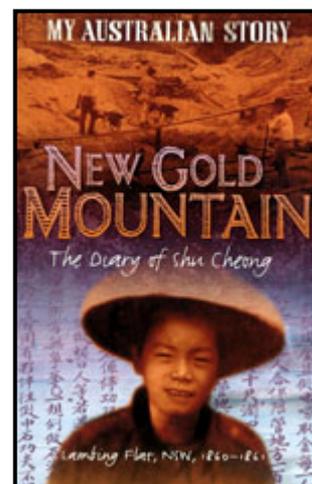


Teaching Notes for **New Gold Mountain**

Christopher Cheng

Scholastic Australia

ISBN: 1865048518



For Discussion:

- How does Shu Cheong display his Chinese identity?
- Discuss why the Chinese miners travelled to Australia.
- Not all the Chinese who were in Australia at the time were miners. What were some of the other occupations?
- What differences in thoughts and attitudes and mining practices did the Chinese miners bring to the Australian gold fields?
- How did the discovery of gold open up Australia?
- One complaint against the Chinese was that they were often spoiling water. In what ways did the complainers feel that this was being done?
- From what other cultures did people come to Australia during the gold-rush time? How were they treated?
- Why did Uncle give Shu Cheong the two red packets? (July 23)
- Discuss the friendship between
 - Shu Cheong and Jeremy
 - Shu Cheong and Mr. Wilson
 - Shu Cheong and Uncle. How are they the same / different?
- What was life like on the Lambing Flat goldfield before the discovery of gold and then during the gold rush. Compare.
- How did the Chinese in New Gold Mountain live?

Classroom Activities:

- Create a diorama from the book
- Investigate the ways the Chinese miners returned the gold to China.
- Investigate the life of the Chinese on the goldfields. From what did they require protection? How were they protected? Role-play an inquiry into the treatment of the Chinese on the gold field at lambing flat.
- Investigate the life of the Chinese people on the gold fields and compare how it is the same / different to their life today.
- Write your own diary for one week recording things of interest.

- Draw a timeline of Shu Cheong in New Gold Mountain and draw a timeline of your own life. Compare the two times lines.

The Roll-Up Banner (<http://www.chrischeng.com/lambing-flat-photos.htm>) was carried by the miners when attacking the Chinese at the riot on Tuesday July 2. Why would the miners have made this banner? What can be seen on the banner? Why are banners and flags often carried during parades and demonstrations?

Chinese Sayings

“The hands have ten finders Shu Cheong, all of different lengths” (Jan 23)

“Upon roots of the tree rest falling leaves” (April 12)

... are two Chinese sayings included in New Gold Mountain. What do they mean? Locate other Chinese sayings and discuss what they mean? How are these important?

Buildings

- Draw images of some of the buildings on the Lambing Flat gold field Lambing Flat. Use pictures from the web as a guide. Prepare a visual display.
- Investigate Chinese temples - joss houses. Why did Chinese have them? Why were they important? How were they constructed? Why was the curve of the roof important? What happened in the temples?
- Construct a comparisons chart between the Chinese temples and the European churches. What was the same / different?

Traditions and Festivals

- Investigate festivals. How are they important to the Chinese people?
- Why was it important for the Chinese to maintain their culture and tradition (Feb 9)
- In the book Chinese New Year is celebrated on February 10. Why is this festival important to the Chinese people? Investigate how the Chinese prepare for Chinese New Year then and today. Compare and contrast.

Petitions were written to the government (Feb. 21).

- Why did the miners write to the government? What did they expect the government to do?
- Imagine you were one of the miners and write a letter expressing your grievances and expectations to the government.

Children's Games

Two of the games mentioned are fan-tan and marbles. Find out how these games played and then play these games.

Immigrants

- Investigate what the Chinese might have carried to Australia when leaving China. In you had to travel what essentials would you take?
- Interview someone who has come to Australia as an immigrant, or is from an immigrant family. Questions to consider include - Why did they leave their native country? Why did they come here? Do they maintain traditions?

Miners and mining

- Chinese miners often dug over ground abandoned by European miners, often finding lots of gold still there. Why? What did the miners who abandoned the mine feel?
- When Chinese miners did dig for gold they often constructed circular shafts rather than shafts with straight sides and corners. Why?
- Investigate the mining practices of the Chinese miners and the European miners. Identify the similarities and differences.

New Life

The book concludes with Shu Cheng leaving Uncle. He was to start a new diary - with new pages for a new life. What do you think would have happened? Ask students to write the next diary entries for Shu Cheong starting his new life.

Facts and Fiction

This is historical fiction. It is a fictional work based on fact. List the historical facts, the fiction, and the possible facts. Compare results and identify the facts.

Daily Life

Investigate life on the goldfield. Construct a chart comparing the daily life of the Chinese to the European miners on the Lambing Flat goldfield. Prepare a report.

Lambing Flat photos

On my website there is a link to photos (<http://www.chrischeng.com/lambing-flat-photos.htm>). These were taken at the Lambing Flat museum including the banner, shot

and cannon ball from the military and more. Write descriptions of some of these items. Find other items from life on the gold field and prepare an audio visual presentation.

Newspapers

Not only were miners against the Chinese but the newspapers often complained about the Chinese. How did the newspapers complain? Investigate old newspapers through TROVE (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>).

For more information about Christopher, his books and other Teaching Notes visit

www.chrischeng.com

chrischengauthor.blogspot.com

last edited 2010