CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Locate:

(a) Bannack; Southwest Montana pg 102

(b) Gold Creek; Deer Lodge Valley pg 102

(c) Alder Gulch; Bannack pg 103

(d) Last Chance Gulch: Helena pg 104

2. Identify:

(a) John White; John White is a prospector who found gold along with a tributary of the Beaverhead River in southwest Montana. Pg 102

(b) Benetsee; Bentsen is a fur trapper who discovered a small amount of gold in the Deer Lodge Valley pg 102

(c) Bill Fairweather; Bill Fairweather was part of a party that camped along a stream in the Ruby River Valley. 103

(d) Henry Plummer; Henry Plummer was elected sheriff of the Bannack District. Pg 108

(e) Bill Farlin; Bill Farlin found quartz rock bearing silver gold copper nearly ten years before

(f), Charles McClure; Charles McClure was the richest miner of all time pg 118

(g) Sidney Edgerton

3. Define:

(a) boom-and-bust cycle; defined Montana's economy during the gold rush pg 101

(b) placer mining; Separating loose gold and nuggets from dirt, sand, and gravel in the creek pg 104

(c) hydraulic mining; When the easy picking was gone it turned into hydraulic mining

(e) vigilantes; Key players in the turbulent early days of mining camps pg 112

(f) assayer; The assayer determined the value of our quality of gold pg 106

4. What were the three major gold strikes in

Montana in the mid-1860s?Banack, Alder Creek, and Last Chance Gulch. pg 104

5. What were the four overland routes into

Montana? Why did people use them instead of

taking the steamboat up the Missouri River?  624-mile dirt track from Walla Walla, Washington, through the Deer Lodge Valley, to Fort Benton. (Page 105)

6. Describe a mining town. What kinds of people

lived there, and what kinds of jobs did they

have? Most mining towns were abandoned. The towns that were still going, it was practically empty. The people were mostly miners. (Page 118)

7. Why was Vigilance Committees formed? Vigilantes were key players in the turbulent early days of the mining camps. Right or wrong, vigilantes acted as a kind of police force in a region hundreds of miles from official law enforcement. (pg. 112)

8. Why did President Abraham Lincoln want to

control the West and its gold? President Abraham Lincoln did not want southerners to control the West and its gold, so he controlled it instead. (pg. 113)

9. Why did the main methods of mining change

in the early 1870s?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Compare the people who came to Montana for fur trapping and trading to those who came in search of gold. How did fur traders and Indians view land use compared to miners?

2. Placer mining and quartz mining are very different. Compare and contrast the two methods’

advantages and disadvantages.

3. The Five Themes of Geography include human-environmental interaction. How did the new settlers modify, depend on, and adapt to the new land?

4. Imagine trying to decide whether to join the gold rush. What factors would enter into your decision? You would get to find gold and use it.

5. The miners and settlers who came to Montana were less likely to cooperate with Indians than the fur trappers were. What differences in their circumstances and expectations might explain this fact?

6. Vigilance Committees were formed to control crime in the early days of mining in Montana. Were these groups a good idea? Do you think communities today should form their own committees to control crime? Why or why not?