

In mid-August 1896, there was no city at the place where the Yukon River meets the Klondike. Two years later, twenty-five thousand people lived there in Dawson City, and it was the centre of the gold rush.

The American George W. Carmack had escaped from the army. He lived in Alaska with his Indian wife. One day, when he was on a fishing trip with some Indian friends, he found lots of nuggets on the banks of the Klondike River.

The discovery caused large excitement. The news spread all over the world. Thousands and thousands joined the gold rush. One of those adventurers was Jack London. He later wrote a book about his adventures: "White Fang" (DVD of 1991).



On their way to the Yukon territory: Chilkoot Pass. 1500 steps were carved in the ice.



Where Yukon River meets Klondike River: Dawson City (Population today: 1300)

Desperate people from every nation, and poor pioneers flocked there on foot, by sea and on horseback. They climbed up the "Golden Stairs" of Chilkoot Pass to cross the snow-covered mountains. They came down the rivers by raft. Thousands fell dead by the wayside. But many of them reached the

Klondike and the Yukon River. For months and years, they dug the river banks, hoping to find shiny nuggets.

The Alaskan gold fever lasted for seven years. Some men grew rich, but many never even found an ounce of the precious metal.



**to escape:** ausreißen  
**discovery:** Entdeckung  
**to cause:** verursachen  
**excitement:** Aufregung  
**to spread** (spread, spread):  
 ausbreiten

**to join:** beitreten, mitmachen  
**desperate:** verzweifelt  
**to flock:** herbeiströmen  
 (flock=Herde)  
**raft:** Floß  
**to reach:** erreichen

**to dig** (dug, dug): graben  
**bank:** Ufer  
**to last:** dauern  
**ounce:** Unze (ca. 30 g)  
**precious:** kostbar

### Make Questions:

(The answer would be YES or NO)

- He has heard the news. - ...*Has he heard the news?* .....
- They found some gold in 1896. ....
- They don't look for oil. ....
- Jack London was there, too. ....
- He went to Alaska in winter. ....
- Finally he reached the Klondike.....
- White Fang is the name of a dog. ....
- He found more than an ounce of gold. ....
- The gold fever lasted longer than a year. ....
- You have read some books by Jack London. ....