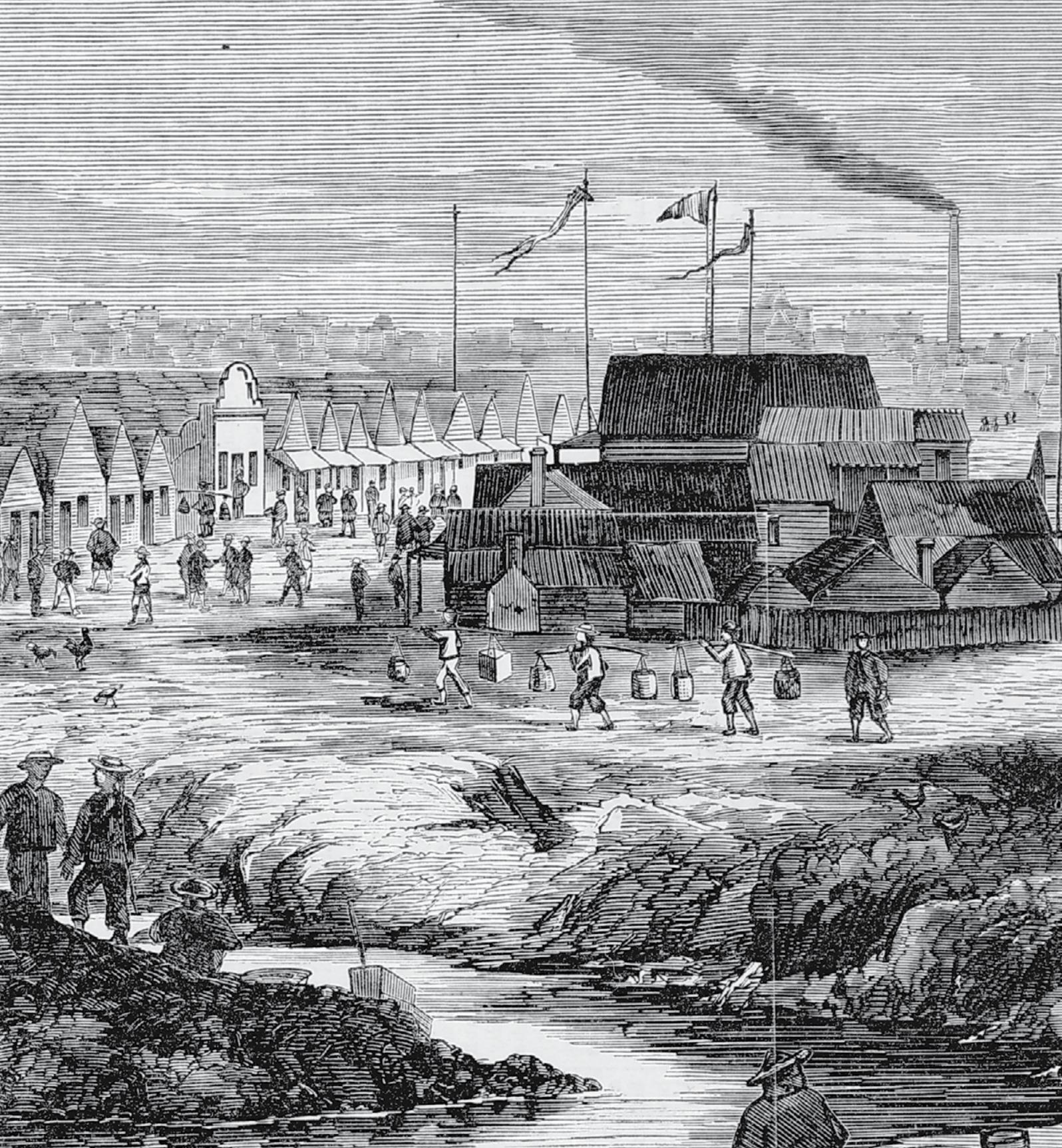


EUREKA
EDUCATION

EUREKA
NATIONALITIES

EUREKA
CENTRE
BALLARAT

ART GALLERY
OF BALLARAT



EUREKA NATIONALITIES

image p.43:
AC Cooke
Chinese quarter, Ballarat, 1868 (detail)
wood engraving published in
The Illustrated Australian News
State Library of Victoria

MULTICULTURALISM ON THE GOLDFIELDS

During the gold rush, many immigrants arrived in Victoria by boat and then travelled to the goldfields to seek their fortune. The population of settlers in the colony swelled from about 77,000 in 1851 to more than 500,000 by 1861. While most of these migrants came from the United Kingdom and Ireland, people of many different places of origin arrived in search of gold.

The cultural diversity on the goldfields is captured in this account from the 1850s by miner and author Seweryn Zorzelski. He describes how people from all over the world

Seweryn Zorzelski, *Memoirs of Gold-digging in Australia*, ca. 1850s, S. Robe (ed.), Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1979, p. 56.

‘...amuse themselves with conversation about their countries of origin and its habits and describe events they have experienced, because every one crossed many lands and many a sea before arriving in Australia’

This mix of people brought diversity of language and culture to the goldfields but also caused tensions. Many people brought with them prejudices against people of other nationalities or races. The Chinese suffered from much of this prejudice and white miners resented their presence on the goldfields. Chinese miners were often targets for violence and there are instances of them being driven out of the mining camps or even killed.

JFC Johnson
Euchre in the bush circa 1867
oil on canvas
42 x 60.2 cm
Bequest of Clarice May Megaw, 1980
Collection of the Art Gallery of Ballarat

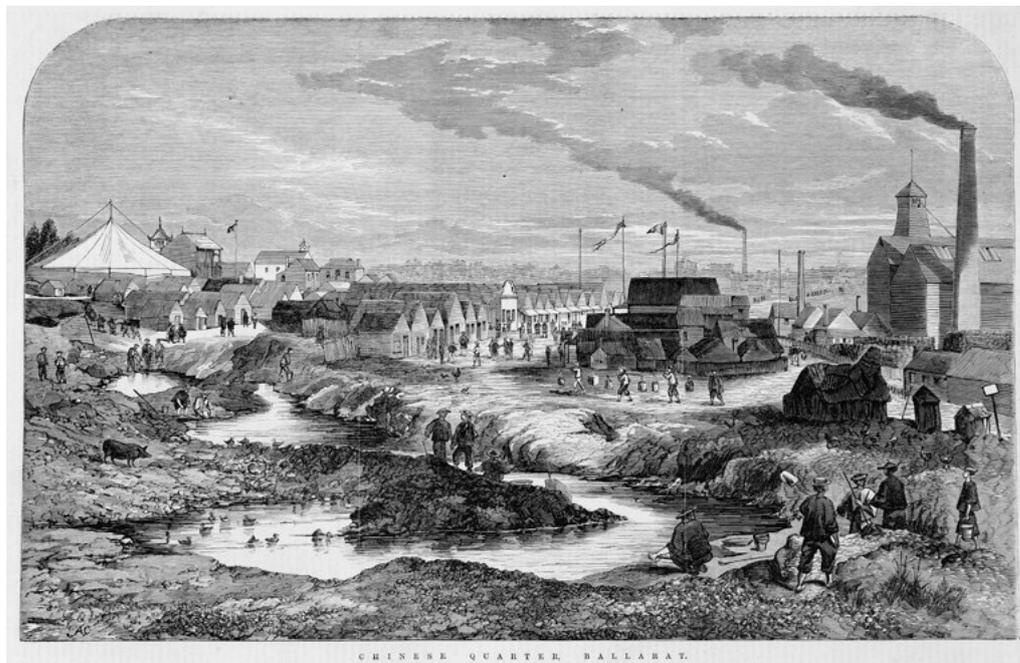


ART
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CENTRE

PLACES OF BIRTH



AC Cooke
Chinese quarter, Ballarat 1868
wood engraving published in
The Illustrated Australian News
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NATIONALITIES AT EUREKA

Raffaello Carboni, *The Eureka Stockade*,
1855.

‘[I call] on all my fellow-diggers, irrespective of nationality, religion, and colour, to salute the “Southern Cross” as the refuge of all the oppressed from all countries on earth’

It is estimated that people from 23 different countries were involved in the Eureka Rebellion. While most of the rebels came from the United Kingdom and Europe, there were also many people from North America. In fact, two of the men tried for high treason were of African American descent (see John Joseph in Key Figures).

CHINESE PROTESTS

The Eureka Rebellion is not the only instance during the 1850s of protest of the colonial government. An immigration poll tax was introduced in 1855. This is the same year that the Eureka rebels achieved reduced mining taxes and voting rights. This tax was a way of restricting Chinese migration to Australia. It restricted the number of Chinese people allowed aboard each ship and required each Chinese arrival pay an entry tax.

Many Chinese migrants managed to evade the taxes by arriving in neighbouring colonies and then travelling over land to Victoria. This led to several amendments to the bill tightening the restrictions. From 1856 until 1859 various Victorian Chinese communities, including those in Ballarat and Bendigo, sent petitions protesting this discriminatory legislation. A petition signed by 102 Europeans and 75 Chinese individuals was sent to the Governor in June 1861 and may have added momentum to this campaign. In 1861 the legislation was repealed.

Activity 1

History and Civics and Citizenship 5–10

Choose one of the countries from the 'Birth countries of those involved in Eureka' map. Research what was happening in that country when the gold rush happened (1850). What was life like for people in those counties at the time and why might people have left?

5–7 Create a class presentation on Eureka nationalities. Each student should produce one slide (or poster) with images and information about the country they have chosen.

8–10 Write a report outlining information about your chosen country. Include information such as population statistics, economic/work practices, language and education, and arts and culture.

Activity 2

History and Civic and Citizenship 6–10

Protests normally occur when a group of people within a society wants something to change. Choose another period of protest, historical or recent, in Australia and hold a debate. One group should be the protestors and the other the government/those who are resisting the change.

See this guide for an overview of a formal debate

<https://www.debating.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Debating-An-Introduction-For-Beginners.pdf>

Activity 3

Visual Art, Respond and Interpret 5–9

View the painting *Euchre in the bush*, circa 1867 by Joseph Johnson and answer the following questions:

- What nationality do you think each of the people in the painting are? Give reasons for your answers
- What are the people doing in the painting?
- Why do you think the artist chose to paint this scene?
- View *Euchre in the bush*, circa 1867 by Joseph Johnson and *Old Ballarat as it was in the summer of 1853–54* 1884 by Eugene von Guérard. Compare how have each of the artists depicted different nationalities on the goldfields.
 - In the painting three men are playing a card game. What other things do you think might have been introduced to the goldfields that we still enjoy today? Create a drawing showing one of these things – this could be a cuisine you like, a game you play or a place you like to visit.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. How has immigration shaped Australian society?
2. What does it mean to be Australian?
3. What do you think some of the challenges would have been for people coming from overseas to the goldfields?

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Visit the Eureka Centre and take part in the Down with Despotism program.

ACTIVITIES

EUREKA NATIONALITIES

Pre-visit

Activity 1: Complete the research component.

Post-visit

Activity 1: Complete the appropriate year level activity.

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EUREKA EDUCATION

W eurekacentreballarat.com.au

E eurekaeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au

T 03 5333 0308

ART GALLERY OF BALLARAT EDUCATION

W artgalleryofballarat.com.au

E artgalleryeducation@ballarat.vic.gov.au

T 03 5320 5782