

Klondike - Constructed Response (PAINTED)

Citing evidence from the text, explain how the author demonstrates the difficulty of finding success in the Klondike.

The Klondike was a dangerous place to be during the gold rush. Context

This was true for not only gold seekers but also for businessmen

and women. The author of this article demonstrates the challenges

of running a business in the Klondike in many ways throughout Focus statement

this article. One obvious challenge was the sheer number of

people who were in competition over gold and the lack of gold Context

available. The author writes that “of the 40,000 people who

reached Dawson, only about 15,000 actually had the grit to work Concrete Detail

the gold fields; of those, about a quarter actually unearthed any

gold, and only a handful of them became wealthy. Of that handful,

a very few managed to hang onto their wealth.” This shows that for

most people, success was very hard to find in the Klondike. Even Commentary

those who found gold, often lost their fortunes through gambling

and drinking. Others could not hold onto their success for different Context

reasons, including businessman, Alex McDonald, who “became

obsessed with buying up unwanted claims and eventually found Concrete Detail

himself stuck with a lot of worthless real estate. He died broke and

alone.” This shows that even the most successful had trouble Commentary

maintaining their success over time. Overall, it is easy to see that

finding success in the Klondike was certainly a difficult challenge. Concluding Sentence