

Online Book Club

The Gosh Awful Gold Rush Mystery

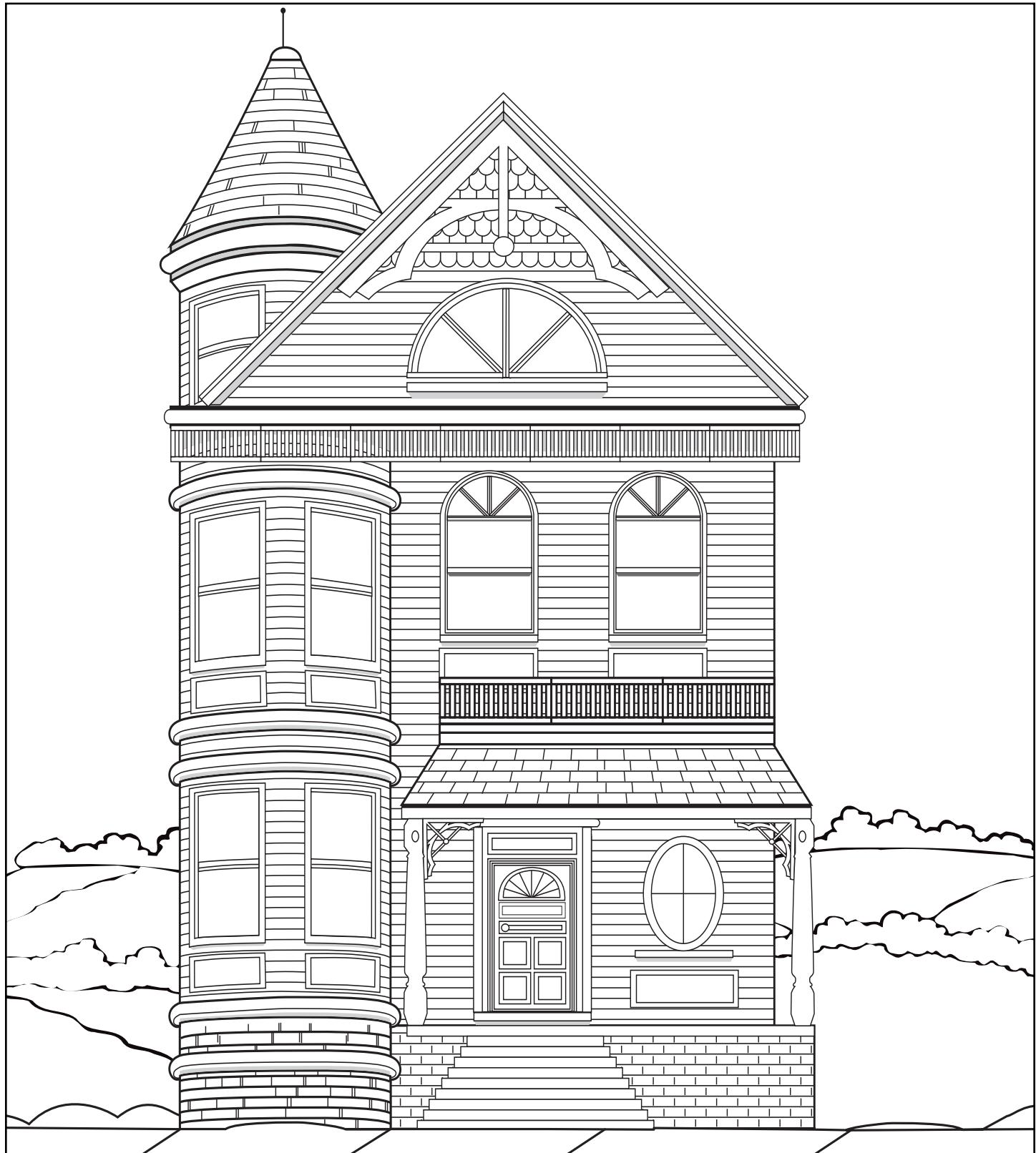
Bring It To Life!

1. Follow the journey that Mimi, Papa, and the kids took across the country! Ask a volunteer to draw a big map of the United States, Canada, and Alaska on a piece of poster board. Use maps from the encyclopedia to help you locate all of the stops along the way. Label them. Then, draw each leg of the journey on your map. Look at the encyclopedia map and find the distance measurement key. About how many miles did they travel?
2. What time is it, really, and what's the weather? Use Internet tools to help you find out the time difference between your home state and Dawson City, Alaska. Then, find out what the weather would be like in Dawson City today compared to where you live.
3. Gold fever in the South! The story of the Gold Rush in Georgia is an interesting one. Ask for a volunteer to research the topic, and share his or her findings with the class. When was it discovered? What happened to the Cherokee nation because gold was discovered in north Georgia where they lived?
4. Get the word out! Create a newspaper front page with articles describing what happened to Mimi and the kids in the book. Articles might include:
Gold Necklace Stolen!
Few Clues Found in Case of Missing Airplane
Georgia Woman Inherits Gold Bug
5. Have a Gold Rush Day! Dress up like prospectors in your Levi's jeans, boots, long-sleeved flannel shirts, hats, and bandannas. Bring in some tools like shovels and metal pans (tin pie pans will do just fine!) to decorate the room. Stake your claim in your own little corner of the classroom! Make some gold nuggets out of tin foil and color them with a yellow marker. Ask a parent to make some sourdough pancakes for everyone to share!



Color My World!

In *The Gosh Awful Gold Rush Mystery*, you read about beautiful Victorian-style houses that were popular during Gold Rush days. They were painted in beautiful colors, from pink to purple to blue to green to yellow, with white trim. Have some fun coloring the house below!



Gold Mine Trivia!

Amaze your parents and your friends with these awesome facts about gold!

 Lumps of gold are called nuggets. One of the largest nuggets ever found weighed 156 pounds, as heavy as a medium-size man. This huge nugget was found in Australia in 1869 when a wagon ran over it, and pulled it from the earth. The nugget was named the Welcome Stranger.

 The biggest gold nugget found in California weighed 54 pounds. A 195-pound mass (not a true nugget) was also found in California.

 Gold does not tarnish, or lose its shine. Acids and most other chemicals do not harm gold. Seawater does not harm gold. (Good news for pirates!)

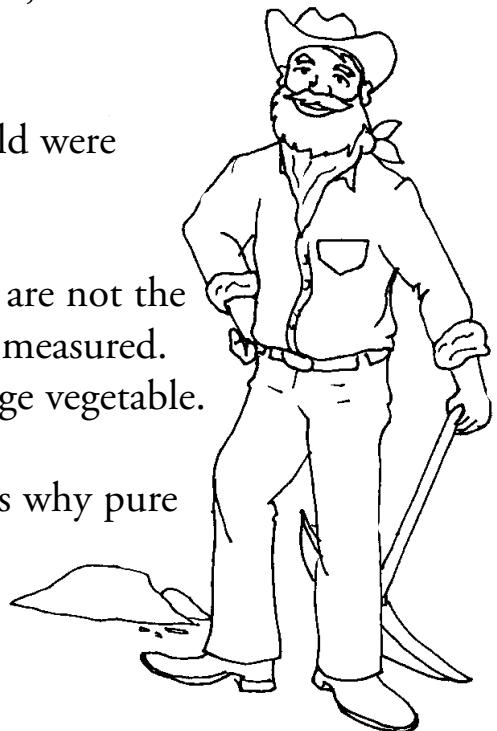
 Gold is one of the heaviest metals. It is heavier than sand and stones. That's why it washes to the bottom of the pan when someone is panning for gold.

 The chemical symbol for gold is Au, from Aurora, the Roman goddess of the dawn.

 The last Olympic medals made entirely from gold were awarded in 1912.

 The purity of gold is measured in karats. Karats are not the same as carats, which is how the weight of gemstones is measured. And karats are not the same as carrots, the yummy orange vegetable.

 One karat is the same as 1/24 pure gold. This is why pure gold is known as 24 karat gold.

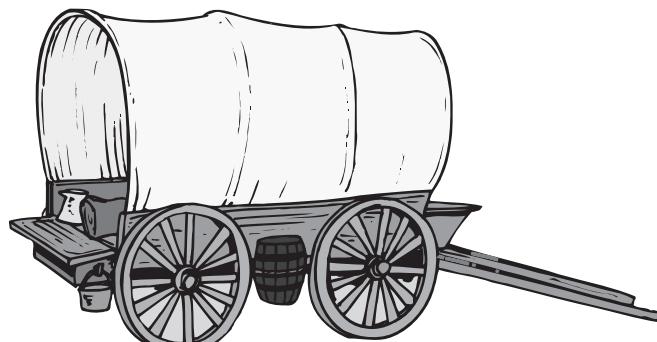


Make a Conestoga Wagon!

People often headed to Gold Rush territory in Conestoga wagons. You can build your own by following the directions below.

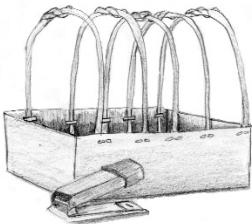
Materials:

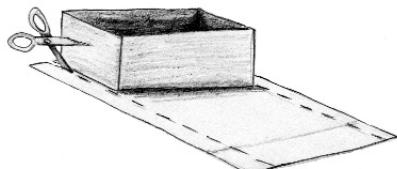
shoebox with lid
pipe cleaners
white fabric or white bulletin board paper
tacky glue, tape, stapler
brown or black paint

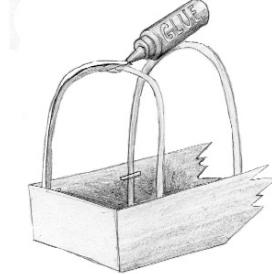


Instructions:

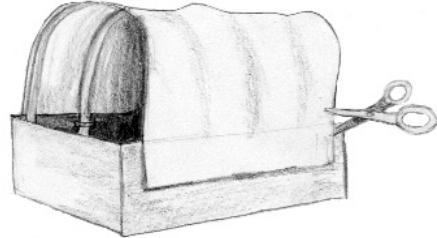
1. Paint the shoebox or cover it with paper to hide the words.
2. Twist two pipe cleaners together so that you have one long pipe cleaner. You will need to make six of these. They will be the frame holding the fabric. The shoebox will be the wagon bed.

3. Tape or staple a long pipe cleaner to the inside of the long side of the box. Bend it up and over the box and attach it to the inside of the opposite side. Do the same with the other five pipe cleaners. Space them evenly as shown in the picture.


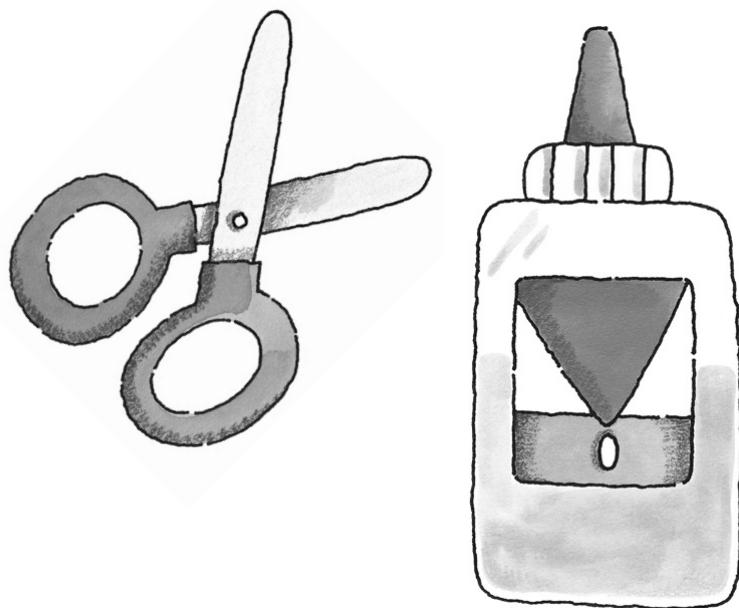
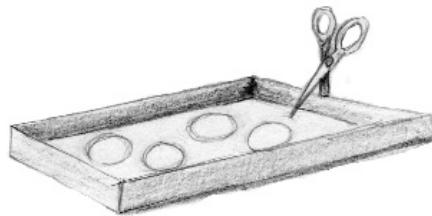
4. Cut the fabric or paper so that it is the same length as your shoebox, but twice as wide.


5. Put glue on one of the pipe cleaners. Then, carefully line up the fabric and place it on the gluey pipe cleaner.


7. When the glue is dry, cut off any extra fabric or paper.

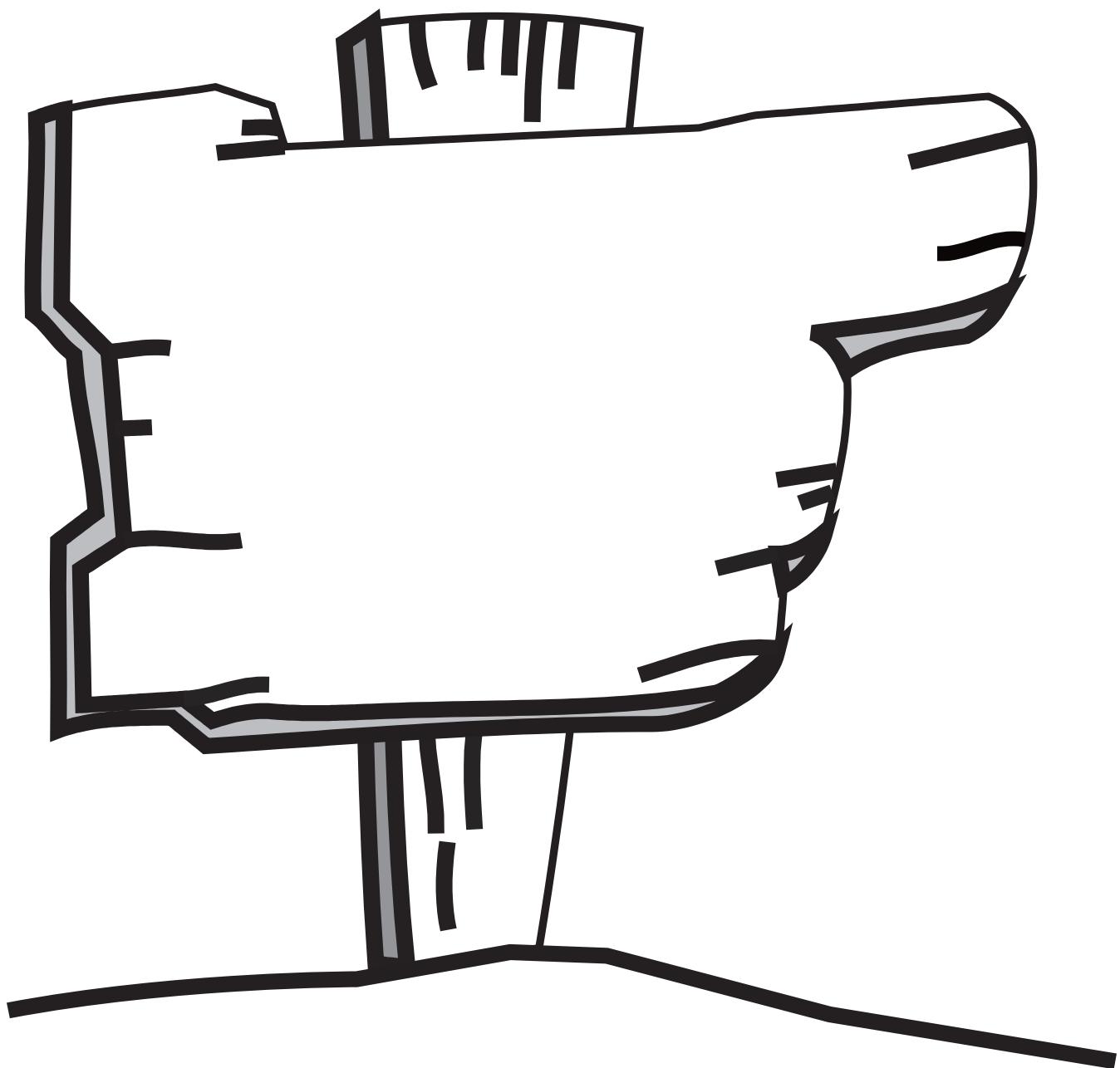


8. Cut 4 wagon wheels out of the cardboard lid and attach them to your Conestoga Wagon. You may want to provide a template for the wheels so they will not be too large or too small.



Stake Your Claim!

Miners often chose colorful names for their mines! Examples are Green Monster Mine or Haunted Canyon in Arizona, Rattlesnake Mine in New Mexico, Bear Gulch in Alaska, or Lost Parrot Mine in California. Create a name for your own gold mine. Write it on the sign below, and decorate the sign to reflect the name you chose for it!



Online Book Club

The Gosh Awful Gold Rush Mystery

Talk About It!

1. The children spend a lot of time traveling on The Mystery Girl in this book. Have you ever been in a small plane? Have you ever traveled on an airliner? What do you think some of the differences would be?
2. What did you think had happened to Mimi's necklace when she discovered that it was missing?
3. Did you learn some surprising things about the Gold Rush while reading this book? Make a list of the things you learned and compare your list with other book club members.
4. The kids traveled to a lot of different places in The Goshawful Gold Rush Mystery. Examples include Dahlonega, Georgia; Sutter's Mill, California; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; and Dawson City, Alaska. What was your favorite place? Why?
5. When the bearded man first got his hands on Mimi's purse in the Levi Strauss jeans store, did you think it was a good idea or a bad idea to let him go free, and not call the police? Why?
6. Why do you think the steep path on the Chilkoot Trail was called the "Golden Stairs?" Can you think of another name for it?
7. Were you surprised to find out the truth about Gold Bug? How did you feel about it?
8. Although the odds were slim that people would actually find gold during the Gold Rush, people still flooded out west. What were some things that motivated people to give up everything they had for the chance to find gold? Would you leave your home in search of gold?



Gold Rush Word Search

Find words from *The Goshawful Gold Rush Mystery* in the word search below.



Word Bank

GOLD	MINER
CLAIM	FORTY NINER
EUREKA	CHINATOWN
GOLDEN STAIRS	DAHLONEGA
YUKON	NECKLACE
THUNDERSNOW	LONG TOM
PROSPECTOR	RICH

D	S	G	C	D	Q	M	N	N	W	R	R	W
A	L	R	R	H	I	A	E	Z	E	E	I	O
H	G	F	I	A	I	C	K	N	S	N	C	N
L	A	O	L	A	K	N	I	E	A	I	H	S
O	O	C	L	L	T	N	A	C	R	M	X	R
N	L	J	A	D	Y	S	R	T	L	U	D	E
E	Q	C	Z	T	K	V	N	A	O	R	E	D
G	E	E	R	L	O	D	Q	E	L	W	Q	N
A	T	O	Y	U	K	O	N	H	D	K	N	U
L	F	M	O	T	G	N	O	L	T	L	P	H
V	P	R	O	S	P	E	C	T	O	R	O	T
E	U	V	G	C	V	Q	M	K	T	M	K	G
O	V	W	O	S	D	Z	G	O	D	T	A	H