



Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site
9621 Reed Mine Road
Midland, NC 28107

August 27, 2020

Dear Educators,

Thank you for considering a visit to Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site. The Reed Mine was the site of the first documented discovery of gold in the United States, leading to a vast gold mining industry in North Carolina.

Located near Midland, Reed Gold Mine is comprised of 832 acres out of John Reed's 1,000-acre farm, of which 70 acres were used for gold mining. Group visitors to the site can view the exhibits in the visitor center, including the 10-minute orientation film *Carolina Gold*. From there, guides lead tours of the underground mine, taking visitors 50 feet below the surface through tunnels originally constructed between 1830s and 1850s. The 1895 Stamp Mill is operated daily, demonstrating how quartz was pulverized and mixed with mercury to extract the gold. The visit is concluded in the panning area, where visitors learn how gold is separated from the dirt, utilizing several scientific principles learned in class. A lucky few may find gold themselves to take home as treasured souvenir!

The recently updated Teacher's Guide showcases the history of John Reed, the Reed Gold Mine, and basic gold mining technology through several sections, including Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Technology. Each section meets several pertinent North Carolina Essential Standards and can be independently downloaded, including both information and educational activities.

While this information is useful for in class or in-home instruction, the staff at Reed Gold Mine invites you to schedule your class for a field trip to experience the fun and excitement of the mine and panning area in person. Information to schedule a trip is in the [Group Reservations](#) section of the website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry K. Neal, Jr." in a cursive script.

Larry K. Neal, Jr.
Historic Site Manager
Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

