on the beach, Skagway then known as Skaguay; the spelling change was made later, possibly by the Post Office Department was barely a collection of tents. Even though the Chilkoot Pass through Dyea was the most popular trail, Skagway was always the larger town. In the first half of 1899, when Skagway was teeming with stampedeers, it was the biggest town in Alaska. For more information on visiting these locations click on the name of the historical park. The Chilkoot Pass trail ascended fairly gently from Dyea through the first portions of the trail. In the spring of 1899, warm weather had made that portion of the trail extremely treacherous. Few stampedeers heeded the

danger signs except the Chilkoot Native packers, who finally refused to work the trail. This was their land, and they knew how deadly the conditions had become. Dreams of golden wealth kept most of the stampedeers on the trail, even after the packers had withdrawn. The first apparently was not severe enough to cause much concern. Early Palm Sunday morning, a snow slide buried 20 stampedeers along the trail. Fortunately in both cases, all were rescued from the snow. As over people were making their way down the hill from Scales to Sheep Camp, the mountain pack gave way and tumbled down over the front portion of the group. The massive avalanche covered about ten acres of land with snow in some areas as deep as 50 feet. Hundreds of stampedeers rushed up from Sheep Camp to dig out survivors. Some were brought out alive, but over 60 people could not be rescued in time. Men and women worked for four days to dig out the bodies. A tent in Sheep Camp was turned into a temporary morgue. Some bodies were identified. Many were men known to none but their families back home.

### Chapter 8 : Gold Rush to Alaska - History - Alaska

*The Klondike Gold Rush was a frenzy of gold rush immigration to and gold prospecting in the Klondike near Dawson City in the Yukon Territory, Canada, after gold was discovered in the late 19th century.*

### Chapter 9 : The Klondike Gold Rush

*Klondike Gold Rush The Klondike Gold Rush, also called the Yukon Gold Rush, the Alaska Gold Rush and the Last Great Gold Rush, was an attempt by an estimated , people to travel to the Klondike region of the Yukon in northwestern Canada between and in the hope of successfully prospecting for gold.*