

**Canon Paleo Curriculum  
Unit: Nature of Science  
Lesson Plan: 8**

**Activity Name: Observation and Inference**

Chris suddenly respond in a positive way to Sean's inquiries?

How do you know?

1. Why do you think Sean's inquiries were positive?

2. How do you know the correct approach to win Chris's friendship?

How do you know?

3. Why were boomtown merchants able to sell their products for so much money?

4. How were the miners able to pay such steep prices for the goods offered by boomtown merchants?

How do you know?

During the California Gold Rush of 1849, the world's supply of gold more than doubled, and hundreds of miners flocked to California in search of fortune. The population of California grew from about 100,000 in 1846 to about 400,000 in 1852. San Francisco had around two-hundred residents in 1846, and about 50,000 in 1852. The few merchants in these boomtowns sold goods for more than ten times what they cost elsewhere. For example, a single pound of coffee beans cost \$1.00 in San Francisco, but only \$0.10 in other parts of the country. Why were boomtown merchants able to sell their products for so much money?

How were the miners able to pay such steep prices for the goods offered by boomtown merchants?