

DOCUMENT B

WILLIAM OGILVIE'S ACCOUNT

NAME: _____



BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

William Ogilvie, a Canadian government surveyor, carefully interviewed and re-interviewed all the people most directly involved with the discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek. He came away believing Skookum Jim's and Charlie's version that Jim had been the discoverer. Skookum Jim was born into the Dakl'aweidi clan of Tagish First Nation in the 1850s and was originally given the clan name Keish, meaning "wolf." Charlie, born Káa Goox, was also known as Tagish Charlie or Dawson Charlie. He was Skookum Jim's nephew, and he was also present when gold was discovered at Bonanza Creek.

"I took the precaution to interview them separately and afterwards get them all together and criticize and discuss the narrative of each ... Put in as concise terms as I can frame it, Jim's story tells us that he, Charlie, and George were camped at the mouth of the Klondike fishing... He informed me he found some very good logs ... at various places, and in order to learn whether or not they could be floated down to the Yukon, he had to make a close examination of the creek bed. In doing this he said he found some colours of gold at various places in the gravel... Before they got far down [Bonanza] their provisions were entirely exhausted, and as they **prospected** on their way down, and Jim was hunting for meat, their progress was slow ... Jim at last, when they were all too tired and weak to do further prospecting, got a moose ... Jim says he called on the others, whom he had left some distance away, to come to him. While waiting for them to come he looked in the sand of the creek where he had gone to get a drink, taking with him a bit of the moose. He found gold, he said, in greater quantities than he had ever seen before. When the others joined him the moose was cooked, and they had a feed. Then he showed them the gold in the sand. They remained two days at this place panning and testing the gravel up and down the creek in the vicinity. After satisfying themselves that they had the best spot, and decided to **stake** and record there, they got into a dispute as to who should stake discovery **claim**, Jim claiming it by right of discovery, and Carmack claiming it, Jim says, on the ground that an Indian would not be allowed to record it."

Source: Ogilvie, W. (1913). *Early Days on the Yukon and the Story of Its Gold Finds*. Bell and Cockburn.



WORD BANK

Claim: A mining claim is an area of land that a miner has taken possession of and/or claimed as their own, giving them the right to take materials from that portion of land.

Prospecting: The act of searching an area for gold or other natural and valuable materials. A person doing so was called a prospector.

Stake: To stake a mining claim means to mark out the area of land that is being claimed. In the past, miners did this by staking posts in the ground all around their claim.

Surveying: The act of studying or measuring land, usually done by a surveyor so they can create a map of it.

DOCUMENT B – GUIDING QUESTIONS

Who was William Ogilvie?

Why did he produce this document?



What about the source makes it good evidence for answering the Essential Question?

What about the source might limit its usefulness as evidence for answering the Essential Question?

How does information in Document B support or extend information in Document A?

What is the main message in Ogilvie's account?

