Gold Rush In British Columbia

Gold was discovered in British Columbia in the mid nineteenth century. This led tens of thousands to the area that hope to strike it rich and find gold. However, not everyone was lucky and went through some pretty rough situations in the unforgiving landscaping. First nations had a significant role in the gold rush by helping the gold miners over come some of their problems. The gold rush was not a easy time for some but for others it meant economic income.

Tens of thousands of men came to British Columbia in the search of Gold. Some of them told us about their hardships. One of the pioneers tells us how rough the conditions of the gold rush were. He says that it was difficult to canoe to the interior. He talks about sleeping in wet pants, having to keep guard to avoid being raided by the natives.[[1]](#footnote-1) It was very difficult for the gold miners to get to the gold rush, When they got there the river was too high.[[2]](#footnote-2) Which resulted in the men having to wait, which resulted in low provisions.[[3]](#footnote-3) Fortunately the first nations helped the foreigners during the gold rush. Many assume there was not native involvement in the gold rush because it is believed they all died of disease.[[4]](#footnote-4) However we are told that First Nations at Barkerville worked at a variety of occupations.[[5]](#footnote-5) Food shortages made First Nations hunting and fishing more important and valuable.[[6]](#footnote-6) Natives were also used for bringing in supplies and mail. Matthew Begbie said, “No supplies were taken in except by Indians.”[[7]](#footnote-7) In Barkersville some Native women were prostitutes for the gold miners.[[8]](#footnote-8) Within the British Columbia Gold rush the natives had a big impact.

Tens of thousands flooded the area in search of gold. Many went through some tough hardships in the search for gold. The First nations were active participants in the gold rush that helped make it easier on the foreigners who had come in search of gold.

1. C. Gardiner, “A Great Humbug: British Columbia’s Gold Rushes: A Few Acres of Snow” *University of Toronto Press, 3* (2009) pg.35-36 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. C. Gardiner, “A Great Humbug: British Columbia’s Gold Rushes: A Few Acres of Snow” *University of Toronto Press, 3* (2009) pg.36 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. C. Gardiner, “A Great Humbug: British Columbia’s Gold Rushes: A Few Acres of Snow” *University of Toronto Press, 3* (2009) pg.36 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mica Jorgenson, “Into That Country to Work: Aboriginal Economic Activities during Bakerville’s Gold Rush.” *BC Studies,* 185(2015) Pg.117 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Mica Jorgenson, “Into That Country to Work: Aboriginal Economic Activities during Bakerville’s Gold Rush.” *BC Studies,* 185(2015) Pg.112 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mica Jorgenson, “Into That Country to Work: Aboriginal Economic Activities during Bakerville’s Gold Rush.” *BC Studies,* 185(2015) Pg.125 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Mica Jorgenson, “Into That Country to Work: Aboriginal Economic Activities during Bakerville’s Gold Rush.” *BC Studies,* 185(2015) Pg.126 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ibid Pg.133 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)