

## DOCUMENT D

### HEADLINES RELATED TO ROBERT HENDERSON

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



#### BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Robert Henderson was a Canadian prospector born in Nova Scotia. In the summer of 1896, he was prospecting for gold in Yukon on Gold Bottom Creek, near the mouth of the Klondike River. He met George and Kate Carmack, Skookum Jim, Charlie, and Patsy Henderson (Charlie's younger brother) along his travels and told George about Gold Bottom. He even encouraged George to stake a claim, but said his Indigenous partners could not. On August 17, 1896, gold was discovered on nearby Bonanza Creek, launching the Klondike Gold Rush. Robert Henderson was not told of this information until all the discovery claims had been staked. He was bitter about losing out. He believed in the unwritten prospector's code, which promoted the free exchange of information, and felt that Carmack should have shared the information about the find with him.

#### 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.

#### KLONDIKE'S DISCOVERER TO TRY A NEW FIELD

**Robert Henderson, the first discoverer of gold  
in the Klondike intends to go on  
a prospecting trip this spring to the Tanana country.**

Source: Adapted from "Klondike's Discoverer to Try a New Field," *Dawson Weekly News*, March 22, 1901.



**THE NOVA SCOTIA “DISCOVERER OF THE KLONDYKE”**

**Robert Henderson of Pictou Was  
the Pioneer in the Famous  
Yukon Gold Fields.**

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**The Fabulous Wealth of the  
Region Was Then Unknown  
and Henderson Found**

“In the spring of 1896 high water drove him out of the Indian River and he went up on to what is now called ‘Gold Bottom.’ That was really the first big strike made in the upper waters and it brought the crowd.”

Source: Adapted from “The Nova Scotia ‘Discoverer of the Klondike,’” *The Halifax Herald*, October 11, 1897.



## DOCUMENT D – GUIDING QUESTIONS

	HEADLINE #1	HEADLINE #2
Where was the headline published?		
When was the headline published?		
How long after the 1896 strike at Bonanza Creek was the headline published?		



	HEADLINE #1	HEADLINE #2
Given the headline, what did the author believe about who should be credited for discovering gold in Yukon?		
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 from the headlines support or contest information from previous Documents?

