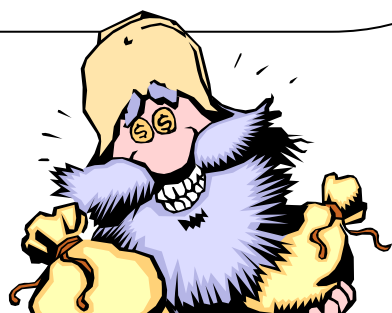


# Miners and Mining Life

**Read these two sources carefully. They both describe life in the mining towns. Try to answer these GCSE type questions:**

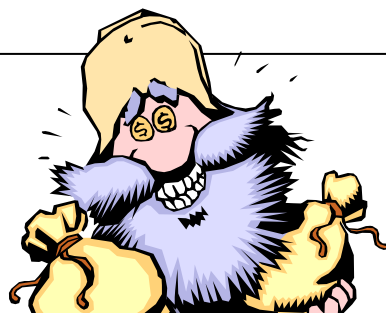
- How do these two sources differ in their description of the miners and mining life?
- Which of these two sources do you think is the most accurate description of miners and mining life?



Extract from the Novel  
'Roughing it' by Mark Twain  
1872

They fairly revelled in gold, whisky, fights and fandangos, and were unspeakably happy. The honest miner raked from a hundred to a thousand dollars out of his claim per day, and what with the gambling dens and other entertainments, he hadn't a cent left the next morning.

A description of the miner's lot,  
date unknown



The misery of a miner might fill a chapter of woes. Digging and delving with eager anxiety day after day, up to the waist in water, exposed now to the rays of the burning sun and now to cold. With liberal doses of whisky during the day and mad carousels at night, laid low with regular disappointments, it was more than a man could endure. When disease made him its prey, there was no gentle hand to minister to his wants. Lying on the hard earth, or rolling in feverish agony on the shelf bed of his cabin, often alone, while the night was made hideous by the shouts and curses of rioters.