

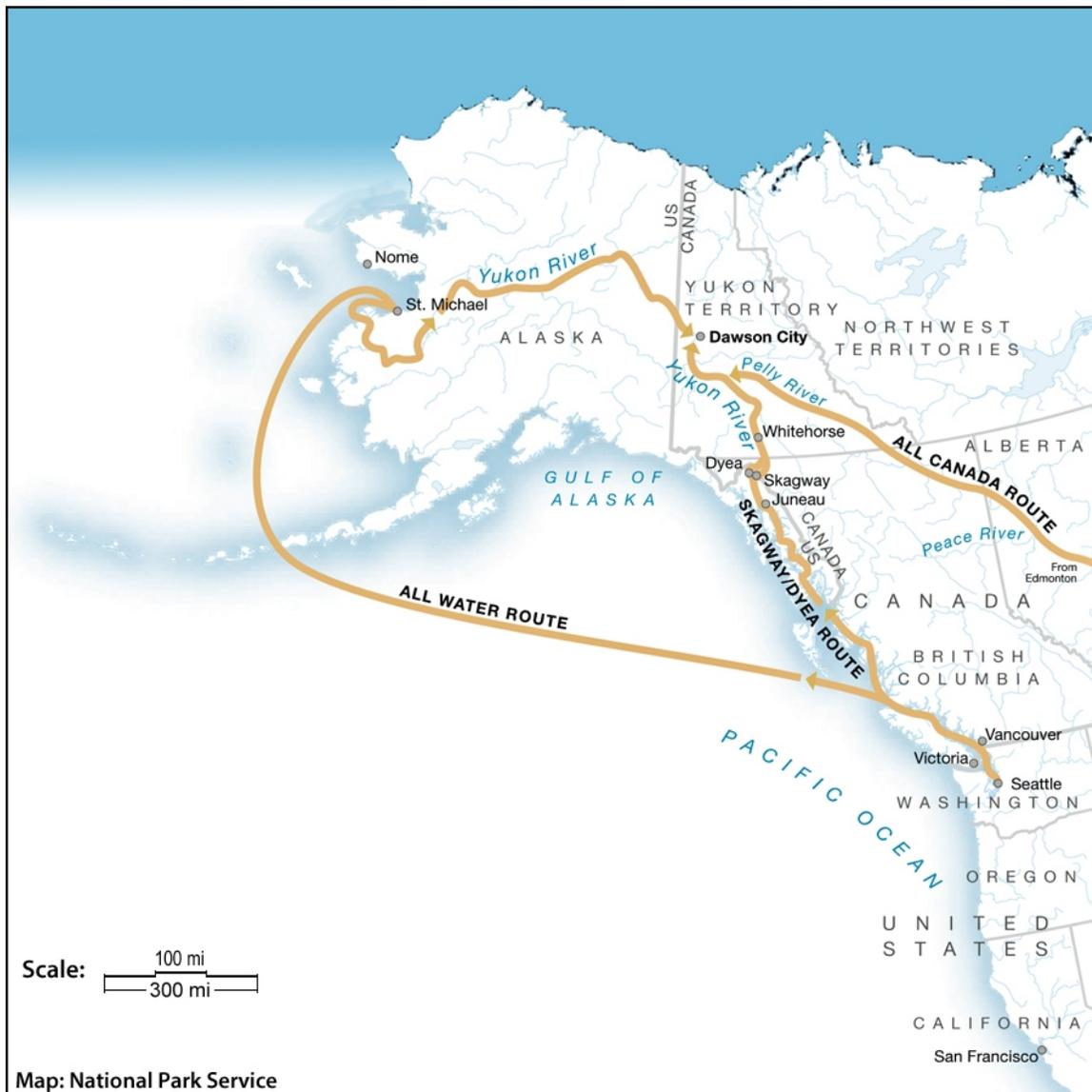


Klondike Gold Rush (1896-1899)

It is difficult to know exactly how many people from 1896-1899 left the comfort of their homes in the United States to make the trek to the Klondike region (Yukon Territory) in Canada. Most people had to travel thousands of miles to the Yukon where gold was found at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers. Dawson City in Canada sprang up overnight and grew rapidly in response to the Gold Rush because it was close to where gold was found in 1896.

Of about 100,000 people who attempted the trek, by land and/or by water, about 20,000 to 30,000 people made it to the area to look for gold. Only a few hundred of that number found their fortune in gold because claims to the land were made quickly and the trek was so treacherous.

Below is a map from the National Park Service showing various routes people took to reach Canada's Yukon Territory. Study it carefully and then answer the questions below.



Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Did the United States own Alaska's land in 1896? _____
2. Did the United States own the Klondike area land in 1896? _____
3. Was Alaska a state in the United States in 1896? If not, what was it? _____
4. Assume 400 prospectors found significant amounts of gold in the Klondike and 30,000 prospectors made it to the Klondike. What percent of all who left their homes found their pot of gold? _____
5. On the map, find San Francisco, Seattle, Skagway, Dyea, and Dawson City. Circle US cities in blue and cities in Canada red.
6. Look at the route from Seattle to Dawson City through Skagway/Dyea. Using the legend on the map, estimate the distance, in miles, between Seattle and Dawson City.

7. If you visited Dawson City today, would you expect to find people living there today whose ancestors came to Dawson City during the Klondike Gold Rush? Why or why not?

8. What was the economic reason Seattle became a large port during the Klondike Gold Rush? How do you think the city continued to grow after the Klondike Gold Rush ended?

9. Why was Gen. Doolittle's experience growing up in Nome not unique but one that was similar to many children who were his age during the Klondike Gold Rush?

10. Refer to the Periodic Table in the Appendix. What is the Symbol and atomic number of gold? Research its physical properties through the link at the end of the story. Summarize below.
Symbol: _____ Atomic Number: _____

11. Why is gold so valuable?

