



Extensive reading: Gold

1 Look at the pictures. What country is it? What are people looking for?

2 Listen and read.  127

The Gold Rush



California is one of the most famous states in the USA. It is the home of Hollywood and cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. But, until 1848, San Francisco was only a tiny village with a few hundred people. Then something happened – people found gold there! Between 1848 and 1855, over 300,000 people travelled to California to look for gold. This time was called the Gold Rush.

The Gold Rush started when James Marshall, a man who worked in a mill in California, saw little pieces of shiny yellow metal in the river. He was very excited to find it was gold. The mill owner tried to keep it a secret, but soon people found out about the gold and started to arrive in California.

They came from all over the world. Some were Americans, but many came from places like China, Mexico, Europe and Australia. The people looking for gold were called *prospectors*. Many travelled by ship, and some travelled overland on horses and wagons.

At first, many people found gold and became rich. They found it by 'panning for gold' with a big pan.

They put water and small stones into the pan, then shook it. As gold is heavier, it went to the bottom of the pan, where the prospector could find it easily.

Looking for gold was very hard work. The prospectors lived in tents and cooked on fires. Life was very hard and many became ill.

After a few years, most of the gold from the rivers was gone. Then most of the prospectors found very little gold and were very poor. When the gold ran out, everyone left the camps and tried somewhere else. In fact, there are still some empty towns in California from this time. There are lots of empty buildings, but nobody lives there now. One example is Bodie in California. Tourists can visit it today to find out more about life during the Gold Rush.

But the city of San Francisco grew and is now one of the biggest cities in the USA. It is thanks to the Gold Rush that the city became so successful.

Gold Rush facts

- People used their old ships to build houses. Today, you can still see old ships below buildings in San Francisco.
- Children play 'panning for gold' games at parties.

3 Read again and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 San Francisco is a village now. _____ | 2 The Gold Rush happened in China. _____ |
| 3 Some prospectors came by sea. _____ | 4 No prospectors became rich. _____ |

1 Describe the pictures. What is the story about?

2 Listen and read. 128



Long ago, in Ancient Greece, there was a king named Midas. He lived in an enormous palace with his wife and his daughter. King Midas was very, very rich. He had more gold than any other king in the world. His palace was full of gold statues, gold jewellery and gold coins, but Midas was greedy and he always wanted more.

One day, the king was walking in the garden of his palace with his daughter. She was picking yellow flowers for her room. "Those yellow flowers are very beautiful," King Midas said, "but gold flowers are more beautiful."

The king's daughter ran back into the palace with her flowers and the king walked alone. Then Midas made a wish. He wished that everything he touched became gold. Soon he touched a flower. It became gold. He touched a tree and it became gold.

He touched a plant and it too was gold. "My wish has come true!" he shouted.

The king touched many things in his garden and in his palace. He touched pictures and vases and plates and they all became gold. Soon Midas was hungry and thirsty.

But, when he put some bread in his mouth, it turned to gold. And when he put some water to his lips, it also turned to gold.



The king sat in his garden. "I have all the gold in the world," he thought, "but I cannot eat and I cannot drink. What shall I do?"

At last, the king's daughter saw her father in the garden. She ran to him because he looked so sad. She touched his hand and suddenly she became gold, too. King Midas made another wish. He wished that he could have his daughter back and he wished to not have any more gold. Suddenly, all the gold was gone and his daughter was playing happily in the garden. King Midas had learnt his lesson and he never asked for more gold again.

3 Read again and write *yes* or *no*.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Does King Midas have a lot of gold? _____ | 2 Does King Midas want more gold? _____ |
| 3 Can King Midas eat the bread? _____ | 4 Does this story have a moral? _____ |

4 Ask and answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Do you enjoy stories like this? Why? | 2 What is your favourite story from your country? |
|--|---|



1 Look at the pictures. What job did Marie Curie do?

2 Listen and read.  129

Marie Curie

Can you imagine a world without X-rays? X-rays let doctors see your bones, so they know if you have a broken arm or leg. X-rays exist thanks to the work of a very important scientist called Marie Curie. She discovered *radium*, an element used in X-rays and treatments for cancer. Her work was so important that Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and was also the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes. Marie was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. She was the youngest of five children. Her parents were both teachers. Science and maths were her favourite subjects at school. As her father was a maths teacher, he could help her at home. When Marie left school, she wanted to be a scientist, but the family did not have enough money for her to study. She worked as a teacher to earn money, and read science books in her free time. She had to wait six years to have enough money to study. Finally, in 1891, Marie went to study Physics at a famous university in France, called the Sorbonne. In France, she met her husband, Pierre Curie, who was a famous scientist. They worked on complicated experiments together, and during these experiments the new elements were found.



A talented family

As well as the achievements of Marie and her husband, Pierre, their daughters, Irene and Eve, were also very successful.

Irene, the older daughter, also became a famous scientist and won a Nobel Prize for Chemistry. The younger daughter, Eve, wrote a book about her mother's life.



World War I

During World War I, there were not enough X-ray machines for the hospitals. Marie Curie made X-ray machines that could move from hospital to hospital in a truck. These trucks were called *Little Curies* and helped over one million soldiers during the war.

Safety

Although radium is a very helpful element, no one knew at the time that it can also be very dangerous. Nowadays, people are much more careful. Marie Curie did not wear protective clothing and often carried radioactive materials in her pockets. Sadly, Marie died in 1934 due to too much contact with the element. She will always be remembered for her excellent contribution to science and to healthcare.

Nobel Prizes are given each year to the best scientists in the world. You have to discover something very important to receive this award.

3 Read again and circle the correct word.

1 Marie Curie was born in **France / Poland**.

3 **Eve / Irene** wrote a book about Marie Curie's life.

2 Marie and Pierre had two **daughters / sons**.

4 Marie Curie's parents were **scientists / teachers**.

4 Ask and answer.

1 Do you like science? Why?

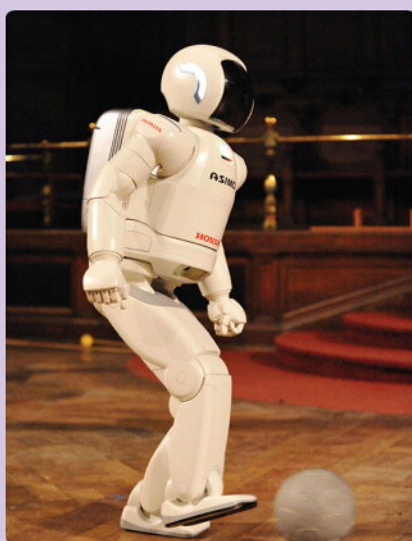
2 What do you want to do when you grow up?

Robots

Most people have seen films or TV programmes with robots in them, but can you imagine a world with real robots? Would you like a robot to cook your dinner, clean your house or play football with you?

There is a robot that can do these things. Its name is ASIMO and it is from Japan. ASIMO is the most advanced robot in the world. It is the first robot to walk and run like a human, and it can even climb stairs. The robot can run at 6km per hour, about the same as a fast child.

ASIMO can also recognise people's faces, their names, and can understand their commands. This robot can respond to what you say and it can learn to speak any language. ASIMO has arms and hands, so it can open doors, carry things and turn lights on and off. ASIMO can help old people or people with disabilities by doing jobs around the house. ASIMO can also play sports and other games, so it is very popular with children. In fact, ASIMO is the same height as a ten year-old child, at 1.3 metres tall. The robot also looks very friendly and playful.



The future of robots

In the future, robots will also do dangerous jobs like putting out fires, rescuing people after earthquakes or going to dangerous places. They may also teach in schools and help with operations in hospitals. Special robot arms in factories already make cars, and in the future more things will be made by robots.

Although some robots look human, we have to remember that they are machines with computers inside. Robots can do many things, but they cannot think or feel.

Whatever happens in the future, you will probably meet a robot like ASIMO one day.

A job for ASIMO

ASIMO works as the receptionist at the Honda offices in Japan. The robot meets visitors, talks to them and takes them to the correct rooms.

3 Read again and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

1 Asimo can run like a human. _____

2 Robots will put out fires. _____

3 Robots can think and feel. _____

4 Robots can't make cars. _____

4 Ask and answer.

1 Would you like to have an ASIMO robot? Why?

2 What films with robots have you seen? What can the robots do?