**Australia’s Gold Time Line**

The first official discovery of gold was in 1823 near Bathurst NSW by surveyor James McBrien. It was believed that many convicts and other settlers found gold before this but kept their discoveries secret as all gold and silver discoveries belonged to the crown. If they were found trying to keep gold they would be punished.

Prior to 1851, it was thought that news of a gold strike would lead to unrest among the convicts, increase robberies and lead to a lawless way of life.

In the 1840s a rush to the Californian goldfields attracted immigrants who may have come to Australia and worse for the developing colony – Australians were emigrating. So the governments of NSW and Victoria offered rewards for the discovery of a goldfield to create an Australian gold rush.

Edward Hargraves claimed the reward for being first to discover a gold field in 1851 when gold was discovered at Ophir near Bathurst. Gold fever also took hold in Victoria after its discovery at Clunes and gold diggers arrived from NSW, Tasmania and SA. By 1852 diggers had also arrived from Britain and other nations.

Gold was then discovered in different parts of the country. In 1852 James Grant discovered gold in Fingal, Tasmania and a much larger mine was found at Beaconsfield, Tasmania in 1871. The first official report of gold in Queensland was made in 1853 at Bingera and the second at Canoona in 1858. A huge, rich field was developed by James Mulligan on the Palmer River in 1872. The first gold in the Northern Territory was mined in 1865 by F. Litchfield. Arthur Bayley found huge nuggets at Coolgardie (Western Australia) in 1892.

*Insert text boxes to annotate the dates using the information above (use small fonts and reduce to box sizes to fit them under the timeline, and rotate using the green dot on the text box)*

1800

1892

1872

1871

1865

1852

1853

1851

1840

1823

1800

First official discovery of gold