



6C



GOLD PANNING

SENTENCE COMPLETION

- 1 Read the sentences carefully then try to predict what could be missing.
- 2 SCAN the text to find key words or synonyms from the sentence.
- 3 Complete the sentence with words directly from the text.



suggested time
9 minutes

TASK

Look at the text on "Gold Panning" on the following page.

Complete sentences 1 – 6 below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text.

REMEMBER

The answer will usually, but not always be a noun phrase and will usually, but not always be at the end of the sentence.

Example As it is cheap and easy, gold panning often appeals to GEOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS.

- 1) In ancient Rome, miners took precious metals from _____.
- 2) Compared to other extraction methods, _____ is quite small.
- 3) Heavier materials, such as gold, are separated from the soil using a process known as _____.
- 4) When the denser materials settle on the bottom _____ examines and collects it.
- 5) Panning is unsuitable for large-scale operations due to the restricted _____.
- 6) Hobbyists often collect small amounts of gold dust as a _____.

Gold Panning

1 Gold panning, or simply panning, is a form of placer mining and traditional mining that extracts gold from a placer deposit using a pan. The process is one of the simplest ways to extract gold, and is popular with geology enthusiasts especially because of its low cost and relative simplicity.

5 The first recorded instances of placer mining are from ancient Rome, where gold and other precious metals were extracted from streams and mountainsides using sluices and panning. However, the productivity rate is smaller compared to other methods such as the rocker box or large extractors, such as those used at the Super Pit gold mine, in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, which has led to panning being largely replaced in the commercial market.

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Gold panning is a simple process. Once a suitable placer deposit is located, some alluvial deposits are scooped into a pan, where they are then wetted and loosened from attached soils by soaking, fingering and aggressive agitation in water. This is called stratification; which helps dense materials, like gold, sink to the bottom of the pan. Materials with low specific gravity will rise upward, allowing these to be washed out of the pan, whereas materials with higher specific gravity, sinking to the bottom of the sediment during stratification, will remain in the pan allowing examination and collection by the prospector. These dense materials usually consist of magnetite sand with whatever stones or dense metal particles that may be found in the deposit that is used for source material.

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20 While an effective method with certain kinds of deposits, and essential for prospecting, even skilled panners can only work a limited amount of material, significantly less than the other methods which have replaced it in large-scale operations. Pans remain in use in places where there is limited capital or infrastructure, as well as in recreational gold mining.

25 In many situations, gold panning usually turns up only minor gold dust that is usually collected as a souvenir in small clear tubes by hobbyists. Although nuggets and dust are occasionally found, panning mining is not generally lucrative. Panning for gold can be used to locate the parent gold veins which are the source of most placer deposits.