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Minnesota Gold Rush

The discovery of gold in northern Minnesota led to the Vermilion Lake gold rush of 1865-66. However, hardly any gold was found. Tiny amounts of gold were found embedded in quartz. Mining the gold out of this hard rock was not profitable. The gold prospectors abandoned the area by 1867. Then, in the summer of 1893, gold was discovered on Little American Island in Rainy Lake (along the U.S.-Canadian border). Miners hoping to make it rich flocked to the northern region.

The Little American Mine has been the only productive gold mine ever to operate in Minnesota. Although many miners moved on to find their fortunes elsewhere, the gold rush led to the settlement of many communities in northern Minnesota, including International Falls. Today, a number of companies are actively exploring for gold in Minnesota.*

*<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/geology/digging/history.html>

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