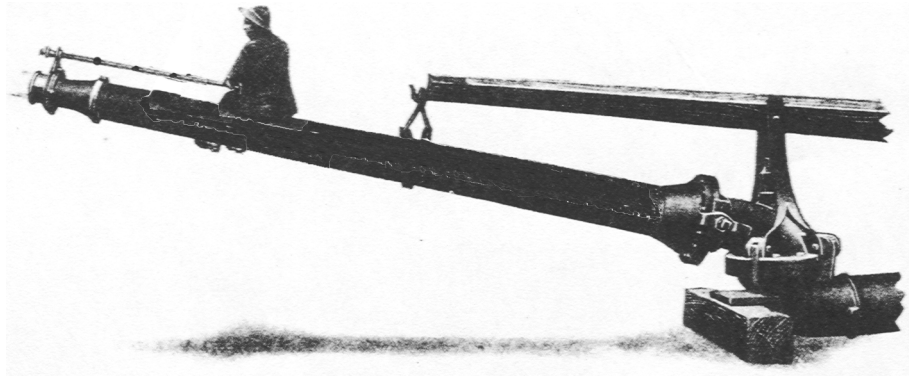


Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park



Scavenger Hunt Program For Schools

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Program Description

The self-guided two hour Scavenger Hunt at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park is designed to provide you with better access to the history of North Bloomfield. There are six historic museums available; the Ostrom Livery Stable, Cummins Hall (visitor center), Kings Saloon, Smith-Knotwell Drug Store, McKillican & Mobley General Store, and the Skidmore House. Students will look for specific items representing life in the 1800s, jot down their answers and arrange specific letters to arrive at a word that miners commonly used to describe their great enthusiasm upon finding gold. (E-U-R-E-K-A)

Adult Chaperones

You will need 8-10 adult chaperones to successfully facilitate the scavenger hunt. One adult chaperone will be stationed at each building to provide security and supervision. One adult will be assigned to accompany each group through the buildings. The students will spend between 10-15 minutes in each building. The teacher should oversee the activity and time the group rotates.

To allow students into the museums without careful supervision from park staff, we must ensure that all participants are familiar with our rules and why we have them. Most of our exhibits are out in the open and not behind glass. Many of the artifacts are very fragile and difficult to replace. The simple act of touching an object transfers body oils that will deteriorate a surface over time. The temptation to touch an object or engage in horseplay may lead to an irreversible accident.

When you arrive and have gathered your entire group together, please advise us at the visitor center. A park staff member will provide you with a 10-15 minute orientation, a brief history of the park, and review guidelines for using the museums before we open them up.

We recommend that the students view our 15-minute video in the visitor center prior to starting the hunt. This will give you a chance for last minute instructions or questions. To expedite the hunt, please have your adult chaperones know what building they will be in charge of prior to arriving at the park and have their papers in hand. The park staff cannot open the different museums without having them supervised. During the video the adult chaperones are stationed in each museum prior to the hunt. That way the students will be able to start their scavenger hunt immediately after watching the video.

Preparation for your visit:

- Familiarize your students and parents with North Bloomfield and hydraulic gold mining history before they arrive if possible.
- Designate teams of five or six students. Each team will be chaperoned by an adult.
- Please bring your own copies of the scavenger hunt to distribute to your students. Most teachers distribute one packet for each team.

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt – cont:

Program Description – cont:

Suggestions:

- Many teachers choose to have each student receive a letter delivered by stagecoach to North Bloomfield (the state will have come and gone.) Each parent will have the homework assignment of writing a letter to their son or daughter as if the kids went west for the gold rush and the parents stayed behind on the farm or in the city. Have the parents use their imaginations. Some parents make up hilarious stories about life back home, and even change their handwriting, using quill pens on parchment, burn edges of the paper, or make the envelope look as if it has been riding for months in a pony express bag. It is important that every student receive a letter. No one wants to be left out.
- The saloon (King's Saloon) will be open for drinks, snacks and cards. Cards and poker chips are in the saloon. The students can be taught the simple rules of Blackjack or "21." Please supply your own refreshments. Many teachers use root beer, ginger ale, juice, pretzels, popcorn, or licorice. Food is not allowed in any of the other buildings. Experienced piano players only may use the piano.

(If you choose to have snacks, please clean up the saloon prior to leaving. Sweep the floor and wipe off the bar. Apple juice tends to leave a sticky mess if left to dry. A bucket, sponge and broom will be available. You might also want to bring napkins or paper towels.)

- You may borrow our gold pans and try your luck on nearby Humbug Creek (within walking distance.) If you have more than 30 students, you will need to break them up into smaller groups and have half gold pan while the other half does the scavenger hunt, and then rotate.
- Students may watch a 15-minute video on hydraulic gold mining and local history.
- There is a wonderful natural diversity of Sierra Nevada plant and animal life at Malakoff Diggins. If you wish to have a guided nature hike, please inquire about staff availability.

Scavenger Hunt Student Contract

All Miners will abide by the following rules:

1. All displayed items must not be touched. Oils and dirt from your skin may rub off and slowly destroy old paper, wool, cloth, and even glass. Leave backpacks, hiking sticks, food and water outside of the building.
2. Mining groups must stay together with their adult chaperone at all times while participating in the Scavenger Hunt.
3. Miners must refrain from horseplay, running, pushing, and yelling.
4. Miners should mind the adult monitors at each station. They have the power to fine your mining group for individual misbehavior. You will have to pay with your grubstake, which means less for you to spend in the saloon.
5. All miners should be in the ELP site unless they are participating in the Scavenger Hunt. Please do not be in North Bloomfield unless it is your scheduled time, as we have many other “Miners groups” to serve.

The _____ mining group has read the above rules of conduct. The individual miners who have signed below understand these rules and will abide by them or suffer the consequences of Gold Rush justice. This contract will be in effect as long as these miners are visitors in Malakoff Diggins.

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Cummins Hall

Ed Cummings purchased this building in 1873 and remodeled it into a saloon. It was originally a freight office that handled the shipping of supplies for the miners and people living in town. In 1878 he added on the dance hall (which is now the park museum) so people would have a place for come for entertainment. Traveling musicians and theater groups would also perform here and then travel on to nearby mining camps.

1. In 1884, Judge Lorenzo Sawyer made a law that would stop the miners from dumping mud and rocks into the rivers. This made it difficult to mine for gold using the hydraulic method. The miners in the mountains made a poster that showed their feelings. Where is it? What is the fifth word on the poster?

_____ () _____

2. The dance hall used to have a raised stage. In the old days, traveling musicians or theater groups would perform in this hall for all of the townspeople. The performers would get on stage from the back doors. The stage is gone but where are the stage doors?

3. In the old days everyone used to cook on wood stoves. They used to have a small metal box with holes in the sides. They would put a slice of bread on each side of the box and put it on the stove to cook. What is it called and where is it?

4. North Bloomfield often gets a lot of snow in the winter. Horses often have trouble walking in deep snow and so these square things were strapped to their feet to help them out. What are they? Where are they?

5. Many Chinese men came to California looking for gold. Not may “struck it rich” and so they started other businesses to make money. The Chinese were very experienced farmers and so they started vegetable gardens and sold the produce to people in town. They used these things to carry big loads to town on their shoulders.

_____ () _____

6. Imagine working in a long dark tunnel underground with just a candle to light your way. A miner would use this metal tool to hook his candle on a ledge or poke it into a wooden beam. What is it called and where is it?

7. Families used to have a special book that was passed down from generation to generation. On the blank pages they would record the family’s births, marriages, deaths and other historical information. The rest of the book would often be read on Sundays. What is it and where is it?

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

King's Saloon

During the heyday of North Bloomfield (1870s) there were eight saloons operating. Saloons were a social outlet for the lonely and hardworking miners. The King's Saloon building was originally an express office in the 1860s. Jack King remodeled the building in 1875.

North Bloomfield had two beer breweries, the Weise Brewery and the Hieronimus Brewery. Beer was five cents a glass and was the most popular drink since it was so inexpensive. Hard liquor was not made here and was imported from San Francisco or Sacramento. A half-pint of whiskey might cost as much as \$2.50....near the average miner's daily wages. Beer and other drinks like soda pop were kept in the basement to keep them cold and fresh because there was no refrigeration.

If a miner played the piano or another musical instrument, it gave him the opportunity to earn extra income. Tips and free drinks were readily given to those miners with musical talent.

The saloonkeeper is the boss and to get on his good side, so he'll let you into the saloon, you'll have to say, "Down with the Lowlanders" when you go through the door. That way he will know that you support the hydraulic miners, and not those pesky farmers downstream.

This building was reconstructed from the ground up in 1974, modeled after the original King Saloon. That is why we can have food and beverages in the building. It is not the original building and therefore it does not have historical status.

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

McKillican and Mobley General Store

This is the original General Store built in 1856. McKillican and Mobley ran the store in the 1870s. They called it a “general store” because it had everything that you might need for the day to day living in North Bloomfield. There were many other “specialty stores” such as a bakery, shoe store, hat store, and fruit market but almost everyone came to this store once a day, maybe because this was also the post office for North Bloomfield.

1. This building never had electricity and so sunlight from the front windows made it possible to see what was for sale. Imagine how dark it gets on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon. What would they use to help out.

2. In the old days stores did not have racks and racks of clothes to sell because the stores had limited space and transportation was difficult. The general store sold bulk material so you could sew your own clothes. If you wanted to have someone make clothes for you, you could order a suit with the help of one of these books. What is it and where?
_____ ()

3. Saturday was bath night whether you needed one or not. Water would be heated on the stove and then poured into a large tub. If there were a lot of kids in your family you might be lucky and have the first bath. The last bather would only get lukewarm and less than clean water. Where is the bathtub?

4. Gold miners started this town and kept it going. They bought supplies in this store. They used a piece of equipment that was a box with a plunger/handle. Wires were connected from the box to a dynamite charge. When you pushed on the handle the dynamite would explode. There are two in the store. Where and what are they?

5. In the old days many herbal remedies were used. Sometimes the recipe of different plant materials would be changed and the medicine would become a beverage. There is one of these in the store. Where and what is it?

6. Most everything that was for sale in the store was on display on the shelves or hanging from the ceiling. This was not a help yourself store like we have today. In the old days you would get personal service from the storekeeper who would have to gather your purchases for you. What would he use to make his job easier and where are two of them?
_____ () _____

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Ostrom Livery Stable

*The students visit the stable and play two games
(No word scrabbles)*

Over 130 years ago, horses were used to get around and paved roads were almost non-existent. You couldn't just park your horse when you came into town, like you do a car. You had to leave your horse at the livery stable where the stable owner would take care of it. If you needed a freight wagon, fancy buggy, or another horse you could rent one here. Every town had at least one livery stable. It was a gas station, *Hertz Rent-A-Car*, *U Haul rental*, and *Motel 6* all rolled into one.

If you couldn't afford to stay in one of the hotels while you were prospecting in the area, you could spend the night up in the hayloft above the stable.

Can you find the old-fashioned hay bailer? Look at all the ropes, pulleys and levers. How was the hay put in? How was the bail compacted and tied?

Games:

“Stepping Stones”

Traveling by horse and wagon was slow, difficult and sometimes very dangerous. Crossing a small river could be a giant task. River crossing required a lot of teamwork and communication to make sure everyone was safe. Work together with your team to cross the “river” safely. Pretend the area between the stable doors and the hitching post is a raging river. Use the “stepping stones” to safely navigate the swift currents. Good luck!

“Giant Striders”

Driving a team of horses or mules wasn't easy, especially when you had several animals to control. Your animals had to work as a team to move forward, back and make turns without any problems. Use the “Giant Striders” to simulate a team of horses (students) pulling a wagon. The driver had to communicate to his animals what to do and when to do it, so straddle the striders with a rope in each hand. The “driver” (usually in the rear) communicates what he or she wants the team to do; step right then left to move forward. Have the “driver” asks his/her team to move around something or back up. Not as easy as you think!

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Skidmore House

This house was built in 1862 for Rush Dix Skidmore. Mr. Skidmore was a wealthy businessman and popular in the community. (Notice how big his yard is compared to the other yards in town.) He came from the east coast and settled in north Bloomfield in 1857.

This style house is known as a “railroad flat.” There is a central hallway with rooms off to either side just like a railroad car. This was a popular style where Skidmore used to live.

Although the house is two stories tall, you will be working on the first floor. There are two bedrooms upstairs but the stairway is steep and too dangerous. Also there have been rumors that the top floor is haunted, although we have never seen anything up there except bats.

1. Wood fires were used to heat the house. Firewood was constantly being collected, chopped stacked and brought in to the house to be burned. The wood burning stoves would be cleaned carefully and often to prevent hot ashes from getting out onto the wood floor. What and where is the special container for this job?

2. There was no electricity for this house. To see at night you had to have a candle or oil lamp everywhere you went. There was no refrigerator but yet you had to keep some foods cold to prevent spoilage. What did they use and where is this piece of furniture?
_____ () _____
3. No indoor water pipes meant that bathrooms were kept outside. In the winter or at night, when a trip to the outhouse was difficult, you would use a special pot in your bedroom. What is it called and where is it?

4. Old building codes were much different than today. (Look at the thin walls inside the house.) Small animals were sometimes able to sneak through little openings to find warmth and food inside a house. What would you use to control these unwanted visitors and where is it found?

5. Through the years, ideas in house decoration have changed. Mr. Skidmore would probably see your house as being very strange. In this house is a picture that is actually a sculpture made from human hair. Where is it?

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Smith – Knotwell Drug Store

This is the “Smith–Knotwell Drug Store.” In 1872, Adrian A. Smith lived in a little house on this corner lot. He was a schoolteacher. In 1876, he decided to open a drug store business. He built a larger two-story building with a store and living space underneath a meeting hall. Besides medicine, he also sold fancy soaps, perfumes, toys, cigars, fancy plates and dishes almost like a modern Long’s Drug Store. John Knotwell became a partner in the business when he married Nettie Smith, Adrian Smith’s daughter, in 1881. This building is actually a reconstruction of the original building, which fell down before the state park was developed.

1. In a large jar you will see something that looks like candy. These are crystals that people stored with their clothes to keep the bugs away. They really smell and that is why we keep the lid on. What are they called and where are they?

When this store was operating in the 1879s, paper bags were not yet invented. When you bought something, the store clerk would wrap the item in wrapping paper (or even old newspaper) and tie it with a string. Every store had one of these on the counter and this one is shaped like a bell. What is it and where is it found?
_____ () _____

2. Today you can buy a toy called a stereo viewer or view master. By looking through the eye pieces you can see a picture in three dimensions (3-D) that looks almost real. In the 1880s everybody had one at home (like our televisions) with pictures from around the world. Schools would teach kids about far-away places with these. What is it and where?

3. One of the medicines is called “Dr. Seth Arnold’s Cough Killer.” This cough medicine contained very strong drugs that are illegal nowadays. Most of the medicines on display either did not work or worked too well and are no longer sold. Where is “Dr. Arnold’s Cough Killer?”

4. There are two of these tools found in the drug store. Although they look slightly different, they both look like a bowl with a separate small club. Dried plants or chemicals were poured into the bowl and then the club was used to grind them up. The Native Americans used this type of tool to grind acorns. What is it and locate two of them?

5. People worked very hard the old days because much of the work was done by hand. They bought a lot of medicine that took care of sprains, sore muscles, bruises, and body aches. Look as some of the bottle labels to see if you can find this type of medicine. One company that still makes this medicine is called “Sloanes.” What type of medicine is this & where is this bottle?

North Bloomfield Scavenger Hunt

Glossary (possible answers)

Moth Balls
Resume
Ice Box
Cough Syrup
Mouse Trap
Liniment
Bible
Oil Lamp
Telephone Book
Snow Shoes
Chamber Pot
Mortar and Pestle
Eye Glasses
Catalogue
Detonator
Sluice
Gold Pan
Coffee Grinder
Vacuum Cleaner
Stereoscope
String Holder
Rocker Box
Root Beer
Candle Holder
Toaster
Rolling Ladder
Ash Box
Baskets