Grade 5 Homework

Due:

Spelling
discoveries quantities region colony malleable influential prospector perspective culture Europeans

Activities
1. Choose a letter pattern from each word and write 5 more words with the same pattern. E.g. discoveries: discover, discontinue, dislike etc
2. Write a mnemonic for the word you find most difficult to spell. A mnemonic is a memory trick or rule that helps us to remember difficult words. E.g. Principal-the Principal is my pal
3. Write the spelling words in alphabetical order.

Language- Gold in Australia
Read the passage on the back and answer the following questions using full sentences:
1. Which Australian State currently produces the most gold?
2. What percentage of the Australian population was Irish in the 1850’s?
3. Name another 5 countries from which prospectors came to Australia in search of gold.
4. Find out what a bullock is.
5. What was a ‘mullock heap’?
6. Why do you think the Europeans were not welcoming to the Chinese diggers?
7. Write a paragraph explaining the ‘positives’ or ‘negatives’ of the influx of various cultures to Australia during the Gold Rush.

Maths
John and Betty Goldberg were playing at Landcox Park recently and to their amazement they discovered a nugget of gold that weighed 5 kilograms.

**The exchange rate for gold is approx $10,000 per kg**

Answer the following questions showing all your workings out neatly:
1. How much is the nugget worth?
2. How much money did each child receive if they shared the earnings?
3. If Betty then shared her half with her sister Kate, how much did each receive?
4. John shared his half with 4 friends. How much did each friend receive?
5. Betty decided to go on a holiday, which cost $3,945. How much money was she left with?
6. John and Betty decided to put their money together and donate $10,000 to their favourite charity. How much were they each left with?
7. What would you do with the earnings from such a find?
GOLD IN AUSTRALIA

During the 1850s, after the rich finds in Victoria, Australia produced about 40% of the world's gold. Today, with much-improved methods of recovery, Australia mines more gold than it ever has. At present, Australia is the world's third largest gold producer, employing thousands of workers. Western Australia supplies approximately 75% of the gold produced in Australia.

♦ THE EARLY YEARS

In the 17th century, William Dampier, an English buccaneer and explorer, as well as early Dutch explorers, thought there was little to be found in the huge, dry continent. Dampier found the land was 'dry, rocky and barren' and 'inland as far as man can see is just stony, empty desert'. The Dutch and the early settlers concluded that as the Aboriginal people wore no metal ornaments, there was little chance of finding precious metals like gold, as the Spanish had done in South America. They had no idea of the wealth that lay under the ground!

♦ THE DIGGERs

Many early gold finds were made by pastoralists digging wells in their constant search for water. Looking for gold was a risky occupation and while prospectors often lost their possessions, many lost their lives. The majority only made sufficient money to cover their needs. Looking for the 'big stake', thousands of diggers roamed the continent from inland New South Wales to the Kimberley in Western Australia.

The discovery of gold in NSW and Victoria in the 1850s had a huge effect on the population. People from all over the world were attracted by stories of miners 'picking up lumps of gold' in the new colony. In that decade, over 100,000 Irish workers migrated to Australia, and by the end of the century the Irish made up over 40% of Australia's population. Chinese migrants were also attracted by the gold discoveries, but in the early years they were used mainly as cheap labour. They were soon joined by prospectors from Britain, Germany, France and America. By 1859 there were more than 50,000 Chinese miners in Victoria and NSW. The flow of goldrush immigrants over two years in the 1850s was greater than the number of incoming convicts over a period of 80 years. While some of the thousands of diggers had horses or bullocks, most had to walk the long distances to the goldfields.

The horses were mainly used as pack animals to carry supplies and tools. When diggers found gold and began to work their claims, professional 'packers' with teams of horses brought in supplies.

Most of the Chinese worked on the mullock heaps (the earth and rocks left after mining) when the white miners abandoned their claims to move on to richer gold discoveries. As they worked very long hours, the Chinese often found gold in the mines abandoned by European miners. This meant the Asian diggers were not very popular with their miners. Many Chinese opened stores, became barbers, fortune-tellers, shoe-menders, herbalists or ran restaurants. However, the European diggers did not welcome them as they were too different in dress, language, eating habits and religion, and they were thought to waste precious water.