

Death Valley Mining Word Problems – Answer Key

Panamint City:

1. How many years was Panamint City open?

Answer: It was established in 1874. The Post Office officially closed in 1877. Therefore, $1877 - 1874 = \mathbf{3 \text{ years}}$.

Rhyolite:

2. How many years were there between when Rhyolite closed and our town was established?

Answer: The town of Rhyolite closed in 1914 when the post office closed. **Answers will vary** based on when your town was established. Students should use subtraction in this word problem.

Total Population:

3. What was the total population of all the listed Death Valley mining towns during their biggest boom years?

Answer: Panamint City had a population of 2000; Ballarat had a population of 400; Rhyolite had a population of 10,000; Greenwater had a population of 2000; Harrisburg had a population of 300; Skidoo had a population of 700; and Leadville had a population of 300. Therefore, $2000 + 400 + 10,000 + 2000 + 300 + 700 + 300 = \mathbf{15,700 \text{ people}}$.

Skidoo & Leadville:

Whose post office was open longer: Skidoo or Leadville? How much longer?
(Remember to convert to months first.)

Answer: Skidoo's post office opened in July of 1906 and closed in September of 1917. Leadville's post office opened in August of 1926 and closed in February of 1927. Therefore, Skidoo's post office was open 12 years and 2 months. Since there are 12 months in a year, $12 \times 12 = 144 + 2 \text{ more months} = 146 \text{ months}$. Leadville's post office was open 6 months. This means that Skidoo's post office was open longer. It was open $146 - 6 = \mathbf{140 \text{ months}}$ longer (11 years and 8 months).

Greenwater:

4. Sam lived in Greenwater mining camp. He needed 2 barrels of water each week. How much money did he spend on water in 4 weeks?

Answer: One barrel of water cost a person \$15 in Greenwater. Therefore, $\$15 \times 2 = \30 for one week. However, Sam needed water for 4 weeks. So, $\$30 \times 4 = \mathbf{\$120}$.

Harmony Borax Laborer:

5. Max lived at Harmony Borax mining camp. He was a laborer. He worked 6 days per week. How much money did he make each week?

Answer: A laborer at Harmony Borax mining camp earned \$1.25 each day. Therefore, Max earned $\$1.25 \times 6 = \mathbf{\$7.50}$ for 6 days of work.

Harmony Borax Blacksmith:

6. Frank also lived at Harmony Borax mining camp. He was a blacksmith. He also worked 6 days per week. How much money did he make each week?

Answer: A blacksmith at Harmony Borax mining camp earned \$5.00 each day. Therefore, Frank earned $\$5.00 \times 6 = \mathbf{\$30.00}$ for 6 days of work.

Harmony Borax Wage Comparison:

7. How much more money did Frank make each week than Max?

Answer: Frank earned \$30.00 each week and Max earned \$7.50 each week. Therefore, $\$30.00 - \$7.50 = \mathbf{\$22.50}$ more than Max.

Radcliffe Mine (Ballarat Town):

8. How much gold ore did the Radcliffe mine produce each year they were open? Assume the mine produced the same amount of gold ore each year.

Answer: Radcliffe mine produced 15,000 tons of gold ore while they were open. They were open from 1897 to 1903. Therefore $1903 - 1897 = 5$ years. So, $15,000 \text{ tons} / 5 \text{ years} = \mathbf{3,000 \text{ tons}}$ of gold ore each year. This is only true if they produced the same amount each year.

Ballarat Mining Town:

9. What is our town's longest lasting business according to our timeline? Compare this business to Ballarat's Post Office. Which was open longer? How much longer?

Answer: **Answers will vary.** Ballarat's Post Office was open from 1900 to 1917. Therefore, $1917 - 1900 = 17$ years. Students should subtract their longest lasting business from 17 years to get the answer.