

Gold Mine

In the depths of a South African mine, workers are in a truck heading down the tunnel at the start of their shift. Another day of toil in the endless search for gold. Sifting through the sand and gravel they are looking for the glint gold nuggets, singing to keep their spirits up. At the end of the day they receive their wages and head off for a night of carousing and boot dancing.

Environment

Build the entrance to the mine using golden voiles, sparkly fairy lights, bean bag boulders and gold space blankets shimmering behind the voiles. A projection of a train travelling through a tunnel will add atmosphere. In the mine itself create gravel and sand areas with gold 'nuggets' glinting within, made from gold painted pebbles. For mining activities use:

- Buckets and woks
- Colanders and sieves
- Spades
- Ropes, chains and pulleys
- Boomwhackers

For the Staff Quarters use desk for the Mine Manager topped with bags of shaky bottle top wages, gold bracelets, necklaces and golden nugget treats. A hardboard floor, lined with bottle top boots and broomhandles, creates an area for dancing along to projections of South African gumboot dancers.

Costumes - Neckerchiefs and head-torches

Music - Some South African work songs would be great to know for the first section, like Shosholoz, and you can create your own sounds in the gumboot section. To generate atmosphere generally music like Boyoyo Boys and Ladysmith Black Mambazo would set the scene perfectly.

Down the mine - Enter the tunnel, listening to the truck as it trundles down and watching the projection as you travel deeper into the mine. Find your boomwhacker tools and start digging. Play rhythms and sing as you work

Gravel and Sand - Explore the textures and sounds of gravel and sand. Pour, sift, sort, bury hands and feet, and transfer it into different containers to make different sounds. Make patterns in the sand with buckets, chains, feet, fingers. Haul the buckets up and down on pulleys. Pull out seams of shiny space blanket gold. Hear the sound, see it glint in the lights, hide underneath or walk over it. Dress up in gold.

Wages and boot dance - The shift is over. Take the gold nuggets you found to the mine manager who gives you wages (pouches of bottle tops to feel, rattle and shake), gold jewellery to wear and golden nuggets to taste. Then put on your bottle top boots, grab a bottle top stick and dance with the miners in the projection until it's time to go home.

Links

Sand Prop
Stones Prop
Movement Activity

Video

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