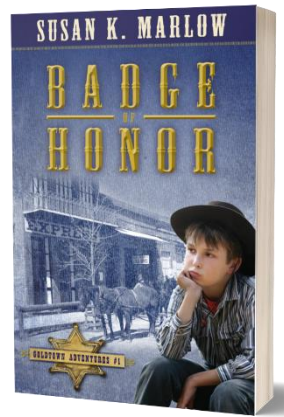


Fun and Free Activities #1

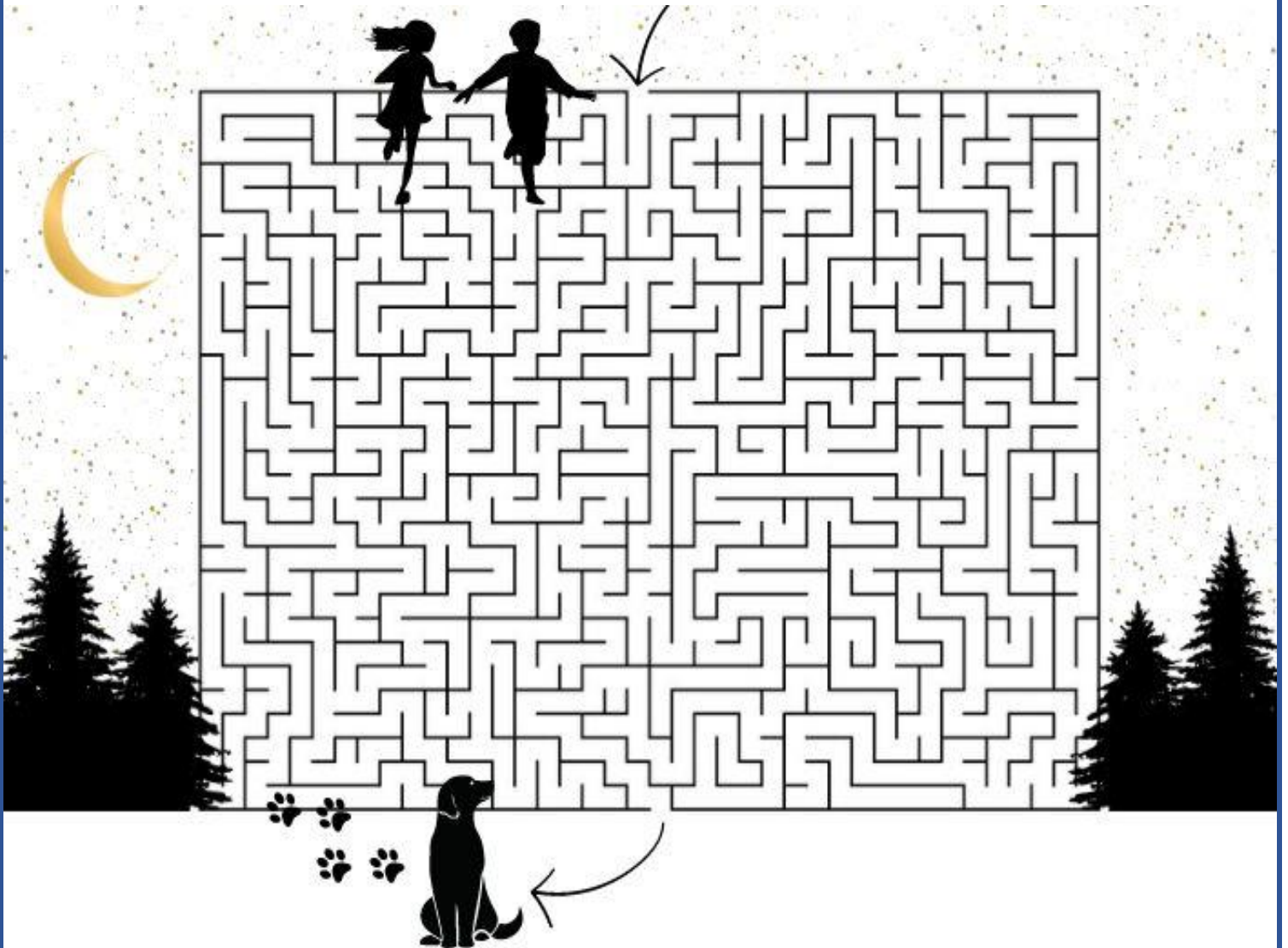
Coloring, mazes, and more from GoldtownBooks.com

Have fun with these puzzles and activities highlighting the New Classics novel selection: *Badge of Honor*, high adventure in an 1860s California gold camp.



Escape into the Wilderness

In *Badge of Honor* (book 1), Jem and Ellie stumble onto a camp of claim jumpers (bad guys). They capture Jem, but Ellie cuts him loose and they sneak away into the night. But the kids are far from home, and the woods are dark. Help brother and sister find their way through the wilderness and back to their own camp, where their faithful dog, Nugget, stands guard over the kids' injured miner friend, Strike. (*Maze answer on the last page.*)



Try a Gold Panning Activity



During the early days of the gold rush, a prospector needed only a **knife**, a **shovel**, a **pick**, and a **gold pan** for his tools. Gold could be pried from the rocks, and gravel could be scooped up from the river in a pan and swirled around to find the gold. Since gold is heavier than creek gravel, it most likely stayed in the bottom of the pan. Soon, however, the easy surface gold was taken. New tools were needed to go after the hard-to-reach gold nuggets and flakes.

Jem's feet were numb inside his boots from crouching in the creek, and his hands shook with cold. He struggled to fill his gold pan with creek mud and gravel.

~Chapter 2, Badge of Honor



Do this activity to find out if you can pan for gold like Jem in an icy mountain stream.

Materials

- ✓ a large tub or bowl of cold water
- ✓ two dozen (or more) ice cubes
- ✓ two dozen (or more) small rocks of various sizes
- ✓ a timer

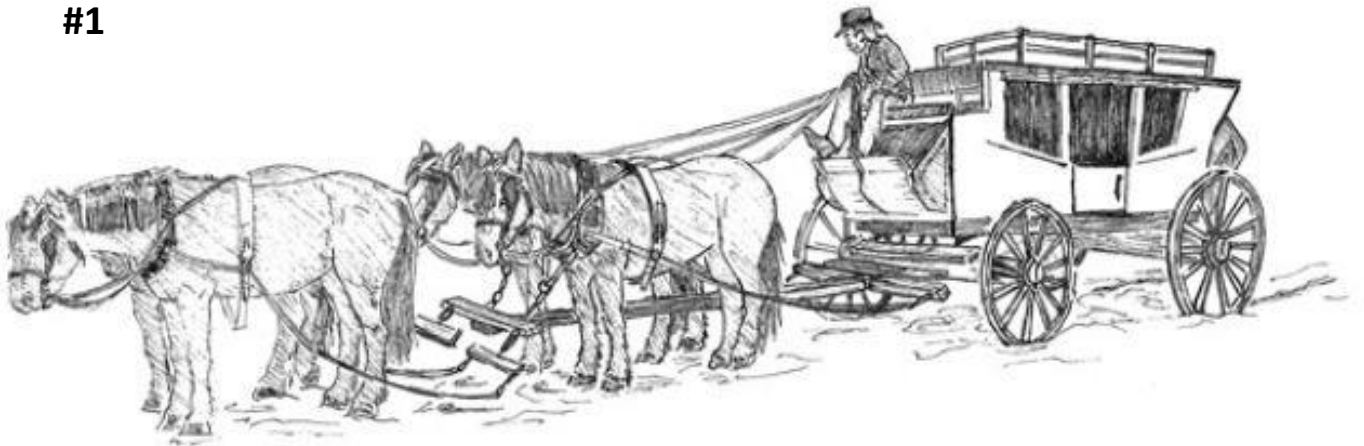
What to Do

1. Fill the tub with cold water. Dump the rocks in the tub. Dump the ice cubes in the tub. Set the timer for 10 minutes to allow the water to get cold.
2. When the water is icy cold, plunge your hands into the tub. Stir the rocks around on the bottom of the tub for 10 seconds. Now, slowly take the rocks out of the tub *one at a time* and set each one aside.
3. Ask someone to time you. How long can you keep taking out the rocks? _____

What's Different?

Badge of Honor is set in 1864, during the height of the Civil War (War Between the States). No cars or planes. Goldtown, California, has no railroad either (at least, not yet). An unexpected visitor and her son arrive in town, traveling by stagecoach, much to Jem and his sister Ellie's surprise. At first, they are not excited about these visitors. Here are two illustrations of the Goldtown stagecoach. Look at #1 carefully. Then circle seven (7) things that are missing from picture #2. (See the solution on the last page.)

#1



#2

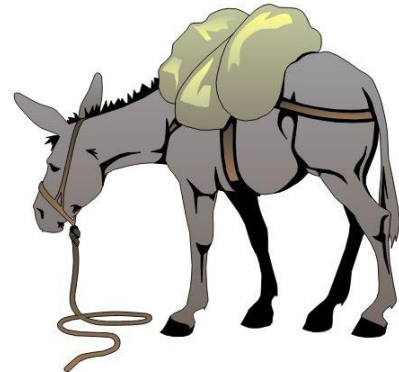
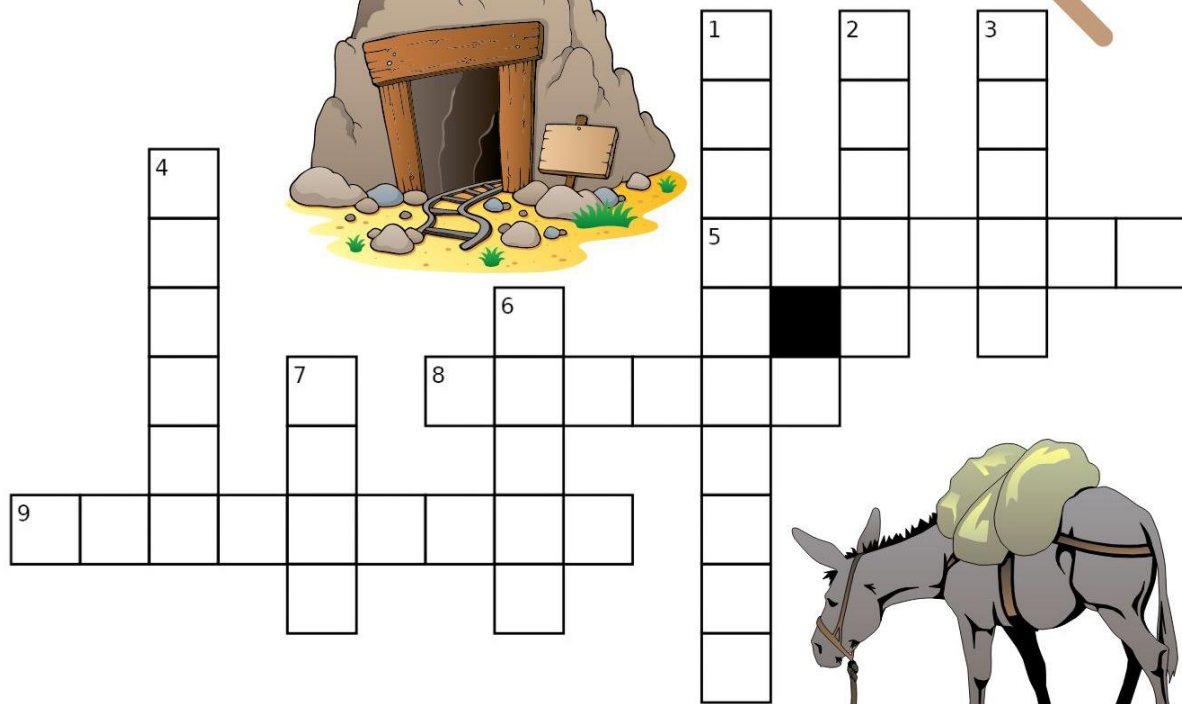
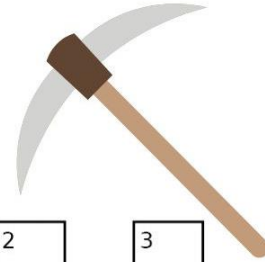


Gold Rush Crossword Puzzle

In *Badge of Honor*, readers learn a lot about the California gold rush. It wasn't easy being a gold prospector. Have fun with a few "gold rush" words. You don't need to read the book to use the clues to figure out this puzzle. Plus, here is this handy word box. Have fun! (*Answers on the last page.*)



burro prospector greenhorn sheriff nugget
miner pyrite claim mine



Down:

1. a person who looks for gold or other minerals
2. another name for a prospector
3. land that a miner has taken for himself
4. another word for fool's gold
6. another word for donkey
7. a pit or passage underground, from which ore is taken

Across:

5. A lawman
8. A piece of gold bigger than a flake
9. An inexperienced person

Gold Fever Maze

“Gold Fever” struck many miners. It wasn’t a disease like influenza or typhoid fever. No, this disease struck a prospector’s mind. Miners with gold fever thought about little else than how much gold they might find, or where new gold strike might be. They stole other miners’ gold claims or dragged their families to the next rumor of a big gold strike. It was very hard for a miner to be cured from gold fever.

In this maze, follow a miner with gold fever as he runs from one gold claim to the next, hoping to find enough gold to turn into gold bars and live rich as King Midas. In reality, only a small percentage of the 80,000 miners who came to the gold fields starting in 1848 got rich. The rest of the people barely earned enough to eat.



For Kids Who Like to Color

Here are a couple of coloring pages for all ages—older kids who like to color detailed pictures, and a page for younger Goldtown readers. Have fun!

This first coloring page highlights Jem's father and Jem's miner friend, Strike-it-rich Sam. They bring gravel, dirt, and water, and pour it into a "rocker" or "cradle." The back and forth action separates the fine gold from the debris. After they collect fine sand and gold, they use a gold pan to separate the gold flakes and dust. Gold panning was (and is) a lot of work!

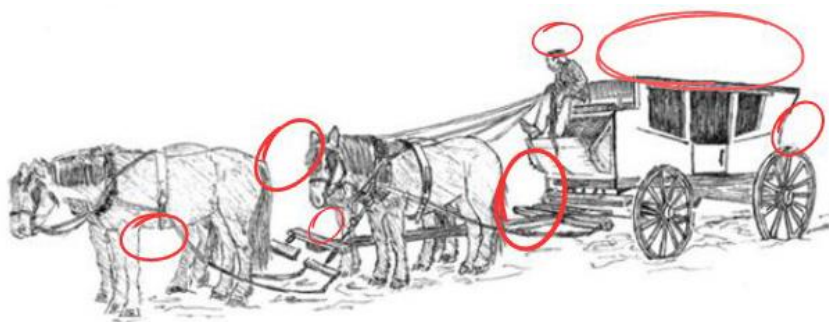
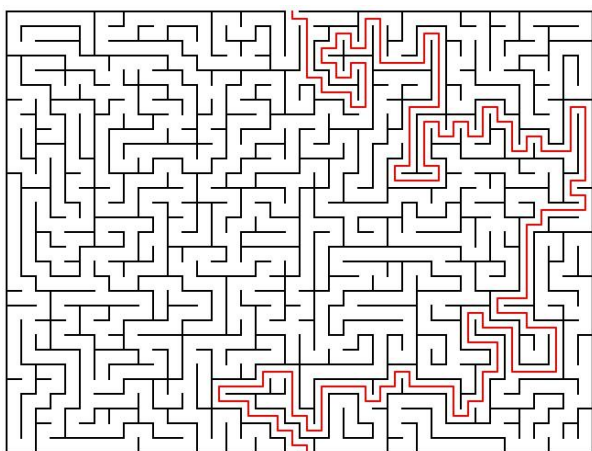
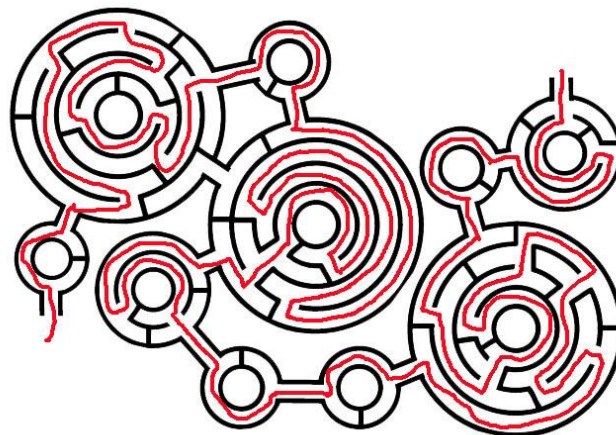
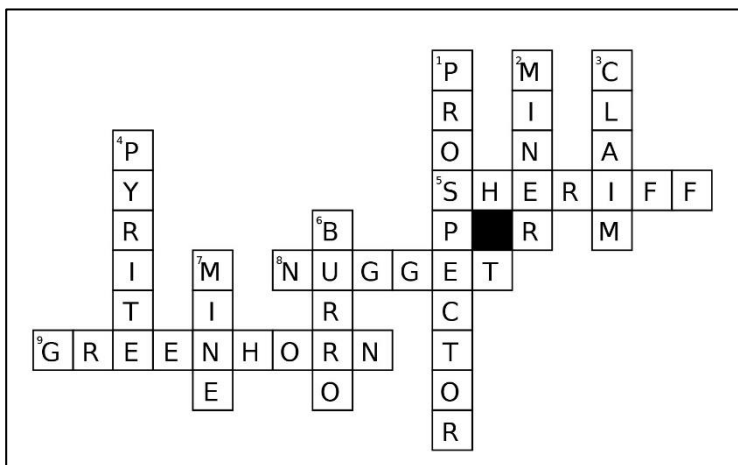


For Younger Kids Who Like to Color

In the Goldtown Beginnings, Jem and his family live in a tent alongside Cripple Creek. It makes it easy to head for the water to pan gold, but a tent is not big, nor is it safe. For that reason, Jem's mother cooks all the meals and makes all the pies she sells (to the other miners and townsfolk) on her wood-burning stove outside. Imagine what that must be like in the rain or during the cold winter!



Answers

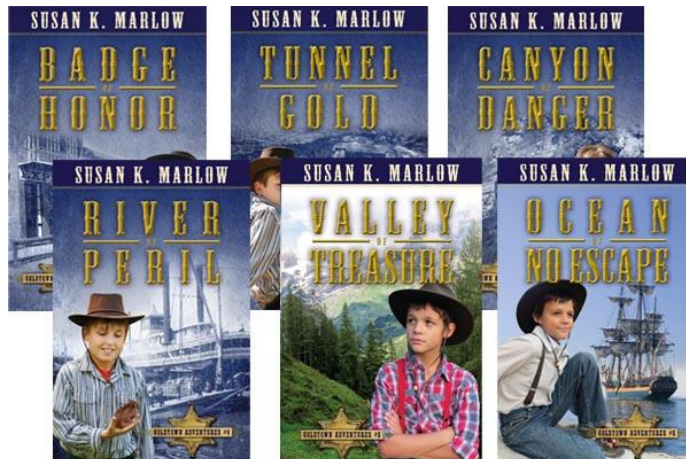


Follow Jem Coulter's Goldtown Adventures!

Ages 6-9 Goldtown Beginnings



Ages 9-13 Goldtown Adventures



GoldtownBooks.com