

Nome: a City of Boom and Bust

Alaska’s history from the Russian Period to the Modern Period has experienced cyclical booms and busts. Evidence of this is seen on this timeline.

Whaling fleet crushed	Ice trade ends	700,000 salmon cases packed	Whale oil replaced by petroleum	Gold peaks Juneau booms 2.5 million cases of salmon	copper mining peaks	Reindeer peak at 640,000 animals	Fairbanks Anchorage boom	Salmon canning peaks Fur trapping declines	Prudhoe Bay production peaks
1868	1880	1889	1890s	1905	1916	1930	1945	1948	1981

To help understand this pattern, read “The Early Days of Nome” by Alice Osborne and answer the following questions.

1. All resources have different boom cycles. How many years did Nome boom?

2. When did the gold rush peak in Nome as compared with Alaska’s gold rushes in general on the timeline?

3. Did the residents of Nome during its peak see themselves as Alaskans? **No** Briefly explain.

4. List four cities mentioned in the reading that received the Alaskan gold.

5. What social patterns and activities did you notice that are similar in Alaska today?

6. What were two major differences in life then and now?

7. According to this reading, was it primarily the great storm of 1913 that destroyed the Nome economy? Briefly explain.

