



Assessment Date: ____/____/____ Student: _____ Examiner: _____
Words Read Correctly (WRC): _____ Errors: _____ Notes: _____

The discovery that changed a nation

Mr J and Miss Mac

In 1851, Edward Hargraves discovered a 'grain of gold' in a waterhole near Bathurst.	14
Hargraves was convinced that the similarity in geological features between Australia and the California goldfields (from where he had just returned) boded well for the search of gold in his homeland. He was proved correct. He named the place 'Ophir', reported his discovery to the authorities, and was appointed a 'Commissioner of Land'. He received a reward of 10,000, plus a life pension.	25 39 54 67 78
The discovery marked the beginning of the Australian gold rushes and a radical change in the economic and social fabric of the nation.	92 101
Ophir was home to more than 1000 prospectors just four months after Hargraves discovery. Gold fever gripped the nation and the colonial authorities responded by appointing 'Commissioners of Land' to regulate the diggings and collect licence fees for each 'claim'.	114 126 138 141
Hargraves could never have dreamt how significant his discovery would be. New South Wales yielded 26.4 tonnes (850,000 ounces) of gold in 1852. This was a mere drop in the ocean compared to the yield from neighbouring Victoria when they joined the rush for gold.	153 170 184 188
The Victorian authorities, eager to prevent its population from joining the gold frenzy in NSW, offered a reward of 200 for any gold found within 200 miles of Melbourne. In 1851, six months after the New South Wales find, gold was discovered at Ballarat, and a short time later at Bendigo Creek.	201 218 233 240

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