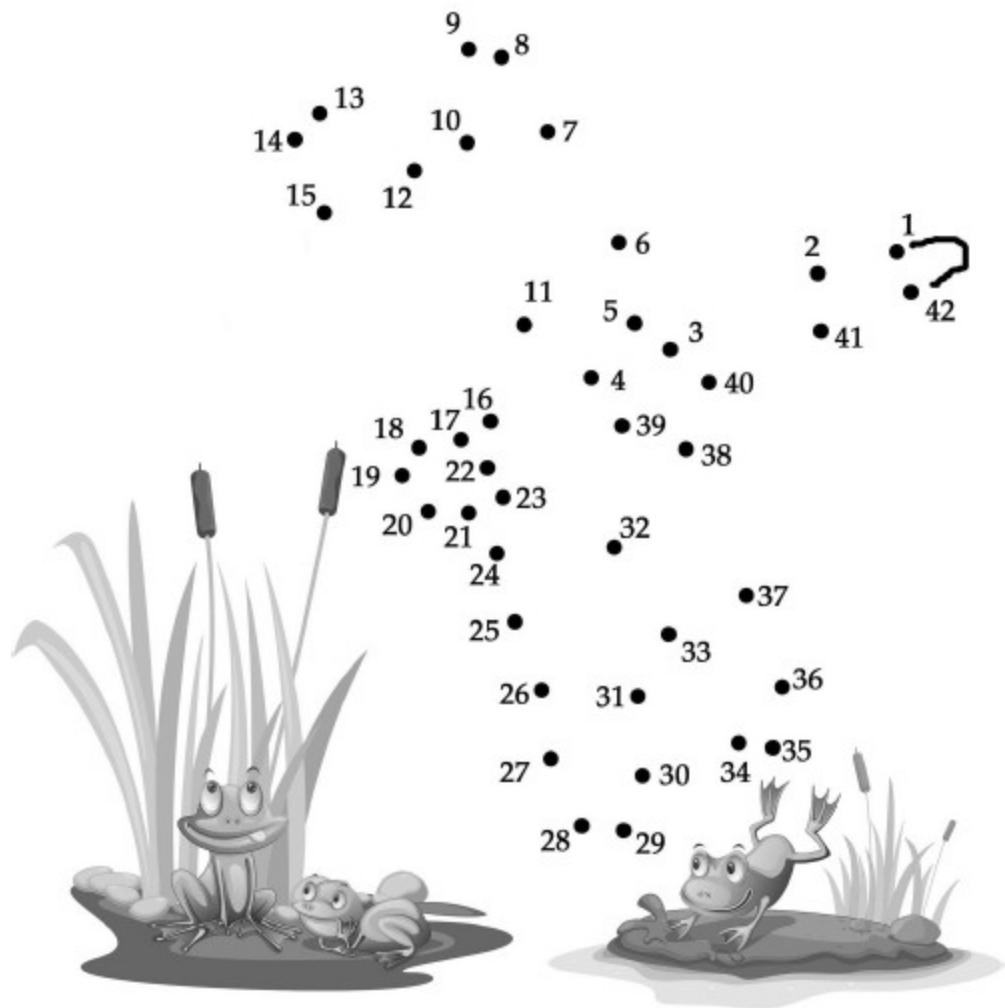


# Jem's Frog Fiasco: Mystery Animal Dot-to-Dot

A mystery animal has come to Bullfrog Pond. Follow the dots from 1 to 42 to find out what it is. The mystery animal is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Color the mystery animal.



**Just for fun:** Put together a digital puzzle of Jem, Ellie, and Nugget catching frogs at: [CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/](http://CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/)

## Jem Strikes Gold: A Gold Claim

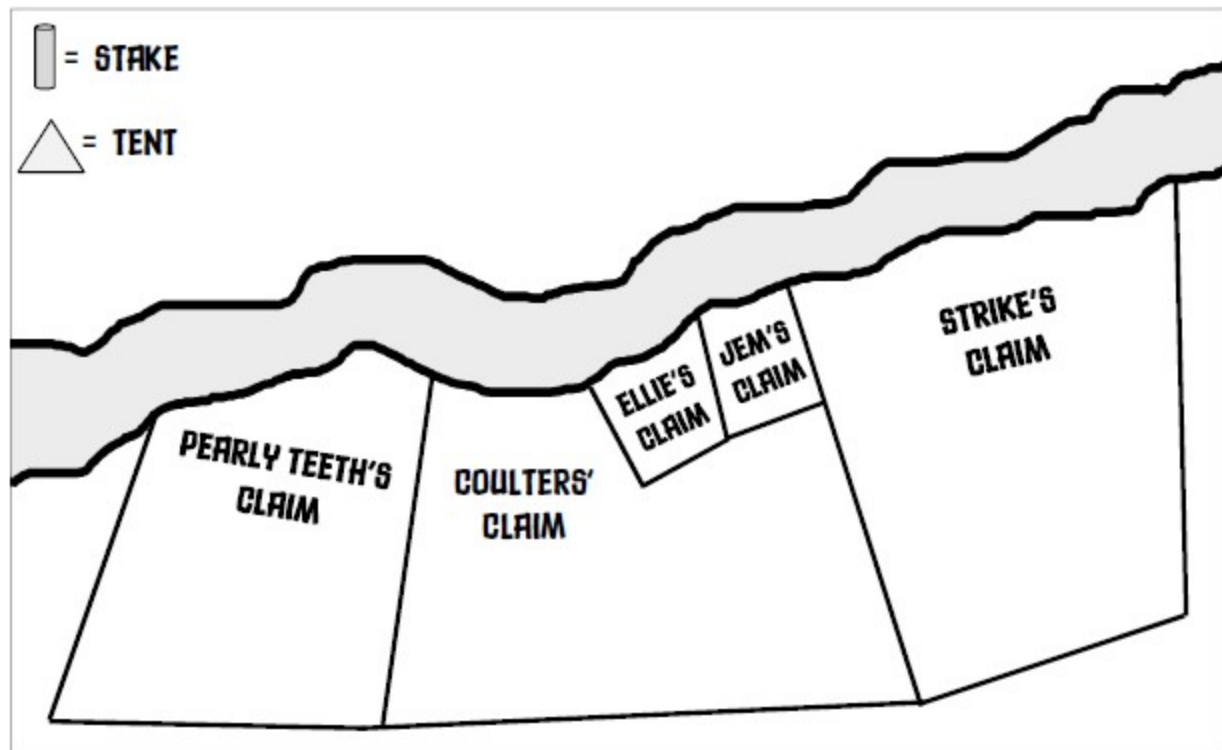
Jem and Ellie pan for gold in Cripple Creek. They do not go just anywhere. They stay inside their family's gold claims.

Pa did not buy his gold claim. He pounded four stakes in the ground—one at each corner. That was the law in the goldfields. Now the claim belongs to Pa.

Some gold claims during the gold rush were smaller than a closet. Some gold claims were as big as a backyard! Each person could have a claim, so Jem and Ellie have their own small claims too.

### A Map of Gold Claims

This map shows Cripple Creek. Do this: 1. Write "Cripple Creek" in the creek. 2. Draw a tent on the Coulters' claim. 3. Draw a tent on Strike's claim. 4. Draw a tent on Pearly Teeth's claim. 5. Draw stakes at the corners of each claim.



# Jem and the Mystery Thief: Chapters 1-3

## Chapter 1-Countdown

1. What does Jem pour on his mush every morning? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Circle the number of pennies Jem's school copybook costs.



3. In what month does this story take place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jem tells Ellie she can play with \_\_\_\_\_ so she is not lonely. (circle one)  
A. a big bullfrog    B. a golden dog    C. a baby bunny    D. a wild turkey

## Chapter 2-Will Sterling

5. Match the boys with something you know about them.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Perry | does not like mush, not even with molasses. |
| Will  | pans gold with his pa in Two Bit Gulch.     |
| Cole  | is afraid of Nugget.                        |
| Jem   | is one of Jem's friends.                    |
6. What is Will's full name? \_\_\_\_\_
7. YES or NO? (circle one) Will is a show-off.
8. What does Will bring to show the class today? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3-Silver Dollar

9. What surprise does Jem find in his lunch pail? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Circle two reasons why Jem does not want to play marbles.  
He left them inside. • He always loses. • He is mad at Will. • He lost his marbles.
11. YES or NO? (circle one) Jem won more of Will's special marbles.

# Jem Strikes Gold: Chapters 1-3

## Chapter 1- Gold Camp Rules

1. The gold pieces in Jem's gold pan are smaller than . . .

- A. onion seeds      B. carrot seeds      C. grains of sand

2. Draw lines to match the gold camp rules.

- Rule one                      • Pan your own gold.  
Rule two                      • Mind your own business in a gold camp.  
Rule three                     • Stay on your own gold claim.

3. What does Mama bake to sell to the miners? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 2- Pie Peddlers

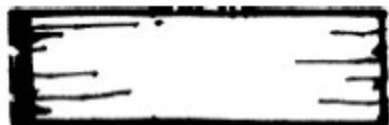
4. What day of the week is pie delivery day? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What kind of pies has Mama baked today?

- A. blackberry      B. cherry      C. apple      D. blueberry

6. How many pies fit into the wagon? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does the sign say that hangs over Mr. Sims's tent? Write it on this sign.



## Chapter 3- Pie Trouble

8. YES or NO? (circle one) Will is Jem's best friend.

9. Who does Will push into the pie wagon? (circle one) JEM • ELLIE

10. Color the number of pies Jem can sell now (the pies that are not smashed).



11. What does Will do? He says he is sorry. • He runs away.

# Jem and the Mystery Thief: Calendars

Calendars are a way to keep track of time. Clocks keep track of minutes and hours. Calendars keep track of days, weeks, and years.

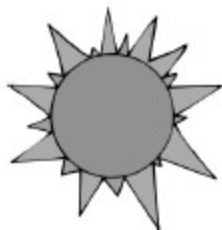


God created the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them in six days. He rested on the seventh day. That is why we have seven days in a week. God gave His people, the Jews, a calendar to help them keep track of the special days He wanted them to remember. Their calendar is based on the moon. The most common calendar today is based on the sun. It takes the earth a little over 365 days to go around the sun. Those 365 days are cut into twelve months. Each month is cut into thirty or thirty-one days, except February, which has twenty-eight days. Read the twelve months of the year. The number next to the month tells how many days there are in that month.

|             |          |              |             |
|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| January-31  | April-30 | July-31      | October-31  |
| February-28 | May-31   | August-31    | November-30 |
| March-31    | June-30  | September-30 | December-31 |

## Calendar Questions

1. Circle the month when *Jem and the Mystery Thief* takes place.
2. How many months have 31 days? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many months have 30 days? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which month has only 28 days? \_\_\_\_\_

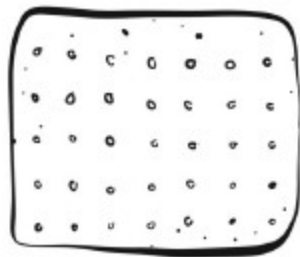




## A Prospector's Food

Pa and Mama sometimes worry about not having enough to eat. A few miners find a lot of gold and can buy whatever they want, but most miners barely get by. No wonder! At one time during the gold rush, one egg cost a whole dollar. The Coulters have their own chickens, so they don't need to buy eggs.

Flour is expensive, and Mama needs flour to make pie crusts. She makes sourdough bread too. What is sourdough? It is a mixture of flour, water, and a little sugar. The mixture sits in a warm place, where wild yeast from the air can get into it. Later, the yeast turns the flour mixture sour. This sourdough yeast mixture is then used to make bread rise. Strike makes sourdough biscuits and sourdough pancakes. Sourdough gives the bread, biscuits, and pancakes a sharp, tangy flavor. Yum!



But sometimes Strike runs out of sourdough yeast starter. When that happens, he makes hardtack biscuits. These are thin, hard, cooked squares of flour and water. Holes are poked into the top. These biscuits do not taste good, not like the biscuits you probably eat. But they fill a hungry miner's belly.

Prospecting families also eat plenty of beans, bacon, and coffee. They hunt wildlife like rabbits, turkeys, and deer. Cornmeal is also on a miner's list. Jem doesn't like cornmeal mush at all, not even with molasses. Miners eat dried pork and dried apples, but one miner got mighty tired of dried-apple pie. He said, "Of all the poor grub beneath the skies, the poorest is dried-apple pies." This poor miner probably never had a slice of Mama's tasty dried-apple pie.

## Jem Digs Up Trouble: New Words Chapters 4-6

**Word Match** – Draw a line between the words and their meanings. If you need help, look at the New Words list on pages 7 and 8 in *Jem Digs Up Trouble*.

**bedroll**

- family

**burlap**

- a rough fabric used for sacks

**canteen**

- a rolled-up blanket

**kinfolk**

- straps that hang over a person's shoulders and hold up their pants

**long johns**

- a metal container that holds water, with a strap for carrying

**pay dirt**

- underwear with long legs and long sleeves

**suspenders**

- ground that contains enough gold to make it worth mining

### More Fun with New Words

Choose a word from the list above and write it under each picture.

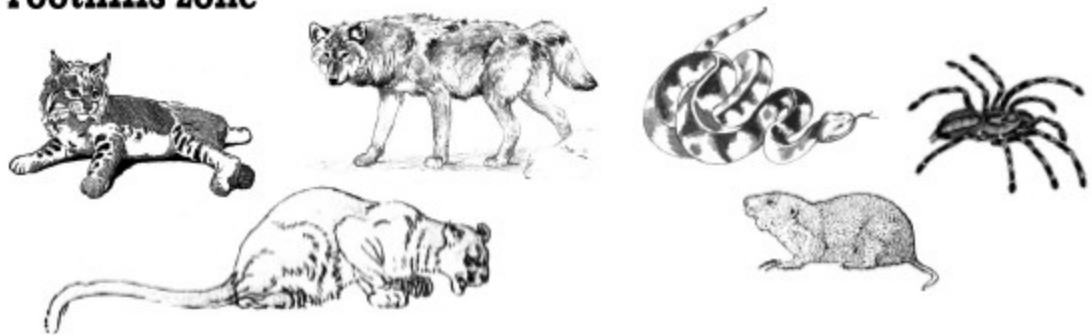


**Just for fun:** Put together a digital puzzle of Jem and Strike on their way at [CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/](http://CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/)

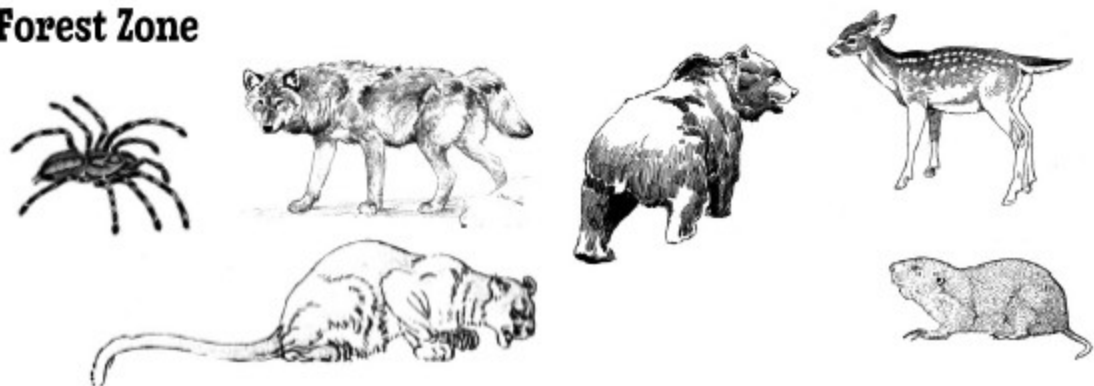
## Jem Digs Up Trouble: Where Do They Live?

Are these animals in their right life zones? If yes, circle the animals. If no, cross them out.

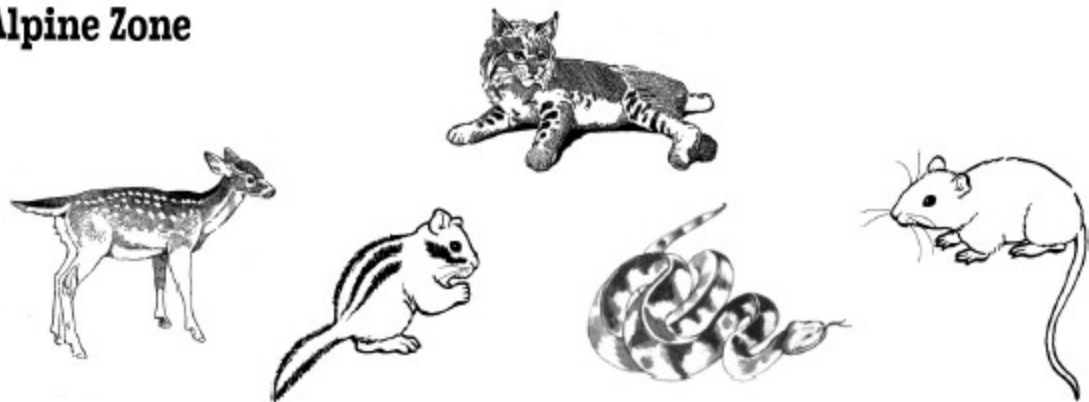
### Foothills Zone



### Forest Zone



### Alpine Zone



## Jem Strikes Gold: New Words Chapters 1-3

**Word Match** – Draw a line between the words and what they mean. If you need help, look at the New Words list on page 7 in *Jem Strikes Gold*.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>canvas</b>      | • someone who goes from place to place selling goods |
| <b>claim</b>       | • strong cloth used to make tents and sails          |
| <b>contraption</b> | • to find gold                                       |
| <b>hit color</b>   | • a small bag or sack                                |
| <b>peddler</b>     | • a person who looks for gold and other minerals     |
| <b>pouch</b>       | • an odd-looking machine                             |
| <b>prospector</b>  | • a piece of land belonging to a miner               |

### More Fun with New Words

Write a word from the list above under each picture.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Jem's Cornmeal Mush & Strike's Hardtack Biscuits

Would you like to eat what Jem eats for breakfast? Cornmeal mush is easy to make. Don't forget to pour molasses over it, so you can feel like you are sitting at the table on a gold claim. Then bake a batch of Strike's biscuits.

### Jem's Cornmeal Mush

1 cup yellow cornmeal    2 cups water    ½ teaspoon salt

\*\*\*\*

Mix the cornmeal, water, and salt in a heavy saucepan. Stir and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and let the mush cook until it is thick, about 5 to 7 minutes. Stir often to keep the mush from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Spoon mush into bowls and pour a little molasses on it. If you don't want molasses, mix a little white sugar and milk in your mush.

### Strike's Hardtack Biscuits

2 cups flour                      1 teaspoon salt  
½ to ¾ cup water (add slowly until the dough is not sticky)

\*\*\*\*



1. Turn the oven to 250 degrees. (Strike used a Dutch oven.)
2. Mix the flour and salt in a mixing bowl.
3. Add water and (this is the fun part!) mix with your hands. Keep adding water until the dough sticks together nicely.
4. Spread a little flour on the counter. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough. Roll it to about ½ inch thick.
5. Cut a big square and throw away the edges. Now cut the big square into 9 squares. Poke 16 holes in each square.
6. Bake on a cookie sheet for 2 hours. Turn the biscuits over and bake for another 2 hours. Cool on a rack in a dry place.
7. Eat very carefully. These biscuits are hard on your teeth!

## Jem's Wild Winter: Animal Tracks

When Pa comes back from setting his traps, he tells Jem he saw lots of animal tracks like fox, mink, beaver, and bobcat. What do these tracks look like in the snow? Cut out each animal track and match it to the animal that made the track. Use the clues. Cut out the animal track paper when you are done.



1. **Fox** tracks are narrow, with four small claws. Two claws point forward. Two are on the sides.

2. **Bobcat** tracks look like a house cat's tracks. But they are much bigger than a cat's tracks. A bobcat's claws do not show when they make tracks.

3. **Mink** tracks have five toes. The pointed claws barely show. A mink's footpads and toepads are small.

4. **Beaver** tracks have five long toepads and five claws. Their hind feet are webbed, like a duck's feet. This helps them swim when they are building their dams.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## Jem Digs Up Trouble: Opposites

Do you know what the opposite of black is? White. What about the opposite of fat? Skinny. These sentences from *Jem Digs Up Trouble* are mixed up with opposites. Fix the sentences by doing these things.



❖ Cross out the underlined word.

❖ Write the opposite of the word on the line. The first one has been done for you.

1. It was easy to see flakes or nuggets in the brown water. hard
2. Jem looked down. \_\_\_\_\_ Strike-it-rich Sam squatted a few feet away.
3. "Have you seen any rattlesnakes this winter?" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "What kind of strikes?" Jem asked. Strike chuckled. "Poor ones." \_\_\_\_\_
5. "It takes time to find just the wrong spot," Strike said. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Strike was a child. \_\_\_\_\_ Ma and Pa might say yes if he asked them.
7. Mama was right. It had been Jem's worst summer ever! \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ellie looked at Jem with wide, sad eyes. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jem stared at Ellie. He felt well inside. \_\_\_\_\_
10. "It's hot in the mountains at night," Mama said. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Jem took off for the little tent where his family lived. \_\_\_\_\_

# Jem and the Mystery Thief: The Game of Marbles

Jem and his friends like to play marbles. This game has been around for a very long time. Handmade clay and stone marbles have been found in the ruins of ancient Rome and Egypt. Most boys played this game with clay marbles in the 1800s, but Will uses aggies. Aggies are a special marble made from a rock called *agate*. An agate is pretty, and it makes fancy-looking marbles. No wonder Will wants to win his aggies back!



## How to Play Marbles

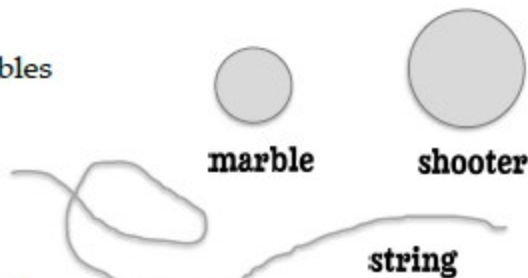
Marbles are fun to collect and play with. You can buy marbles at any dollar store. Buy a bag of marbles and try the game Jem and his friends play.

### What You Need

- a dozen (or more) regular-sized marbles
- a big marble called the *shooter*
- a 9-foot length of string or yarn

### How to Play

1. Cut a piece of string or yarn 9 feet long.
2. Make a big circle out of the string.
3. Drop 5–10 marbles inside the circle at different places.
4. Kneel outside the circle. Make a fist, with your thumb under your finger.
5. Put the shooter marble on top of your thumb, aim it toward a marble, and flick the shooter marble off your thumb. This takes practice.
6. Try to hit a marble with your shooter. If you hit it, you keep the marble.
7. When you miss, your turn is over. Keep playing until the circle is empty.



Learn to play marbles: [CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/](http://CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/)

## Where Did Golden Jubilee Get Lost?

The poster says the dog was lost near Mariposa. Where is Mariposa? Where is Goldtown? Goldtown is a made-up (fictional) town for the stories, but Mariposa, Sacramento, and San Francisco are real cities.

This is a map of California. Do these things. You will need colored pencils.



1. Color the long, narrow oval yellow. This is where most of the gold was found during the gold rush.
2. Color the star red. This is the capital of California. Find the name of this city on page 30 in *Jem and the Golden Reward*.

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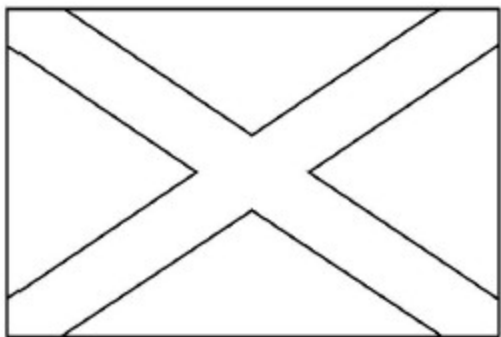
3. Color the triangle green. This is the town of Mariposa. It is part of the "gold country."

4. Color the circle black. This is where Jem lives. Write the name of his town:

- 
5. Color the Pacific Ocean light blue. The ocean should be colored up and down the coast of California. (Don't forget to do #6. It is at the bottom of the page.)

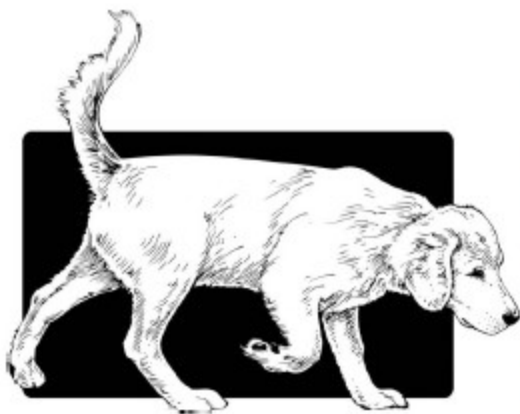
6. The arrow is pointing to the biggest and most important city during the gold rush. Color San Francisco orange.

## Fun Facts About Scotland



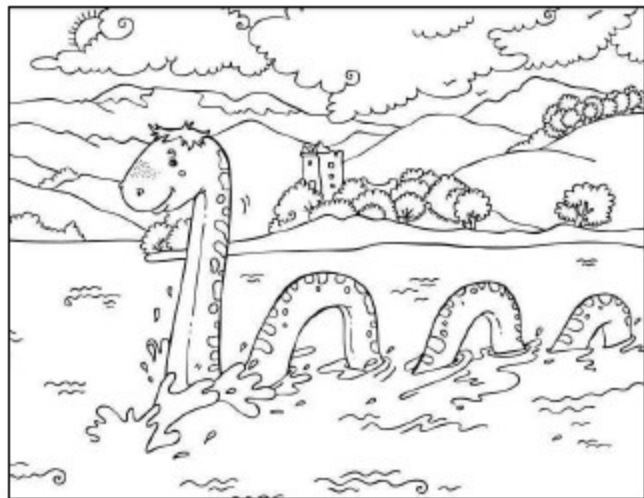
### Scotland's Flag

The flag of Scotland is bright blue and white. Leave the "X" stripes white. Color the rest of the flag bright blue. This flag was first used way back in 1542. That is almost 500 years ago.



### The Golden Retriever

The first golden retriever dogs were bred in Scotland during the 1800s. Hunters wanted a dog that would gently bring back the ducks and other water birds they shot. They crossed a retriever with a water spaniel, and it worked. Color the dog yellow-gold.



### Loch Ness Monster

Scotland is famous for its Loch (Lake) Ness Monster. Many say they have seen "Nessie." Is it left over from when the dinosaurs lived? Or is Nessie a make-believe animal that people just think they see? Color the picture.

Watch a story about "Nessie" [CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/](http://CircleCBooks.com/goldtown-beginnings-online/)

# Jem and the Golden Reward: Chapters 1-3

## Chapter 1-September Storm

1. What are the miners doing alongside Cripple Creek when the story opens?  
A. washing their clothes    B. panning for gold    C. fishing
2. Why is Ellie wearing her Sunday school dress this morning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Jem wants to pan gold in the swollen creek. What does "swollen" mean?  
A. filled to the top    B. muddy    C. full of gold
4. Jem thinks the kids in the gold camp of Bootjack are lucky ducks. Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 2-First Day of School

5. Circle the reasons why Ellie doesn't want to go to school.  
She's afraid of the teacher. • Her dress is dirty gray. • Her hair is messy.  
Her sleeves are too short. • Her apron is patched. • It's too far to walk.
6. What is the name of Jem's seatmate? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the name of Will Sterling's little sister? \_\_\_\_\_
8. YES or NO? (Circle one.) Will acts friendly toward Jem because he likes him.

## Chapter 3-Something to See

9. What does Will show Jem? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the name of the lost dog? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How much is the reward worth? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The lost dog looks just like who? \_\_\_\_\_

