

## Significant Individuals

Below are four brief profiles of people who made an impact during the gold rush period.

### Peter Lalor (1827–1889)

Peter emigrated to Australia from Ireland to seek his fortune. Miners were unhappy on the goldfields because they had to pay large fees for the right to mine gold and had no say in what happened in parliament. The miners appointed Peter Lalor as their leader. They formed the Ballarat Reform League and built the Eureka Stockade. Peter was shot in the arm during the attack at the Eureka Stockade. As a result, the government granted the miners a voice in parliament and replaced the miner's licence with a Miner's Right, which cost only 20 shillings per year.

### Ben Hall (1837–1865)

Ben was born in NSW and was an infamous bushranger. Just after his wife left him, Ben was arrested and charged for highway robbery. This shocked local residents, as they held him in high regard. He was part of a gang that robbed gold diggers at Lambing Flat in NSW. He later became the leader and caused havoc over a period of three years. He was reported to have committed many hold-ups of towns, 10 mail robberies and 20 raids on settlers' homes. He was a vicious leader and is said to have killed several troopers, some in cold blood. He was finally shot dead.

### Caroline Chisholm (1808–1877)

Caroline, born in England, devoted a great part of her life to helping immigrants settle in Australia. She encouraged people to set up their own farms and to move out of crowded city areas to find work in rural areas. During the gold rush she set up shelters for the miners and their families. These shelters were known as Chisholm's Shakedown and were greatly appreciated by the people.



### Paddy Hannan (1843–1925)

Paddy was an Irishman who had emigrated to Victoria in 1863. He was responsible for discovering gold nuggets north-east of Coolgardie in Western Australia. Paddy was very quick to report his find and to claim a portion of the land. Prospectors heard of the find and rushed to the site now known as Kalgoorlie. As it turned out, he did not secure the best land for himself and missed out on a fortune.



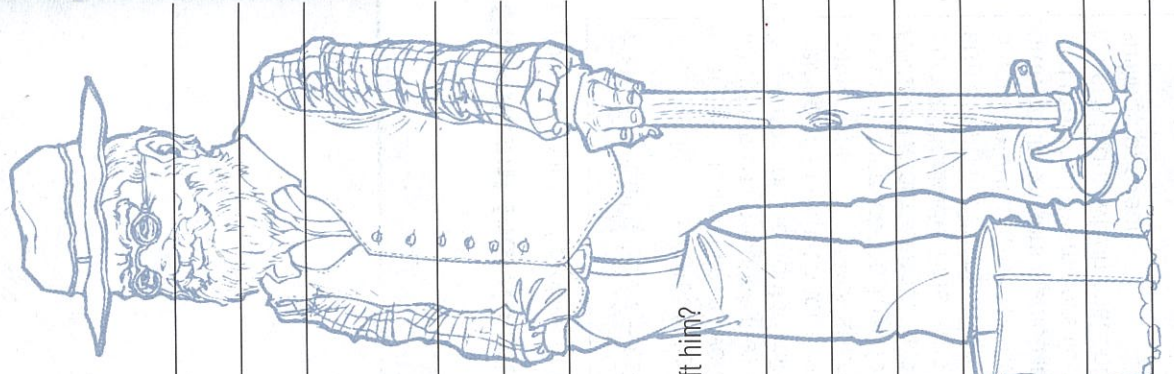
Use the profiles to complete the questions below.

5. Complete the semantic grid below.

	helped others	Irish descent	was honest	was shot	prospector
Peter Lalor					
Ben Hall					
Paddy Hannan					
Caroline Chisholm					

6. Use the information and your own knowledge to explain why ...

(a) the Eureka Stockade was important to gold miners.



(b) the people greatly appreciated Chisolm's Shakedown.

7. What was Ben Hall like ...

(a) before his wife left him?

(b) after his wife left him?

(c) Why do you think he changed?

#### Topics for Discussion/Debate

- All migrants should have been charged a fee to enter all areas of Australia.
- Complete this sentence with the name of a significant individual and discuss in a small group.  
 'I would like to meet \_\_\_\_\_ because ...'

#### Additional Activities

- Research another group of people involved in the gold rush. What was their contribution? Where did they come from? How did they cope with the harsh lifestyle? Write your report in the form of a newspaper article.
- Broaden your knowledge of Australian bushrangers. Select one bushranger who was around during the time of the gold rush, and write a detailed biography of his life.
- Research to find out more about 'The White Australia' policy. Present your findings to your class as a live interview with a partner.

#### Search Engine Keywords

Lalor, Hall, Hannan and Chisholm (by full name); goldfields and Chinese