



# The Sovereign Hill Schools

## Using the artwork of S.T. Gill as a teaching resource

Students studying History must be able to identify and analyse both primary and secondary sources.

A **primary source** is something produced at the time e.g., a painting, diary or photo while a **secondary source** is constructed after the event e.g., a text book, web page or the Sovereign Hill Outdoor Museum.

A very useful primary source to use with students studying the Victorian gold rushes is the work of the artist S.T. Gill. Samuel Thomas Gill (1818-1880) was born in Devon, England, and arrived in South Australia in 1839 when he was twenty-one years old. In 1846, he accompanied the explorer J.A. Horrocks on an expedition to Spencer Gulf.



S.T. Gill, Night Fishing

On this trip, Gill produced many watercolours including observations of the local Aboriginal people. These provide rare primary sources for students studying traditional Indigenous societies.

In 1852, Gill, like thousands of others, joined the rush to the Victorian goldfields where he sketched whatever he saw of life around him.

Many of his lively drawings were turned into hand-coloured lithographs which have left us an invaluable insight into everyday life on the goldfields.

These are a wonderful resource for teachers to use to engage students and bring History to life in the classroom. They also introduce students to using primary sources as evidence. Presenting students with an image such as The New Rush would be an excellent way to introduce the topic of gold using an inquiry approach.

For a more information on S.T. Gill, including extra images and suggested activities to use with your students, go to <http://www.sovereignhill.com.au/costumed-school/resources/>

Sovereign Hill owns an impressive collection of Gill's work, and a selection of his original drawings are on permanent display in Ballarat: Inspired by Gold, a major permanent exhibition in the Cowles Gallery at Sovereign Hill's Gold Museum.

Why not take your students for a visit! The Gold Museum is open daily until 5.00 pm and is located directly opposite Sovereign Hill's front entrance, across Bradshaw Street. Entry is free with your Sovereign Hill tickets.

Many more works by S.T. Gill will be easily found by searching Google Images.



S.T. Gill, The New Rush