

Barkerville Word Search – Mining Terms

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

Search Words

Barkerville

Barren

Bedrock

Cariboo Road

Claim

Cornish Water Wheel

Nugget

Overburden

Overlanders

Sluicibox

Sticking Tom

On the next page, each of these mining terms is described in detail. After you have found all of the words, you can learn more about what each one means.

Barren

This was a term used to describe an area or stream which is unproductive (which means it has no gold).

Bedrock

Bedrock is the layer of solid rock underneath the dirt and gravel that miners dig in. Gold can find its way into the many cracks and crevices in bedrock, and miners must be careful to wash the bedrock carefully so they do not miss any gold.

Cariboo Road

The Cariboo Wagon Road was built by the Royal Engineers. The road extends from Yale to Barkerville. It was a very difficult road to build, and its construction was considered a very impressive feat. It made travel to and from Barkerville much easier. Prior to the wagon road, most people and goods had to come in and out of Barkerville on pack trails. For a while, camels were used to move goods along these trails.

Claim

A mining claim is a square piece of ground where a miner has the right to search for gold. These claims were usually 100 feet (about 35 metres) wide, and located on the side of a creek. In the heyday of the Barkerville gold rush, each miner was generally entitled to one claim. However, sometimes miners would work together and combine their claims. For example, a group of five miners would be able to work 500 feet of land.

Cornish Water Wheel

Water wheel's have been used in mining operations for over 2000 years. They are used to pump water out of deep mine shafts, and to bring gravel and miners back to the surface. Barkerville has a fully functioning water wheel that operates daily on William's Creek during the summer season.

Nugget

A word meaning a piece, lump, or specimen of gold, as it is pulled from the ground.

Overburden

This term refers to the dirt and gravel that lies above the area that holds the gold. Removing this material was difficult and expensive, especially where the gold was found very deep, which it was in Barkerville.

Overlanders

In 1862 a group of approximately 250 individuals from Upper and Lower Canada (today called Ontario and Québec) passed through the Fort Edmonton area on an over-land trip to the Cariboo gold-rush region. This was the largest organized group to head west prior to the construction of the railway. Because their route was by land, the party was called the "overlanders."

Sluicebox

A slotted wooden box used to separate gold from the gravel that was washed through it. The gold, which is much heavier than gravel, would get stuck in the slots, while the gravel was washed away.

Sticking Tom

A blacksmith-made metal candle-holder with a spike on one end that miners would jam into the wooden structures underground to hold their only source of light. Miners would carry two six-hour candles underground with them. When both candles were burnt out, they would know that their 12 hour shift was complete.