

## Drawing of Colonial Victoria



“Victoria, on Vancouver Island.” Artist: Linton (ca. 1857).  
(BC Archives, Call No. G-03249)



## Sample Portrait of Daily Life

| <b>Aspects of daily life</b>                 | <b>Observations/evidence</b>   | <b>Inferences/conclusions</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Economic activity;<br/>Transportation</i> | <i>There is water in front of the site.</i>  | <i>There appears to be a harbour or port for shipping and receiving goods for the community.</i>                         |
| <i>Shelter/housing</i>                       | <i>There are multiple buildings and houses in the background, but they are fairly spread out.</i>                  | <i>This place is not densely populated and seems more rural than urban.</i>  |
| <i>Landscape</i>                             | <i>There are many uncultivated areas in the drawing with wild bushes growing in the foreground and background.</i> | <i>The surrounding area does not appear to be highly populated.</i>  |
| <i>Diet/health</i>                           | <i>There are cows in the foreground of the picture.</i>  | <i>People in this area raised cattle for its meat, milk and cheese.</i>  |
| <i>Transportation</i>                        | <i>There are boats and canoes on the water.</i>  | <i>Water travel would appear to be an important method of getting to and from the community.</i>                         |
| <i>Community life;<br/>Economic activity</i> | <i>There are canoes coming and going from the fort.</i>  | <i>Perhaps aboriginal people lived in the area and were involved in trading activities with the community.</i>           |
| <i>Economic activity</i>                     | <i>There appear to be farms laid out across the water from the drawing.</i>  | <i>This suggests significant agricultural activity in the area to feed the residents and possibly to sell to others.</i> |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#4

### Assessing Observations and Inferences

|  | Outstanding  | Very good   | Competent  | Satisfactory   | In progress   |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Identifies accurate and relevant details from the document(s)</b> | Accurately identifies a large number of the relevant and accurate details, including several less obvious details. | Accurately identifies a large number of the relevant and accurate details, including some less obvious details. | Identifies a number of relevant and accurate, but generally obvious details.           | Identifies only a handful of the most obvious details, not all of the observations are relevant or accurate. | Struggles to identify even the most obvious details.                            |
| <b>Provides plausible and imaginative inferences</b>                 | Provides many varied and imaginative inferences that are highly plausible.   | Provides many plausible and sometimes imaginative inferences.   | Provides a number of inferences that are generally plausible but often rather obvious. | Provides a few plausible, but obvious inferences.  | Struggles to provide any plausible inferences that build upon the observations. |
| <b>Comments:</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>             |  |   |  |  |   |

## Colonial British Columbia Before the Gold Rush

The area that became the city of Victoria, British Columbia experienced dramatic changes between 1840 and 1860. This area is the traditional home of the Lekwungen people, who are members of the Coast Salish-speaking language group. Up until the 1830's they lived in villages made up of large lodges that held extended families. They hunted for deer and other animals, fished for salmon, and cultivated a root vegetable (like a potato).

Maritime fur traders from Britain, Spain and the Eastern United States purchased sea otter pelts from Nuuchahnulth people on the West Coast of Vancouver Island since the 1780s, and the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and North West Company (NWC) had traded for furs on the mainland since the early 1800s. In the 1840's both British and American companies had rights to trade for furs in the Oregon Territory, the area of land that extended from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and included most of what has become British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.



Fort Vancouver, a HBC fort built at the mouth of the Columbia River in the Oregon Territory, was difficult to sail into and out of because of dangerous sandbars. As a result the HBC instructed James Douglas to find a better location. In 1843 he started building Fort Victoria where Victoria sits today.

The Lekwungen people sold wooden stakes to the British government

to build the walls of the fort. In 1843-44, the Lekwungen moved closer to the

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Oregoncountry.png>

retrieved December 15, 2009

new fort. When wood behind the Native village caught fire in 1844, HBC trader Roderick Finlayson used it as an excuse to force the Lekwungen to move across the harbour where they were able to control the trade of other Indigenous people with Fort Victoria.

The HBC relied on the Lekwungen (by this point they had become known as the Songhees) people for their labour. Men helped clear land to grow vegetables and grain, worked as dairymen and sheep shearers, in house construction, and they relayed messages to the mainland by canoe. Lekwungen people provided most of the food for the fort, including salmon, potatoes, clams and oysters.

Conflict between Britain and the United States over control of the Oregon Territory increased as more and more Americans moved west to settle in the area. Rather than go to war, Britain and the United States signed the Treaty of Washington in 1846, where they agreed to divide the Oregon Territory in half at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. Vancouver Island remained under British control despite the fact that its southern tip sits below the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. Neither government were concerned about the rights of Indigenous people to govern these territories, despite the fact that they were the majority population in the area, and had lived there for thousands of years.

The HBC hoped to gain exclusive trading rights on Vancouver Island. In 1849, the British government created the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island to maintain control over the Pacific Northwest. The HBC was given the exclusive rights to trade with Indigenous people if they agreed to colonize the island with British settlers, and the British government retained the right to appoint the governor.

The first governor, Richard Blanshard, was not very successful since the HBC, headed by James Douglas, controlled the settlers, most of whom worked for the company. After Blanshard resigned and left in 1851, the Colonial Office appointed James Douglas as the new governor of Vancouver Island.

The British Colonial Office directed Douglas to sign treaties with local Indigenous people that would extinguish their title [remove any claim] to the land. Between 1850 and 1854, Douglas negotiated 14 treaties on Vancouver Island. In the treaties, Indigenous people agreed to give up all land except for their village sites and gardens in exchange for blankets, and the right to hunt and

fish in unoccupied areas. These treaties were arranged through interpreters, so neither party may have fully understood the other.

As part of their agreement with the British government, the HBC advertised for settlers in Britain and brought out several hundred colonists on sailing vessels in the 1850s. In a census taken in 1854, the total European population of Vancouver Island was 774 (including 562 in Victoria). Many of these settlers worked at farms owned by the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company. One of their farms, Craigflower, grew wheat, milled it, and baked it into long-lasting biscuits for the British navy, which had ships stationed at Esquimalt Harbour beginning in 1846.

Gold was discovered on the Queen Charlotte Islands in the early 1850s, but the Haida rejected attempts by outsiders to mine it. Around the same time, Nlaka'pamux people were mining for gold on the Thompson and Fraser rivers and selling it to the HBC. Miners moving north from the California gold rush of 1849 found out about the Fraser Canyon gold by 1857. In April 1858, a boat carrying four hundred miners arrived in Victoria, and the rush was on.

The British government worried that the influx of American miners into their territory would lead the American government to take control of it. To maintain its control, the British government created the Crown Colony of British Columbia in the fall of 1858. This time the HBC was not allowed to run the mainland colony. Britain appointed Douglas as governor of British Columbia in addition to his position as governor of Vancouver Island, but he was forced to resign from the HBC.

The Fraser River gold rush brought changes to the Colony of Vancouver Island. Because Douglas required miners to purchase a licence in Victoria, thousands of men travelled from the western United States to Victoria before heading to the gold fields on the mainland. Victoria experienced a building boom as shopkeepers hoping to profit from the miners set up stores. Shortly after the gold rush "boom" in the summer of 1858, miners who had not found enough gold or who could not afford to wait out the winter, left, and Victoria's booming economy declined sharply.

### Colonial British Columbia Timeline

- 1774 Captain Juan José Pérez Hernandez drops anchor off the Queen Charlotte Islands, and at Nootka Sound, trading with Haida and Nuuchahnulth who canoed out to his vessel.
- 1775 Spanish captains Quadra and Hezeta land at 57 degrees north (midway up the Alaska Panhandle) and erect a cross, which they saw as a way of claiming territory.
- 1778 British Captain James Cook visits Nootka Sound looking for a Northwest Passage from the west. The crew repairs the ships and trades for furs. Cook's ships travel to Macao where furs are traded for a high price.
- 1785 to 1825 Height of the maritime trade for sea otter pelts on the Northwest Coast.
- 1789 Looking for a route to the Pacific Ocean to transport furs, North West Company (NWCo) explorer Alexander Mackenzie follows the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean.
- 1790 Spain and Britain sign the Nootka Convention, agreeing that both countries have the right to trade for furs on the Pacific Northwest.
- 1792-94 George Vancouver maps the western coastline, proving there was no Northwest Passage.
- 1793 Alexander Mackenzie is guided along an aboriginal trading trail to the Pacific at Bella Coola.
- 1805 American explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark reach the mouth of the Columbia River.
- 1805 Explorer Simon Fraser of the NWCo sets up fur trade posts at Fort St. James at Stuart Lake in New Caledonia.
- 1808 Simon Fraser (NWCo) travels down the river named after him. Rapids make this river unsuitable for transporting furs.
- 1811 David Thompson (NWCo) reaches the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River. Americans have already established a settlement at Astoria in the Oregon Territory.
- 1818 Great Britain and the United States sign an agreement to jointly occupy the region around Astoria in the Oregon territory.
- 1821 NWCo merges into the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).
- 1824 HBC establishes Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River, in the Oregon Territory.
- 1825 Russia's boundaries settled along Alaskan "panhandle", down to 54 degrees 40'.
- 1828 HBC establishes Fort Langley at the mouth of Fraser River as a supply post.
- 1831 HBC establishes Fort Simpson at the mouth of the Nass River on north coast below Alaska.
- 1830s Increasing American settlement in the Oregon Territory.
- 1839 Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the HBC, sets up operations at Fort Nisqually, to provide food for the HBC and for exports.
- 1841 The steamship *Beaver* begins transporting furs along the coast for the HBC.
- 1843 HBC establishes Fort Victoria on southern Vancouver Island on Lekwungen lands. Lekwungen people sell food to the HBC and work on agricultural development.
- 1843-44 Lekwungen leave their village sites in Esquimalt Harbour and Cadboro Bay and move to a site next to the newly created Fort Victoria.
- 1843-45 Hundreds of settlers travel to the Oregon Territory. US politicians campaign on the slogan, 54°40' or fight (the Alaskan Panhandle). The US has its eyes on territory as far north as Alaska.

1844 Wood behind the Lekwungen village catches fire, giving HBC trader Roderick Finlayson an excuse to force the Lekwungen to move across the harbour. It was from this point that they tried to control the trade of other First Nations with Fort Victoria.

1846 In April, the United States goes to war with Mexico over the American annexation of Texas.

1846 British Navy establishes a presence at Esquimalt Harbour near Fort Victoria.

1846 Britain and the United States sign the Treaty of Washington, setting the international boundary at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, and through the Juan de Fuca Strait.

1848 By the end of the war, the United States has annexed about half of Mexico's territory, including New Mexico and California.

1849 California gold rush.

1849 Britain establishes the colony of Vancouver Island, to be managed by the HBC, with a governor appointed by the British Colonial Office.

1849 Richard Blanshard is appointed the first governor of Vancouver Island. Because of conflicts with James Douglas and a lack of real authority, he resigns in September 1851.

1850-54 Douglas signs 14 treaties, or agreements, with bands in Victoria, Saanich, Sooke, Metchosin, and at the north end of Vancouver Island.

1850 Haida people bring gold from the Queen Charlotte Islands to the HBC. Rumours of this gold get out and American miners sail up the Queen Charlotte Islands trying to mine but are turned away by local people.

1851 Douglas, an HBC chief factor, becomes governor of Vancouver Island.

1854 The wheat crop of Victoria is enough to feed the local population, for the first and last time.

1850s Colonists coming to Vancouver Island are required to pay for land. Large landowners are expected to bring their own labourers. Voting rights are based on land ownership. This system models the British class system that requires citizens to pay for local public works. At this time, in the United States, land was free for settlers.

1850s The HBC purchases gold dust from Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux people who collect it from the Fraser and Thompson Rivers. The HBC hoped to keep this trade quiet, to keep its monopoly over gold. Douglas let local people collect the gold as they had trapped the furs, but HBC sends it to London and makes a large profit. American miners from California move to Oregon and Washington, organizing themselves to fight wars against Indigenous people.

1851-58 Settlement on Vancouver Island: 180 settlers bought land in the southern part of the Island. The HBC sent out 641 immigrants from Britain to the island between 1848 and 1854 to work as agricultural labourers or coal miners. Some did not survive the voyage, or deserted to the United States. They agreed to work for 5 years in the colony, at the end of which they received 25 to 50 acres of land. About 400 of these immigrants stayed in the colony.

1854 Settler population of Vancouver Island is 774 (up from 30, 6 years earlier). People had settled in Victoria, Esquimalt, Sooke, Metchosin, San Juan Island, Nanaimo, Fort Rupert.

1855 A General Assembly is established that is elected by colonists with voting rights. Only 43 settlers had enough land to qualify them to vote (20 acres). They elected 7 members, 5 of whom had strong ties to the HBC. Even though the colony had representative government, the HBC maintained power.

1856 Indigenous population of Vancouver Island is 25,873.

1857 Nlaka'pamux people, on the mainland, expel American gold miners from their territories.

1858 Word of the gold gets out. In April, 400 miners arrive in Victoria on their way to look for gold in the Fraser River goldfields. Over the next decade, about 30,000 mostly male miners trek through British Columbia with gold fever. Most came via the United States, although many were originally from China, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

To regulate the miners, Douglas proclaimed that all gold on the mainland was the property of the British Crown. If someone wanted to mine, they had to obtain a license in Victoria. Douglas appoints gold commissioners. The digging for placer gold started in June of 1858, about 3 miles south of Fort Hope.

In Victoria, a tent city sprang up overnight. Merchants from San Francisco set up shops to supply the miners. About 200 buildings, most of them stores, went up in about 6 weeks. Town lots that had previously cost \$50 or \$75, would now sell for \$1500 to \$3000.

1858 Fraser River War breaks out between invading miners and local Indigenous people. Conflict is resolved by peace treaties, followed by the arrival of Douglas and the Royal Engineers.

1858 Britain establishes the colony of British Columbia on the mainland. Douglas becomes governor of both Vancouver Island and British Columbia, but gives up his position with HBC.

1859-61 Settlers could pre-empt 160 acres of unsurveyed land for free. Before they could purchase the land, they had to "improve" it by clearing the land for crops or animals, building a house, and putting up fences. The resident could then apply for a certificate of improvement, the land was surveyed, and the resident could purchase the land for a dollar an acre. When the policy was first introduced, Indigenous people also had the right to pre-empt land.

1858-64 Douglas instructed the gold commissioners to lay out reserves in the interior of the colony of British Columbia. Reserves are supposed to be placed where local Indigenous people request them, but the reserves are often too small.

1862-63 An estimated 20,000 Indigenous people died from smallpox in British Columbia during this epidemic, including 14,000 people along the coast. In Victoria, approximately 1000 - 1200 Indigenous people died from the disease.

1864 Douglas leaves office, and is replaced by governors Arthur Kennedy on the Island and Frederick Seymour on Mainland British Columbia. Commissioner Trutch downsizes reserves.

1866 Union of the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

1866 Indigenous people lose the right to pre-empt land in British Columbia.

1867 Canadian Confederation.

1871 British Columbia joins Confederation with promise of transcontinental railway. The federal government takes control of Indian affairs, but land remains under provincial control.

## Sample Text Document

Despatch to London  
Douglas to Labouchere  
2424, CO 305/8, p. 2; received 17 March  
No. 1, Victoria Vancouvers Island  
9<sup>th</sup> January 1857

Sir,

1. There is nothing of much importance respecting the Colony to communicate.
2. Peace and plenty reign throughout the settlements. Trade is rather dull, yet there is no want of employment [there are many jobs] for the labouring classes in the Colony.
3. The native Indian Tribes are quiet and friendly in their deportment [manner] and intercourse [communications] with the settlers. In fact not a single complaint has been made against any Indian of this Colony, for the last two months.
4. The cold weather set in with the beginning of the year, and the ground is now covered with snow to the depth of between 6 and 10 inches, on the sea coast, and much over that depth in the interior of the Island.
5. The live stock on the snow covered pastures are suffering from the weather, but I am informed that the greater part of the domestic cattle are comfortably housed and well supplied with fodder [food]. No loss of cattle from the severity of the weather is therefore anticipated.

Trusting that the Colony may continue in a prosperous state.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

*James Douglas*

Governor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#8

Reading around a Document

|   | Response (What you think) | Evidence (Clues from the document) |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Author:</b> Report everything you can about the <i>author</i> of the document.                               |                           |                                    |
| <b>Audience:</b> Report everything you can about the intended <i>audience</i> for the document.                 |                           |                                    |
| <b>Context:</b> Report everything you can about <i>where</i> and <i>when</i> the document was created.          |                           |                                    |
| <b>Type of document:</b> Report on the kind of document it is (diary? personal letter? legal document?).        |                           |                                    |
| <b>Purpose:</b> Report everything you can about the likely reason for creating the document.                    |                           |                                    |
| <b>Credibility:</b> Report everything you can about whether the information in the document is reliable or not. |                           |                                    |

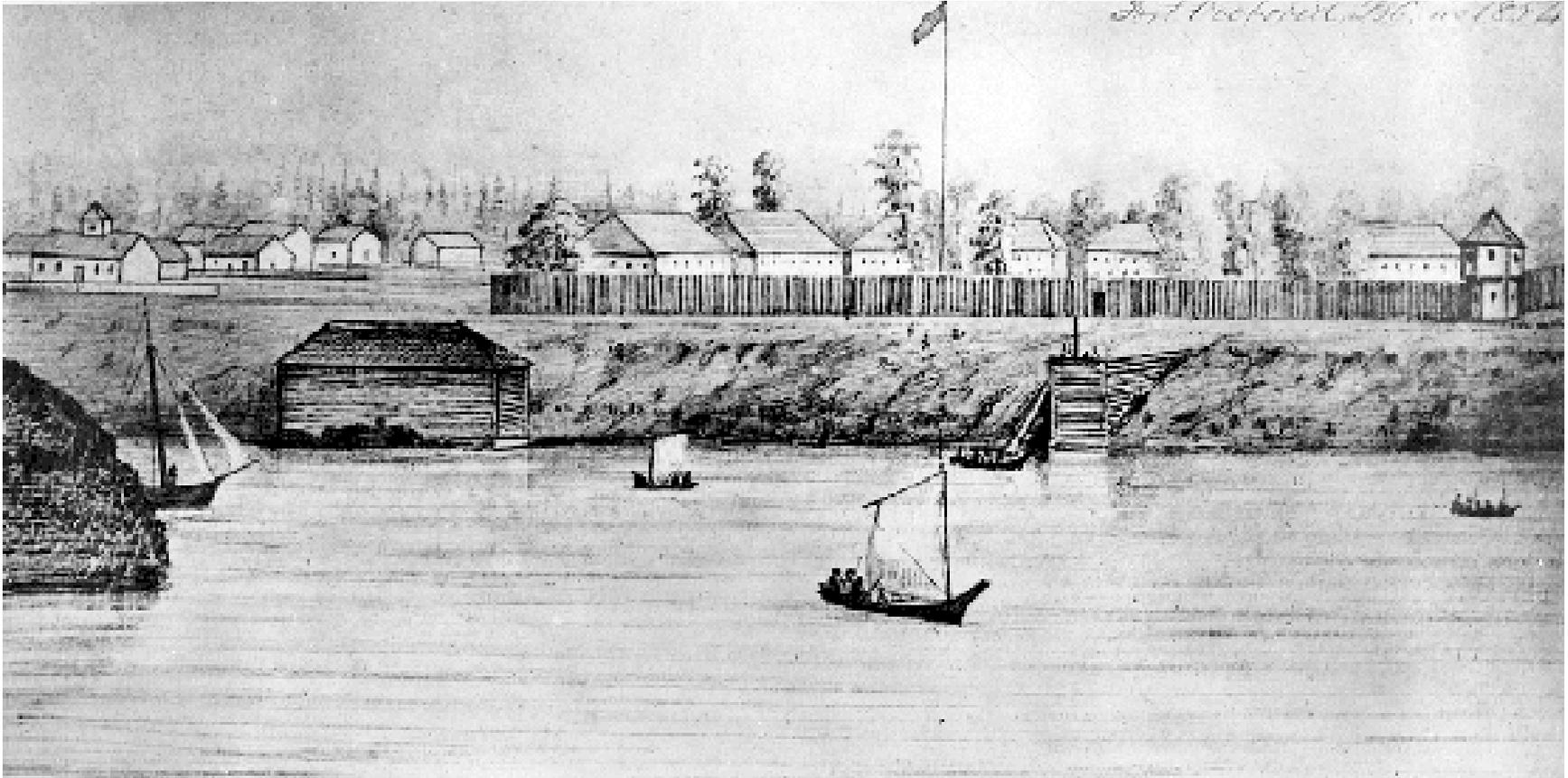
## Pre-Gold Rush Sources

### Pre-Gold Rush Document #1



"Return of a War Party." Artist: Paul Kane (1847)  
Songhees Village and Fort Victoria  
(Royal Ontario Museum, ROM2005\_5161\_1)

### Pre-Gold Rush Document #2



“Sketch of Fort Victoria” (1854).  
(BC Archives, Call No. A-04104)

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #3**

A Map of Victoria & Puget Sound Districts, Sheet No. 1 Victoria to Oak Bay.  
Joseph D. Pemberton, (1851) (Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Map 312A, G1/133)  
**Pre-Gold Rush Document #4**

#9



"First house in Victoria; Kenneth McKenzie and family lived south of the Fort Victoria stockade." (1850s).  
(BC Archives, Call No. A-01433)

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #5**

Agricultural land existed on the island, but.....a strictly agricultural economy was impossible on Vancouver Island; Fort Victoria never equalled Fort Vancouver's [Washington] level of agricultural production.....Self-sufficiency was impossible, and any surplus went to the colony's domestic market. The 1854 wheat crop from the Victoria area was sufficient to meet the entire colonial demand for flour, though this had not happened before and has not happened since.

Source: Richard Mackie, "The Colonization of Vancouver Island," *BC Studies* 96 Winter 1992-93, 37.

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #6**

*Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken came to the colony of Vancouver Island in 1850 to work as a physician for the Hudson's Bay Company. He married James Douglas's daughter, Cecilia, in 1852, and was elected to the first legislative assembly in 1856.*

The district of Victoria was at this time like a large park - patches of forest and open glades [openings in a forest]; these all had names - such as Minnie's [Minie's] Prairie and Punchbowl - the latter around Harris Pond and the former a little further, the grand prairie is now Tolmie's, & so forth. A large portion of what is now Victoria City was then cultivated fields and so was a portion of James Bay.....All around James Bay roses, red current, natalia mock orange and spirea grew in abundance - very little wind reached in from the sea because forests of pine between the harbour and sea intercepted it - in fact forest surrounded the whole space, even coming as close as Cormorant Street. Thus the climate was delicious, the cold sea breezes having no access. Mr. Douglas would not allow the forest sheltering to be cut down, as he thought if removed the harbour of Victoria would not be sufficiently sheltered. We often wish now that the protecting forests stood there still.

Wishart and I used to travel over these grounds and enjoyed it - he had a bump of locality. Sometimes we would meet an Indian or two, of whom I was timid, but they never bothered us in any way. Benson was too lazy to walk much. In these plains bands of horses, cayuses [(horses owned by Indigenous people) aboriginal raised horse], existed and so did cattle of the Spanish variety, with horns goodness knows how long and pointed - these were much more dangerous than the natives, but fortunately we were never molested [bothered], so soon we became accustomed and roamed about to

Cedar Hill [later called Mount Douglas], Mount Tolmie &c., without any fear whatever!

Source: John Sebastian Helmcken, *The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken*, edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1975), pp. 104-105.

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #7**

*Robert Melrose and his wife were Scottish immigrants who worked at Craighflower Farm, operated by a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company.*

May 1856

- Th. 1 Mr. McKenzie removed into his new house. heavy showers.  
 Fr. 2 Four sheep killed.  
 S. 4 American Sloop of war "Decatur" sailed Puget Sound.  
 Tu. 6 Very warm weather.  
 We. 7 S.S. "Otter" sailed Bellvue [San Juan Island] with a cargo of horses.  
 Fr. 9 Great discoveries of gold in different parts of the Island.  
 Sa. 10 John Instant  $\frac{3}{4}$  D. Brick-kiln burnt off.  
 S. 11 Refreshing rain.  
 Mo. 12 One sheep killed.  
 Tu. 13 American S.S. "John Hancock" [naval ship] visited Esquimalt.  
 Fr. 16 Brig "Recovery" arrived from San Francisco. Five sheep killed.  
 Sa. 17 John Instant dropped work.  
 S. 18 Mrs. Captain Cooper gave birth to a female child.  
 Tu. 20 Duncan Lidgate, John Instant, & Robert Laing apprehended for shooting into Mr. McKenzie's house.  
 Th. 22 Three sheep killed by dogs.  
 Fr. 23 Five sheep killed.  
 Sa. 24 Victoria Races celebrated on Beacon Hill. Duncan Lidgate, John Instant, and Robert Laing bailed out of prison.  
 S. 25 Refreshing showers. Brig "Recovery" sailed Sandwich Islands.  
 Mo. 26 John Instant removed to Esquimalt bay. One sheep killed by dogs. William Brown & wife removed to Craig Flower.  
 We. 28 Showery weather.  
 Fr. 30 Four Sheep killed.  
 Sa. 31 Another examination held on D. Lidgate, J. Instant, and R. Laing.

August 1856

- Tu. 12 H.M.S. "Trincomalee" 22 guns arrived.... The Members for the House of Assembly sworn in.  
 Th. 14 Cattle killed every day for the ships.  
 Fr. 15 Four Sheep killed.  
 Sa. 16 Barque "Agnes Garland" sailed China.  
 Mo. 18 Mrs. Liddle gave birth to a female child.  
 Tu. 19 House of Assembly met.  
 We. 20 Thomas Williams shot through the arm by an Indian.  
 S. 24 Attended divine [religious] service on board H.M.S. "Monarch."  
 Tu. 26 Royal salute fired for Prince Albert's birth day.  
 Th. 28 Robert Anderson's child died.  
 Fr. 29 S.S. "Otter" taken H.M.S. "Trincomalee" in tow up to Coweigan.  
 Sa. 30 Sheep killed.

Source: Diary of Robert Melrose, 1856, *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* vol.7, no.2, no. 3, and no. 4 (1943).

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #8**

*Robert John Staines came to Fort Victoria from England in 1849 and worked as a teacher, clergyman, and farmer. In 1854, he left to deliver two petitions to England protesting against James Douglas having appointed his own brother-in-law as chief justice.*

**Observations on daily life**

. . . if you could be present in my house for one month, or even one week, be a witness of the various kinds of occupation that I have within such a period to undertake. There is the school, the ministry, the Colony, my neighbours, strangers, English & American, the natives, helping Emma to make the bed, sending one of my pupils with an Indian servant to try to get meat for the day, trading venison, partridges, salmon, mats, baskets, berries &c., &c., &c., with Indians, cutting up a deer, a quarter of beef, or a sheep, teaching the Indians how to cook it, occasionally going into the kitchen to see that all is going on right, preparing & mixing ingredients for soup, gardening, including fen[c]ing, breaking up the ground, procuring from all quarters of the globe, or saving seeds, going to gather peas, cut cabbages, attending to their being properly boiled, for Emma cannot eat meat well without vegetables, & cannot eat them unless nicely cooked, making sauce if we have time a[nd] materials; considering, when a vessel is going to the Sandwich Islands, what articles of use in the Domestic economy, it may be proper to try to procure these, or at other times how to invent substitutes for them, attending to the poultry, gathering the eggs, setting the hens, registering the time of incubation of each, feeding the chickens, also the dogs; this brings me perhaps to dinner time . . .

For some months we have supplied ourselves with milk & butter, & very soon we shall have our own meat altogether, pork beef & mutton; also our own potatoes, so that instead of buying 200 bushels every season of Indians, in lots from 2 or 3 to 10 or 12 bushels at a time, from Oct. to Feb.y all of which I have to stand by to see weighted myself,—we shall have from the farm all we want & some hundreds or thousands of bushels to sell.

Perhaps you would like to have some idea of the stock on the land. Well then there are 10 cows with their calves, 3 yearlings of oxen, 31 head in all, 3 mares 1 horse and 2 other horses bought for me at Nisqually, but not yet arrived, about 20 pigs, including 11 or 12 sows, all the produce of 1 sow which I bought in 1850, & which is the finest in Vancouver's Island. . . .

There is a dairy built, a store-house, a fowl-house, a piggery, an enclosure for driving in the cattle, 2 dwelling houses, each with 2 windows & a chimney, but with only one room. . . . There is a portion of land of about 25 acres nearly enclosed with a strong fence, about 9 acres of which are ploughed & sown with wheat, oats, barley, pease, potatoes & turnips, though from the

fence not being completed in time this will nearly be all destroyed by the irruptions of cattle. However there will be at least all this under crop next year, if we live & prosper.

Source: Rev. R.J. Staines, Vancouver Island, to Reverend Thomas Boys, Hoxton [England] 6 July 1852. Boys sent a copy of the letter to the Earl of Desart, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, 11 October 1852. 9263, CO 305/3, p. 495.

**Pre-Gold Rush Document #9**

*Martha Beeton Cheney came to Vancouver Island in 1851 from England with her aunt and uncle, who managed a farm in Metchosin for independent settler Captain James Cooper. In July 1855, Martha Cheney married ship captain Henry Ella.*

**1856****March**

. . .

**26th**, Wednesday evening came on to rain and Blow from the S.W. Thursday fine with a Breeze, S.W. I have been Sowing Flower seeds, and Nuts. The Otter returned from San Francisco, a quick passage of 19 days.

**29th**, My husband came down, also Mr Barr and Capt Cooper, with his two daughters, the younger to stay with us for a short time.

**31st**, My husband returned to Victoria on horseback.

**April**

. . . .

**10th**, Uncle and I rode over to Colwood, met with Miss Cameron Mr McDonald and Mr Mackay and Mr Margery there. Uncle went to Esquimalt Mill to see our Flour ground, he returned home the same evening. The Boat with the Flour next morning. . . .

**May**

. . .

**19th**, I went to Victoria with my husband in a canoe, a nice calm morning. I remain at Mrs Barr's untill Mr Ella Sails.

**24th**, The Queen's birthday, a very wet miserable day, had racing as usual in Victoria My husband sailed this morning, in the Brig Recovery, for the Sandwich Islands.

**26th**, I returned to Metchosen called at Mrs Coopers on my way to see her and the Baby. I got home about 9 oclock at night - canoe traveling . . . .

**27th**, Mr Ford, and Tom looking for Gold, washing out sand, they succeeded in getting the colour, they got some beautifull black sand with several specks of Gold in it. Weather rather unsettled this last week.

**July**

. . . .

**8th**, Aunt sprained her ancle very bad.

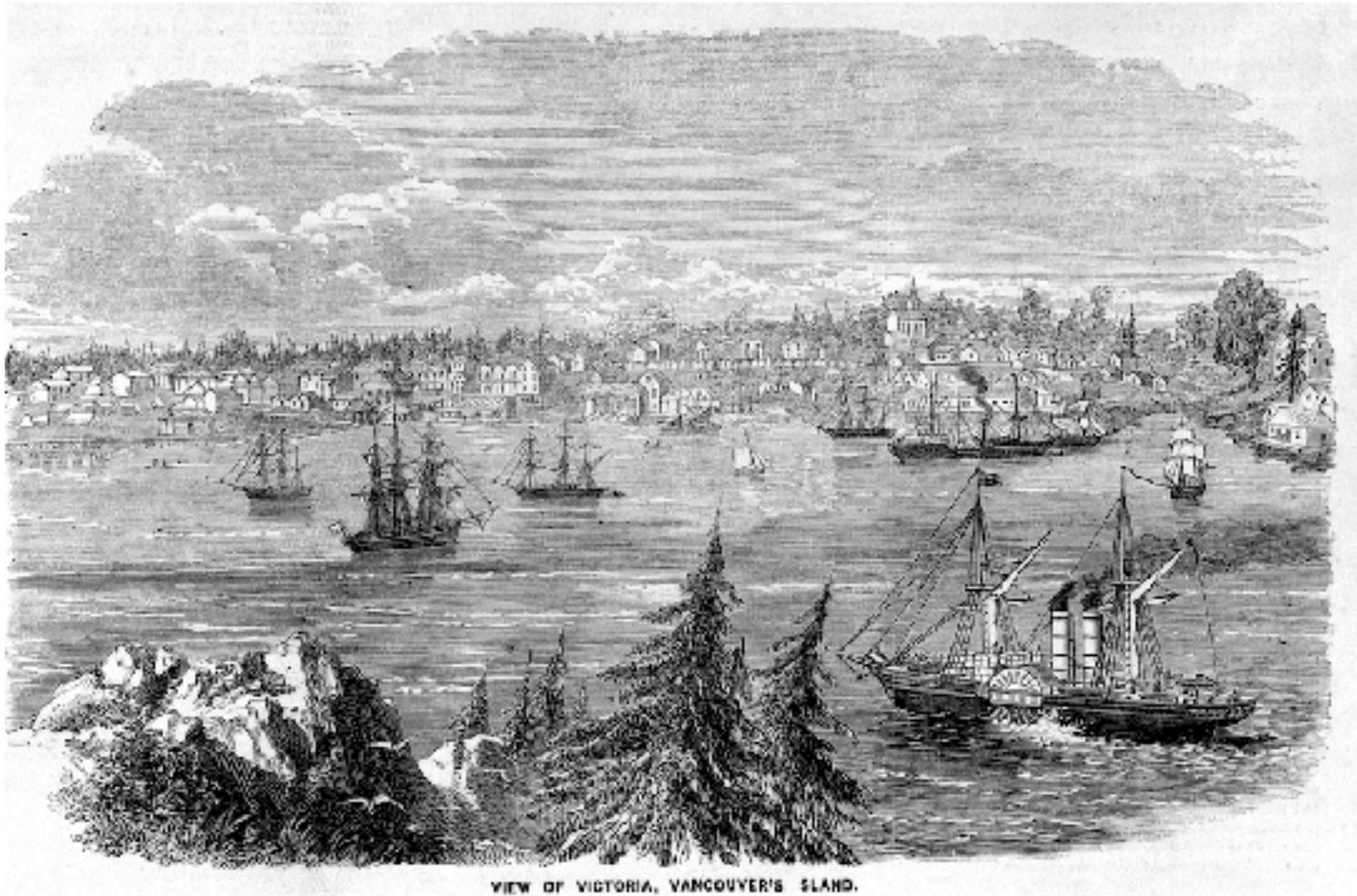
**9th**, ... Aunt is still laid up with her ancle. I have a great deal to do, 9 cows to milk night and morning, for a treat.

**22d**, The Recovery returned from the Islands to day she had a very good passage. My husband came down in the evening, returned to the Fort early next morning.

Source: James K. Nesbitt, ed., "The Diary of Martha Cheney Ella," *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*, April, July-October 1949, 91-112, 257-270.

Post-Gold Rush Sources

Post-Gold Rush Document #1



"View of Victoria, Vancouver's Island." (November 1858).  
(BC Archives, Call No. PDP00263)



**#10**



“Victoria in Five Parts; Taken from the Bird Cages.” Photographer: Richard Roche (August 1859).  
(BC Archives, Call No. A-02850)

Post-Gold Rush Document #4



"Yates Street." Artist: Sarah Crease (October 1860).  
(BC Archives, Call No. PDP02894)

Post-Gold Rush Document #5



Songhees Village. Photographer: Frederick Dally (1866-1870).

**Post-Gold Rush Document #6**

*Lieut. Charles Wilson worked as secretary and organized supplies for the British North American Land Boundary Commission which surveyed the mainland border along the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel between British Columbia and the United States, from 1858 to 1862*

Vancouver Island itself is most beautiful, but turned quite upside down by the gold discovery, a regular San Francisco in 49. You are hardly safe without arms & even with them, when you have to walk along paths across which gentlemen with a brace of revolvers each are settling their differences; the whiz of revolver bullets round you goes on all day & if anyone gets shot of course it's his own fault; however I like the excitement very much & never felt better in my life.

Source: *Mapping the Frontier: Charles Wilson's Diary of the Survey of the 49th Parallel, 1858-1862, While Secretary of the British Boundary Commission*, ed. George F.G. Stanley (Toronto: 1970), p. 25.

**Post-Gold Rush Document #7**

*Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken came to the colony of Vancouver Island in 1850 to work as a physician for the Hudson's Bay Company. He married James Douglas's daughter, Cecilia, in 1852, and was elected to the first legislative assembly in 1856.*

The failure of the mines and exodus of so many miners, produced great depression in Victoria, and Whatcom collapsed. Many merchants left for San Francisco again, and the stores of goods were sent back to San Francisco. The value of real estate fell in Victoria - I was offered part of my property back for less than I sold it for, but declined to buy and the same happened to others - everyone was depressed and gloomy, the reaction had come with a vengeance.

I need not say we all lost our head -we were too green to make much money-somehow we could not comprehend and did not believe the change in Victoria to be permanent. . . . Victoria however had grown, had become a town, with a large number of active live people in it -people who had been all over the world and experienced its uprisings and downfallings, so there were many hopeful still . . .

Source: John Sebastian Helmcken, *The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken*, edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1975), p. 162.

**Post-Gold Rush Documents #8**

*Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken came to the colony of Vancouver Island in 1850 to work as a physician for the Hudson's Bay Company. He married James Douglas's daughter, Cecilia, in 1852, and was elected to the first legislative assembly in 1856.*

Somehow or other the gold discoveries were magnified by steamboat companies in San Francisco and we were startled by shiploads of miners coming to seek their fortunes in the gold fields [in the Fraser Canyon]. When told that we knew little or nothing about such fields, they would not believe, thinking we wanted to keep the whole for the Hudson's Bay Co! Of course there was not any accommodation for them, but they built tents of grey cotton: hundreds of these tents dotted the land from Government Street almost as far as Spring Ridge - but they were peaceable law abiding people. Here then was a city of wayfarers [travellers]: sprung up like mushrooms. The HBCo and local shops did a rushing business. New stores were hurried up by American and other traders [and] wharves were built. . . .

Source: John Sebastian Helmcken, *The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken*, edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1975), pp. 154-155.

**Post-Gold Rush Document #9**

*Edgar Fawcett was born in Australia. He travelled to San Francisco with his family, and in 1859, his family moved north to Victoria after gold was discovered on the Fraser River.*

Before I conclude I would again speak of the large stores in the fort, which supplied the colonists with all they required except meats. It was said at the time that you might get anything at the stores, from a needle to an anchor. This might well have been true, for it was the repository of all the Company's goods for supplying their servants with all their necessaries . . .

It took us the best part of a day to go to Hillside Farm for a sack of assorted vegetables. Several boys would start together for this trip into the country. It is astonishing how the absence of streets or roads lengthens this distance, and so it was then. We started after breakfast and took our lunch, going across country by trail, each with a sack, which was filled by old Willie Pottinger, the gardener, for a shilling. Very good and fresh they were, and very cheap this was considered. With our loads we started for home, and the further we got from Hillside the heavier the vegetables got, and therefore the more stoppages we made to rest. At last Fort and Blanchard Streets were in sight, and we were home again, tired out and hungry as hunters.

Source: Edgar Fawcett, *Reminiscences of Old Victoria*, (Toronto: William Briggs, 1912), p. 36.

Edgar Fawcett: My Boyhood Days In Victoria:

[http://web.uvic.ca/vv/articles/fawcett/Fawcett%27s\\_Victoria\\_in\\_1850s\\_and\\_1860s.html](http://web.uvic.ca/vv/articles/fawcett/Fawcett%27s_Victoria_in_1850s_and_1860s.html)

### **Post-Gold Rush Document #10**

*Edgar Fawcett was born in Australia. He travelled to San Francisco with his family, and in 1859, his family moved north to Victoria after gold was discovered on the Fraser River.*

After we had got settled in our new home the question of sending me to school was discussed, and easily settled, for it was Hobson's choice. The Colonial School as it was called, was on the site of the "present" Central School. It was the only one I can think of except Angela College, and maybe a private school. There was a fee of five dollars a year charged, payable quarterly in advance. . . . It was thus: Our school might aptly be termed a mixed one, for it consisted of boys and girls who sat together. This arrangement just suited me, for I was fond of the girls. There were white boys and black boys, Hebrews and Gentiles [Non-Jewish people], rich and poor, and we all sat close together to economize room.

Source: Edgar Fawcett, *Reminiscences of Old Victoria*, (Toronto: William Briggs, 1912), p. 29.

Edgar Fawcett: My Boyhood Days In Victoria:

[http://web.uvic.ca/vv/articles/fawcett/Fawcett%27s\\_Victoria\\_in\\_1850s\\_and\\_1860s.html](http://web.uvic.ca/vv/articles/fawcett/Fawcett%27s_Victoria_in_1850s_and_1860s.html)

### **Post-Gold Rush Document #11**

Racially segregating [separating by race] Victoria was initially proposed as a necessary response to the crime, disorder, prostitution, and excess of Northern Aboriginals rather than to disease [smallpox, 1862]. Beginning in 1855, local burgers [citizens] annually complained about spring-time visits of North-Coast nations, asking that the colonial government evict [remove] them or provide the whites with sufficient arms to mollify [appease] them. Men evoked the chivalric duty as husbands and fathers bound to protect white women and children from threatening, non-white peoples, and missionaries and politicians alike promoted Aboriginal relocation and containment as a benevolent [kind, caring] means of saving the benighted [primitive, crude] savage. By 1859 their pleas convinced Victoria's Grand Jury to recommend First Nations people be removed from the city limits, a point they repeated the following year. Soon after, orders were passed

demanding that Aboriginal people leave the city at night. Initially, only men were included in this directive. After 1860, however, the ruling was expanded to include Aboriginal women. It subsequently became common for the press to assume that these orders were directed against First Nations women specifically, who were, at any rate, the bulk of the urban Aboriginal population. This ruling, while of an uncertain legal nature, was enforced by local police forces who arrested First Nations women for simply being on the streets. . . .

Source: Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), 112-113.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Looking for Continuity and Change**

Identify four aspects of daily life that are evident in the documents and to rate the degree of continuity or change between the two periods.

|  |                                       |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>0</b><br><b>Almost exactly the same</b> | <b>*</b><br><b>Minor changes only</b> | <b>**</b><br><b>Some major changes</b> | <b>***</b><br><b>Very significant changes</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|

| <b>Aspects of daily life</b> | <b>Examples of continuity</b> | <b>Examples of change</b> | <b>Rating of continuity or change and reasons</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
|                              |                               |                           | 0<br>*<br>**<br>***                               |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#12

### Assessing the Rating of Continuity and Change

|  | <b>Outstanding</b>   | <b>Well developed</b>   | <b>Competent</b>   | <b>Underdeveloped</b>  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Identifies significant examples of continuity and change</b>                          | For each aspect, identifies several key examples of continuity and change in daily life. | For most aspects, identifies a few key examples of continuity and change in daily life. | For most aspects, identifies only obvious examples of continuity and change in daily life.                           | Identifies very few examples of continuity and change in daily life.                 |
| <b>Correctly classifies examples and evidence as indicators of continuity and change</b> | Correctly classifies all examples/evidence as indicators of continuity or change.        | Correctly classifies most examples/evidence as indicators of continuity or change.      | Correctly classifies many examples/evidence as indicators of continuity or change, but important errors are evident. | Incorrectly classifies most examples/evidence as indicators of continuity or change. |
| <b>Provides plausible ratings</b>  | All the ratings are provided and each rating is highly plausible.                        | Almost all the ratings are provided, and each rating is plausible.                      | Most ratings are provided and are somewhat plausible.  | Most ratings are missing or implausible.   |
| <b>Offers plausible explanations for the ratings</b>                                     | Offers very plausible explanations for all of the assigned ratings.                      | Offers plausible explanations for most of the assigned ratings.                         | Offers plausible explanations for many of the assigned ratings.  | Offers no plausible explanations for most of the assigned ratings.                   |
| <b>Comments/explanation for rating</b>   |  |   |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#13

**Progress and Decline in Daily Life**

Use this scale to rate the overall progress or decline for various aspects of daily life.

|                           |               |                                |              |                          |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>+2</b>                 | <b>+1</b>     | <b>0</b>                       | <b>-1</b>    | <b>-2</b>                |
| Very significant progress | Some progress | No overall progress or decline | Some decline | Very significant decline |

| Aspect of daily life | Justify your rating of progress or decline for each aspect of quality of life |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | +2<br>+1<br>0<br>-1<br>-2   |
|                      | +2<br>+1<br>0<br>-1<br>-2   |
|                      | +2<br>+1<br>0<br>-1<br>-2   |
|                      | +2<br>+1<br>0<br>-1<br>-2   |

## Document-Based Essay

**Response Topic:** *Was there more continuity or change in the daily life of people living in Victoria before and after the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush?*

**What is a document-based response?:** A DBR is a multi-paragraph response in which the writer is expected to analyze a variety of historical sources, come to a conclusion on a historical question or topic, and write a response that explains the main arguments and supports the arguments with a variety of historical evidence.

### Terminology

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Analysis</b>   | Involves looking more deeply at an issue by breaking it up into its parts and examining in detail.   |
| <b>Argument</b>   | To give reasons for or against a proposal or an idea. The use of logic and evidence to support or refute a point.                            |
| <b>Conclusion</b> | A decision made by reasoning. A judgment, decision or belief reached after investigation. A firm answer based on several pieces of evidence. |
| <b>Evidence</b>   | The factual details used to make a judgment or support a conclusion.   |

**Is there one right answer in a DBR?** While there is no one right answer, there are several plausible (possible) answers and other answers are implausible or highly unlikely. The difference between a plausible and implausible answer depends on the quality of your reasoning and the evidence you provide (from the documents) to support your conclusion.

### Instructions

1. Review your completed activity sheets to decide whether there was more continuity or change when comparing Pre-Gold Rush Victoria and Post-Gold Rush Victoria. The table below outlines the potential conclusions to the question.

|                        |                             |                             |                             |                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Significant continuity | More continuity than change | Equal continuity and change | More change than continuity | Significant change |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|

2. Identify evidence that supports your conclusion from a variety of documents for various aspects of daily life.
3. Write the response. Record your conclusion at the top of the response (*e.g. Victoria had more continuity than change in daily life between the pre-gold rush and post-gold rush period*). Support your conclusion with evidence from the documents. Indicate where you found the evidence to support your thesis (for example, cite "Pre-Rush Document#1" as PreD1, and "Post-Rush Document #2" as PostD2).

Victoria Harbour 1860

