

# **Teacher Page: Case Study- Revisiting the real Cost of Gold: The US General Mining Law of 1872 (p. 288-289)**

**Unit:** Unit 7

**Grade Level Indicator:**

**Description:**

**Time:** 25 minutes

**Materials:** Book page 288-289

**Procedure:**

**Warm-up:**

**Instructional Strategies:**

**Assessment:** Grade question, student participation

**Variations:** Do questions orally with teacher led instruction,

**Interdisciplinary Connection:**

**Sample Data/ Answers:** The answer key follows the student page.

**Case Study: Revisiting the Real Cost of Gold- The US**

**General Mining Law of 1872** (p. 288-289)

1. What does the General Mining Law of 1872 state? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were somethings that people have built on these lands? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How much money worth of hard rock minerals are removed from public lands? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How much are these companies taxed compared to oil, natural gas, and coal companies? What about the tax rate for grazing rights on public lands? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe what happened at the Summitville gold mining site near Alamosa, Colorado. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How much will clean-up of 500,000 abandoned mine sites cost US taxpayers? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Companies argue that government subsidized land costs allow them to do what 3 things?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Key

1. A person or corporation can file a mining claim or assume legal ownership of parcels of land on essentially all US public land except national parks and wilderness.
2. Golf courses, hunting lodges, hotels, and housing subdivisions.
3. \$4 Billion
4. 2.3% compared to 13.2% and 14% respectively
5. A Canadian company used the 1872 US mining law to buy the land cheap and spent \$1 million to develop the site, then removed \$98 million worth of gold, and abandoned the polluted site.
6. \$32-72 Billion
7.
  1. Provide High Paying jobs
  2. Supply vital resources for industry
  3. Keep mineral-based products affordable