

Bannack Ghost Town:



Bannack, Montana, is a fascinating piece of American history. It was founded in 1862 after gold was discovered in the area, sparking a gold rush that attracted miners, settlers, and entrepreneurs hoping to strike it rich. Bannack quickly grew into a bustling mining town and became the first territorial capital of Montana in 1864.

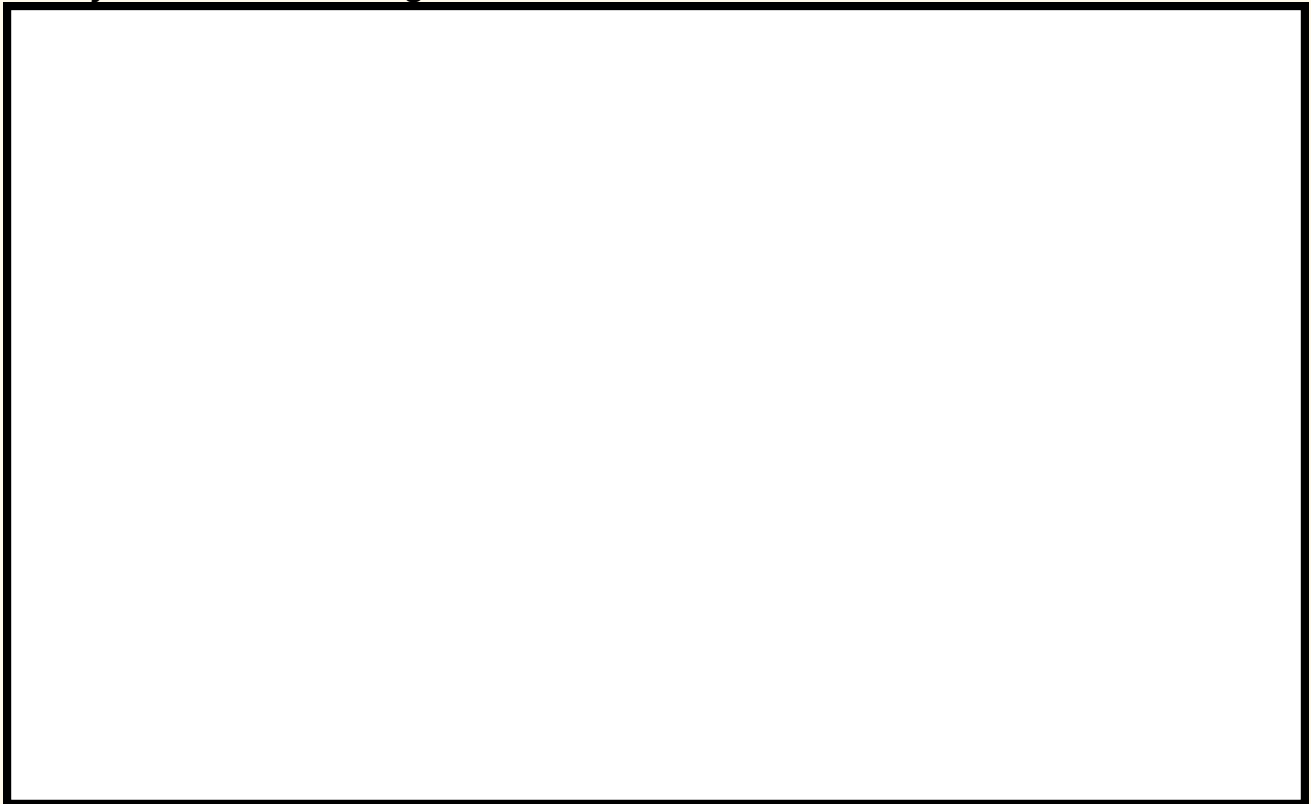
At its peak, Bannack had hundreds of residents, a variety of businesses, schools, and even a newspaper. But as the gold deposits dwindled and richer strikes were found elsewhere, the town's population began to decline. By the early 20th century, Bannack was largely abandoned, turning into the ghost town it is today.

What makes Bannack special is that it's one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the West. Many of its original buildings—like the schoolhouse, courthouse, and homes—still stand, giving visitors a real glimpse into life during the Montana gold rush era. It's now a state park and historic site, a kind of time capsule of the Wild West's boom and bust.

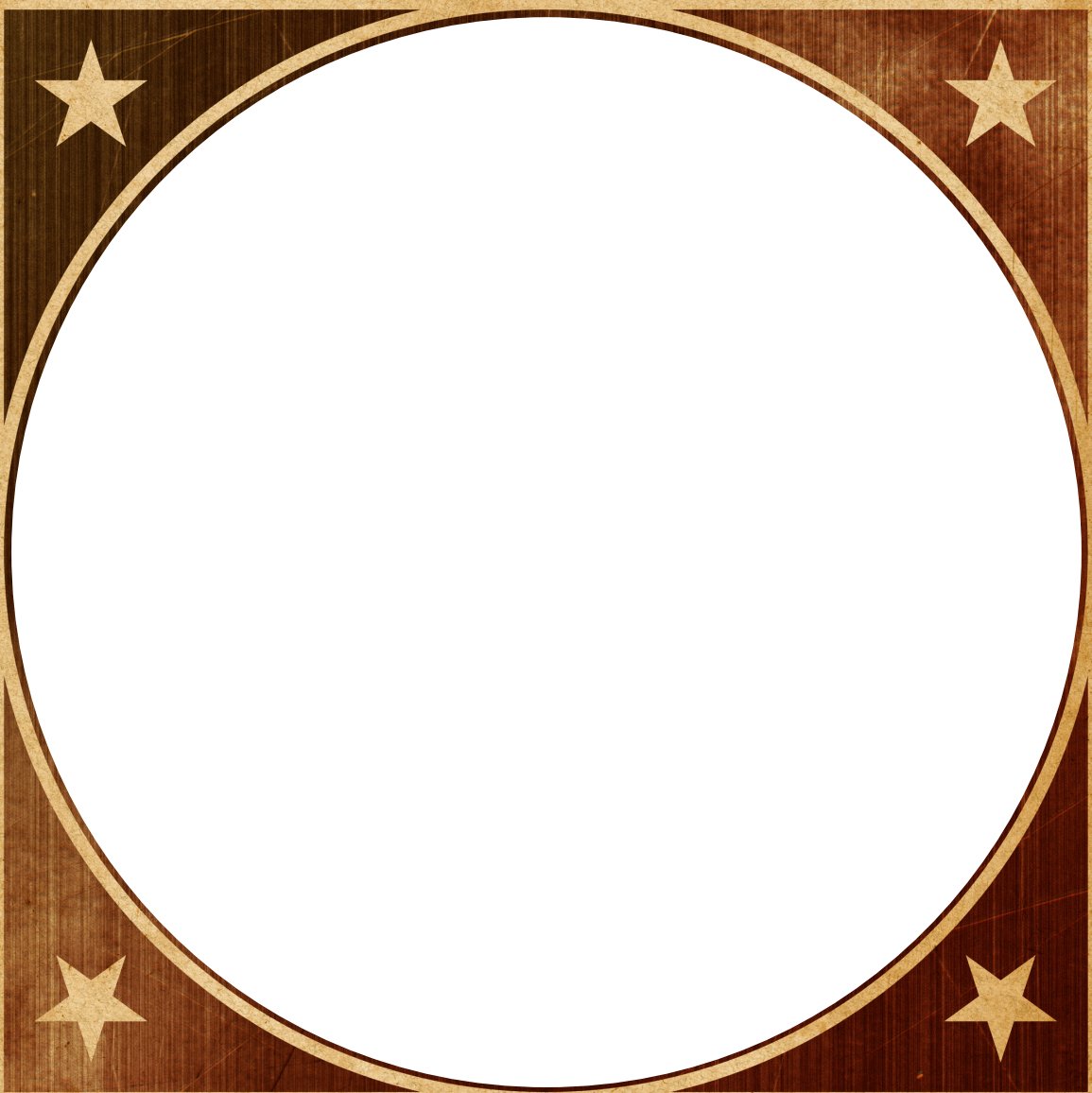
Bannack Worksheet:

- 1) What year was gold first discovered in Bannack?
- 2) Bannack had a Sheriff named Henry Plummer. What is he most famous for?
- 3) If you lived in Bannack what would your job have been? Why would you choose that job?
- 4) How many buildings remain standing in Bannack today? Which one was your favorite?

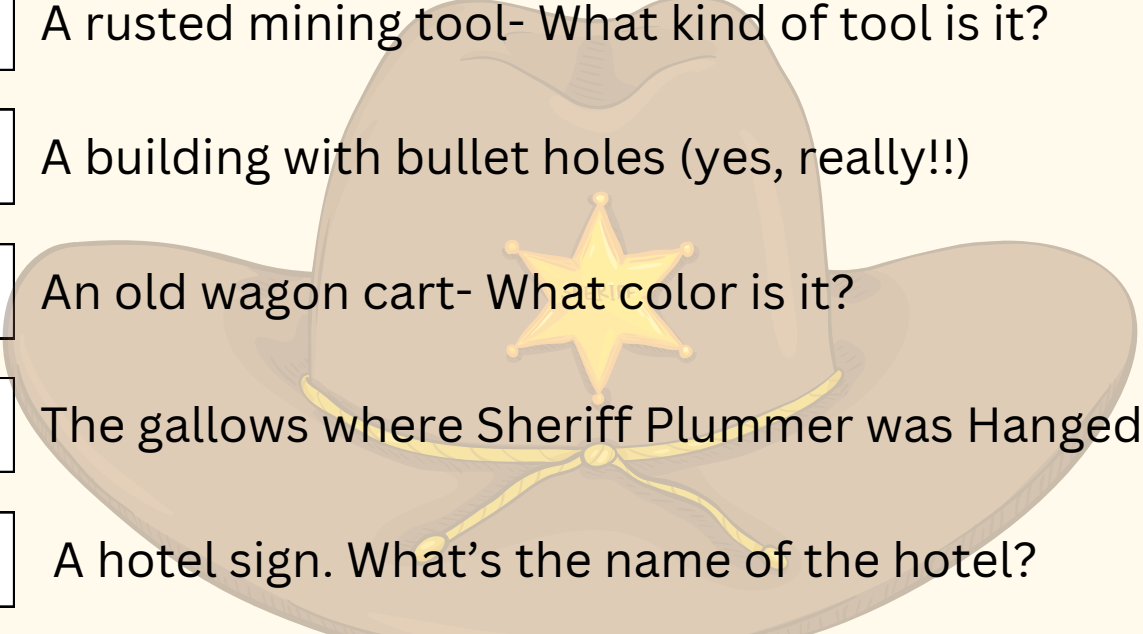
Draw your favorite building below:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a drawing of a favorite building in Bannack.

WANTED



Bannack Scavenger Hunt:

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- ☐ A wooden School House. Bonus: How many desks?
 - ☐ A rusted mining tool- What kind of tool is it?
 - ☐ A building with bullet holes (yes, really!!)
 - ☐ An old wagon cart- What color is it?
 - ☐ The gallows where Sheriff Plummer was Hanged.
 - ☐ A hotel sign. What's the name of the hotel?
 - ☐ An old jail cell. Bonus: can you see the lock?
 - ☐ A window with cracked glass. What building?