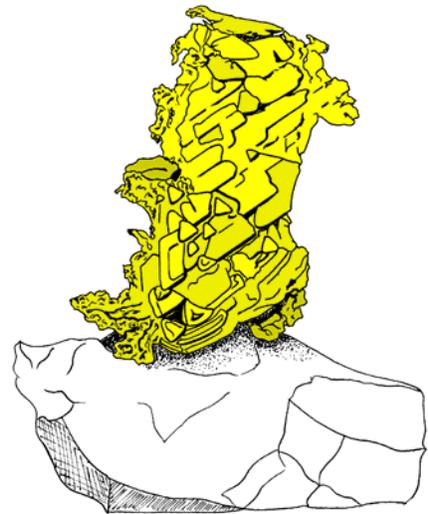
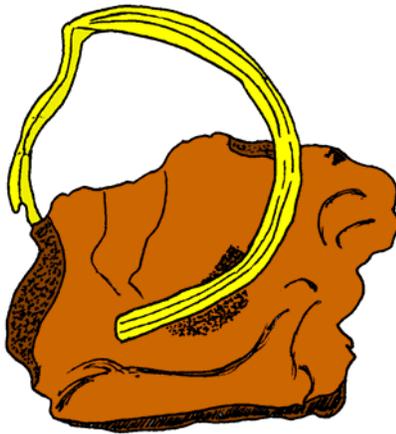
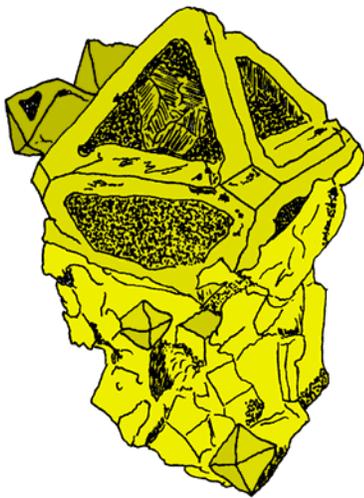


GOLD!

*A Coloring and Activity Book
for Young Prospectors*

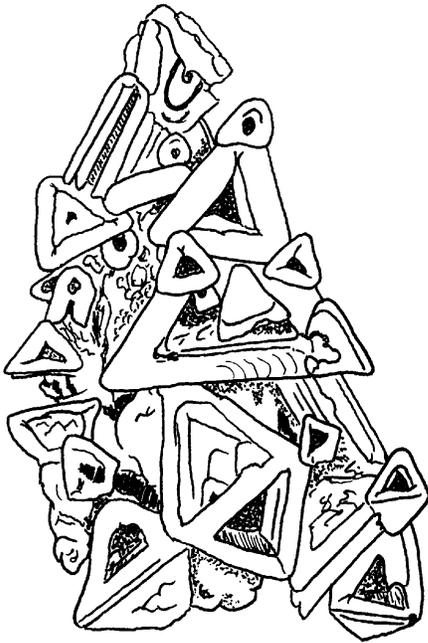


Abandoned gold mine, San Juan Mountains, Colorado.

By Darryl Powell

CALIFORNIA

In 1848, gold was discovered on the American River at Sutter's Sawmill by James Marshall. Word spread of this discovery very quickly. By 1849, hundreds of people from all over the world rushed to California in search of finding their fortunes in gold. Some of these "Miner 49ers" were very successful; others were not.



Triangle-shaped gold crystals from the Mockingbird mine, Mariposa County. The "triangles" are portions of octahedral (8-sided) crystals.



Gold on milky quartz. Jamestown, California.

In the 1800's, miners would dig by hand, deep underground, for gold.

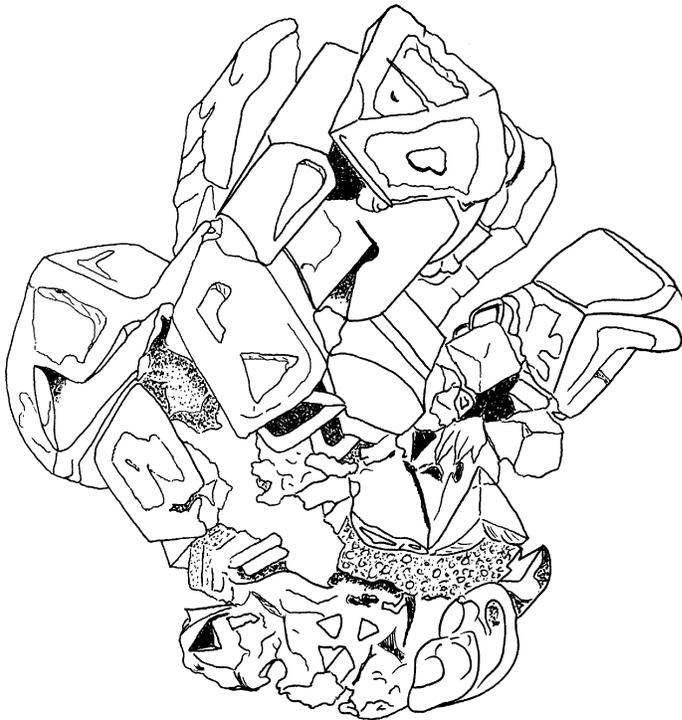




Remains of the Plumas-Eureka Mill, Plumas County, California. A mill is where gold ore is crushed to remove the gold.



↑ Gold crystals from Michigan Bluff District.



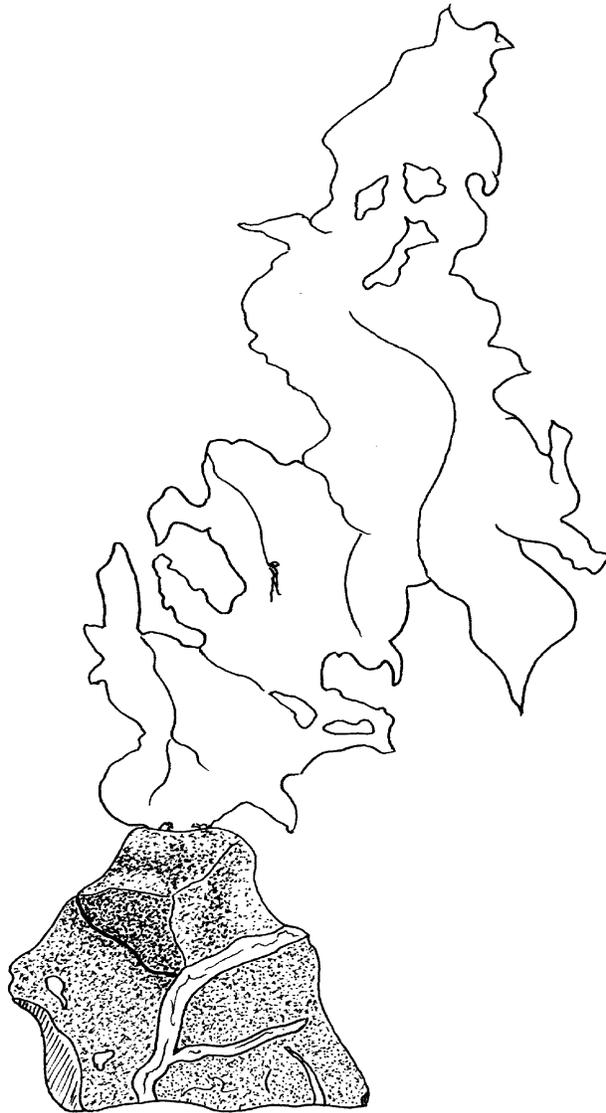
⇐ This cluster of gold crystals is from Placer County, California. Like most gold crystals, their edges are smooth and rounded. They are 8-sided octahedra (diamond-shaped) and cubes. Its actual size is 1.75 inches high.



Golden Nugget

The California Gold Rush produced 125 million troy ounces of gold. That gold would be worth \$50 billion dollars in today's money!

Leaf Gold



Side view of
leaf gold.

"Leaf Gold" is the term used to describe gold that forms as very thin sheets in nature. Thin sheets of gold are used to cover works of art and building decorations. These thin sheets are also called "leaves." This is a specimen of leaf gold on matrix from California.

SOUTH AMERICA

The ancient Inca people used the abundant gold of South America to create beautiful works of art. Most of their art and gold was stolen and melted down. Some, however, has survived. Here are some drawings of Inca gold work.

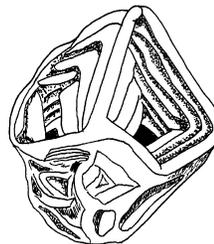
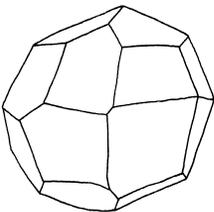


This is a small pendant mask from LaTolita, Ecuador.

This is the handle from a gold knife called a *tumi*. It is a picture of the Incan hero Ñaymlap (pronounced *nya-m-lap*). The three stones in the center of the head dress are blue turquoise. Turquoise was used throughout the Americas for decoration.

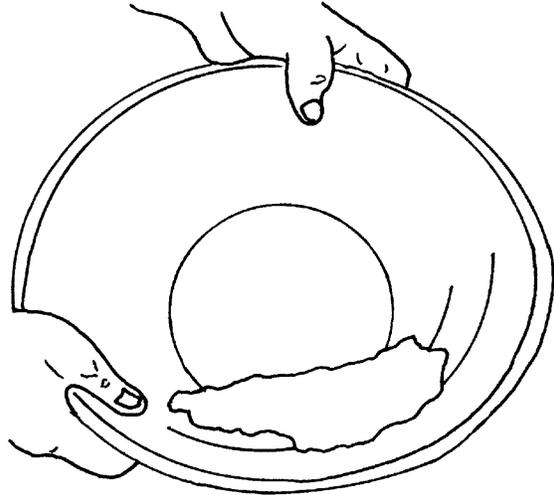


Valuable gold crystals from Venezuela.



Finding Your Own Gold

You will need a "gold pan." A gold pan is a 12 or 15 inch steel pan (plastic pans are also available). If you have a steel pan, darken it by holding it over a campfire; the black soot will stick to the pan. This makes seeing the gold flakes easier. You can also use a metal pie pan from your kitchen!



Go to a stream that is known to have gold. You want to look for gold where the stream slows down. Look on sand and gravel bars in the middle of the stream; look on the downstream side of boulders, roots, and large logs in the stream; look in the sand on the inside loop of the stream (see page 23).

Put your pan under the water and fill the pan about half full of sand. You can pick out the large stones and toss them out.

Soak the sand with water so it is all wet.

With both hands, hold your pan level, under the water, and swish the pan around in a circular motion. Then, tilt the pan just a little bit while you "swish". You will see sand washing away.

Keep doing this until all the sand is washed away and you are left with larger gravel and — hopefully — gold. Sit on a rock and carefully pick through the gravel for flakes and nuggets of gold.

Put your gold in a box or bottle for safe keeping.

