

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THERE HILLS

Discovery of gold in north Georgia spelled doom for the peace of the Cherokees. Already land hungry pioneers were looking longingly at the fertile valleys and well timbered ridges. When the lure of sudden wealth was added, a mass of settlers swarmed into the Cherokee Nation in 1832 and 1833, taking over. Five years later, the Cherokees were forcibly removed to the West. Below are some facts about gold and America's gold rushes.

-  America's first Gold Rush occurred in Dahlonega, Georgia in 1828 when Benjamin Parks hit his toe on a gold nugget while deer hunting in the North Georgia mountains.
-  Gold is one of the world's most versatile metals. It can be shaped and molded easily. Gold is so soft that it is often mixed with other metals to make it stronger.
-  Gold does not rust, decay or tarnish and is difficult to destroy.
-  The largest gold nugget ever found was discovered in Australia. The nugget weighed over 200 pounds and produced 142 pounds of pure gold.
-  One ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire that would reach five miles in length. A cubic foot of gold can be made into a wire that would circle the equator 29 times.
-  Pure gold can be hammered into gold leaf so thin that a one inch high stack would require 250,00 leaves.
-  The dome of the Georgia capitol in Atlanta is covered in 46 ounces of gold leaf from Dahlonega. A historical society brought the gold down to Atlanta by a mule team in 1958.
-  There is not a great deal of gold waiting to be found in Cobb County, but what there is can be found in the streams in the northeastern corner of the county.
-  The chemical symbol for Gold is Au, from the Latin word for gold, Aurum.
-  When gold was found in California, many miners in Georgia left for the promise of greater riches. While trying to convince these miners to stay, one man said, "There's gold in them there hills," referring to the Georgia mountains.

Let's Review

1. Where was the first gold rush in America? _____
2. How much did the largest gold nugget ever found weigh? _____
3. How much gold is on the dome of the Georgia state capitol building? _____