Gold is more than just a pretty metal; it's a symbol of wealth and power. But to get your hands on it, you need to be prepared for a challenging journey. You might find yourself in the belly of a mine, surrounded by darkness and danger. Every earthen奋进, every mine shaft, every tunnel is a step closer to riches. But be warned, these paths are not easy. You might encounter copper miners, sometimes called 'Trapper Shirts,' probably starting the team when miners

and you might even own a pair yourself.

and odds are even to make the pockets stronger. Let's are still sold today,

compounded hepatic prints were out 100 quickly. Later, stress switch to demin

stared settling team when miners

men named Liver Strauss. Strauss had

in the dark, pulling on a pair of "Liver's,

days a week. Days of when liver dressed

cold miners where before daylight six

Gold's Awakhir, Boys!

Grand visions of striking it rich.

the country headed to California with

hard to resist. Soon people from all over

idea of finding wealth in the ground was

easier to think. Just as it is today, and the
goals, not guarantees. Gold was worth a lot

course, the people in California found

in California in the mid-1800s. Of

This scenario is close to what happened

hands, but others find a fortune.

quarters. Some people go home empty-

in the spot where you found the

people are coming from all around to die

but little by little, word gets out. Soon

rocked and shifted into the ground a little. In just a few minutes, you have a

pockets of change and a lot of excitement. You try to keep the news to yourself,

pretend you are walking around outside, and you come across a quarter lying on
ended along the trail of a gold ship.

end of the Trail of a gold ship.

This page shows different methods for mining gold: the camel and the simple pan. The picture is titled "Camer and Lies Lithographie." 

The first was by sea down the East Coast to Panama across the isthmus by

The second was by sea down the West Coast of North America. This trip was

The first route traveled through Panama's jungle, 7,000 miles long and took from two to four months. It was dangerous though.

The second route traveled from three to seven months, and travelers faced disease, starvation, and dangers along the way.

The line shows these different methods for mining gold: the camel and the simple pan. The picture is titled "Camer and Lies Lithographie."
At the end of a long day, miners made their way back to camp. They set
beyond people’s wildest dreams:
$200 to $900 a year. A factory worker made about $1 a day. So $25 a day was
wages for common occupations at the time. A miner could expect to make from
some lucky folks made $17,000 in one week. Compare that with some of the
Early days of the Gold Rush. Some made less and others much more.
Using a cradle, four men could
down the California gold
American and white miners sometimes
worked side by side during the California gold
A new method of prospectors used was
panning the dirt and water and
flushed the dirt from the sand and gold. It
rounded bottom. The cradle was
six to eight feet long with a
wend used for washing called a
cradle, which was a trough from
Gold would sink to the bottom of the pan. When the dirt was washed away, only the
washing all the dirt from the pan. Because gold is heavier than other minerals, it
pan with water and dirt from the stream, washing the water and gradually
Gold was the simplest. A prospector squatting beside a stream and filler
Gold washers, as they were sometimes called, used three main methods to find
With a Little Bit of Luck (or Maybe a Lot)

Groups usually perform a play on stage made of packing cases. Sometimes a miner would play the role of a traveler or a miner who had moved to California after the gold rush. People got into fights and even gambled away any money they had made. Murder and violence were prevalent.

Later, when the gold was harder to find, people were desperate to find more and moved to other areas in California. The miners were often bitter and lawless, sometimes fighting over claims of gold. Even families became divided.

Freedom.

Disabled African Americans were even able to make enough money to buy their own gold mines. Some left the United States, China, and Mexico, as well as Native Americans, to work together to mine for gold. Others worked from home, selling supplies or cooking for miners.

Kuphys claims that some were sometimes very different from one another. Some had been forced to work as men, while others were women or children. Some had been doctors.

$300! Miners were smart to buy one before they reached California. There was a huge cost of $2 in San Francisco. A house could be purchased for $6 most places. In the end, people were careful how they spent their money because business was booming.

Gold for money. On the trip to town when supplies were needed, a miner had to

Life as a Miner
Reading passage in your answer.

1. Gold mining was difficult work. Describe how mining for gold could change a person's life for better or for worse. Use details from the passage.

2. What major problem faced many gold rush towns?
   - A. a major jump in the price of many goods
   - B. the end of discrimination against minorities
   - C. an economic depression in California
   - D. war with Mexico

3. Which of the following was one result of the gold rush?
   - A. the type of gold found in California
   - B. a device used to sift for gold
   - C. a type of cabin in a gold town
   - D. another name for a gold miner

4. After reading the passage, answer the following questions:

   - D. too many rules and regulations
   - C. overcrowded schools
   - B. too many goods and services
   - A. increased crime and violence