

# 01 Linguistics

Read the following passage. Then fill in the diagram with the information that you read. **Track 2**

## English and the Gold Rush

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 marked the beginning of an economic boom known as the California Gold Rush. The miners, many of whom were originally journalists, lawyers, and businessmen, preserved their experiences in writing. Much of this was peppered with colorful phrases related to their new work. Interestingly, many of these phrases are still in use today in the English language.

The popular phrase “pan out,” meaning “to be successful,” can be traced back to the gold rush. Miners would separate gold from worthless minerals using a pan; gold would settle to the bottom of the pan, and other sediments would be removed. The likely origin of “pan out,” then, is from the process of gathering all the gold in one’s pan.

In addition, the phrase “strike it rich” originated from the Gold Rush. This phrase has come to mean “to become wealthy quickly.” A strike is literally a discovery, in this case, of gold. During the Gold Rush, if a miner “struck it rich,” he found gold and thus became wealthy. Having lost its original meaning, the same phrase is used today when people make money quickly in business or win a lottery.

**mark:**

to be a defining feature of

**boom:**

a rapid increase

**pepper:**

to fill with lots of examples of something

**trace:**

to follow or be followed

**settle:**

to come to rest

**sediment:**

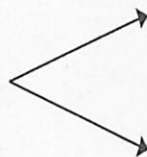
material that settles to the bottom of water

### The Effect of the Gold Rush on the English Language

Theory:

Example 1:

Example 2:



1. Which of the following is true according to paragraph 1?
  - (A) Introducing new phrases into English was the goal of the writers.
  - (B) Not all of the Gold Rush miners could read or write.
  - (C) The miners wrote about their gold-mining experiences.
  - (D) Miners preferred their lives as journalists, lawyers, and businessmen.
  
2. According to paragraph 2, where did the phrase "pan out" originate?
  - (A) Miners called their findings "pans."
  - (B) Miners used pans to find their gold.
  - (C) Gold was found in places called pans.
  - (D) Miners called selling gold "panning."
  
3. According to paragraph 3, what does "strike it rich" mean today?
  - (A) To find gold
  - (B) To break a rock apart
  - (C) To lose one's wealth
  - (D) To get money fast

**Fill in the blanks to complete the summary.**

-----

The passage discusses English phrases that can be \_\_\_\_\_ back to the gold rush in California. The phrase "pan out" came from the pans that miners used. Gold would \_\_\_\_\_ to the bottom of their pans, and the \_\_\_\_\_ would be removed. The expression "\_\_\_\_\_ it rich" originated from miners striking the rocks to find gold and becoming \_\_\_\_\_ quickly if they found it.

-----