

past times consultants

Historical Accuracy Division

*Australian History in Action
Research for the Tourist Industry*

Research Team:

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Historical Accuracy Division

Australian History in Action *Research for the Tourist Industry*

Sovereign Hill Historical Park: Ballarat

Sovereign Hill is an outdoor museum, which represents the story of the people of the 1850s Ballarat goldfields. Would a visitor to Sovereign Hill get an accurate understanding of *all* groups that were living in Ballarat during the gold rush of the 1850s? Would they know what people did? Would they know how people felt? Why people acted as they did? What were the results of their actions?

How accurate is Sovereign Hill?

Your brief is to determine how historically accurate Sovereign Hill is. As a historian, you will need to examine the evidence to evaluate how well Sovereign Hill has recreated historic Ballarat. Your information is important and will be used by Sovereign Hill to improve its displays.

Your first task is to collect the evidence. Working in small groups you will explore parts of the park to view the displays. You will need to keep records of all the evidence that you collect.

Small Businesses on the Goldfields

As you walk up the Main Road, identify some of the small businesses that are operating.

Type of Business	Trading Name
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Are there any types of small businesses that aren't represented at Sovereign Hill?

Workers and their Jobs

What types of paid employment opportunities existed on the goldfields?

Job Description	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Are there paid jobs that aren't represented here?

Cultural Groups on the Goldfields

Were there many different cultural and ethnic groups on the Ballarat goldfields? What evidence is there of different groups?

Group	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Are there any groups that aren't represented at Sovereign Hill?

Law and Order

As large numbers of people flocked to the goldfields, people were very concerned about how law and order would be maintained.

What types of criminal activities occurred on the goldfields?

Crime	Evidence
1.	
2.	

Who was responsible for maintaining law and order on the goldfields?

Group	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	

Is there anything missing from Sovereign Hill's displays on law and order?



Family Life

What hardships existed on the Ballarat goldfields that made family life difficult?

Hardship	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	

What employment opportunities existed for women on the goldfields?

Occupation	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	

What types of recreational activities were available on the goldfields?

Recreation	Evidence
1.	
2.	
3.	

Is there any aspect of family life that is not represented at Sovereign Hill?