

## Bill Miner

*These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the Bill Miner biography.*

1. Identify and describe three of Bill Miner's positive characteristics.
2. How were prisoners treated in the San Quentin jail?
3. Name one way that Bill and his mother Harriet were similar.
4. Is there any significance to the fact that there are only male historians in the video? Explain.
5. Why is it important to examine a range of historical materials (as opposed to just one)?
6. Describe life in California during the late 1800s.
7. Identify and describe the "bachelor cult of masculinity."
8. Why did Bill earn a reputation for being a gentleman during the 1871 stage coach robbery? What about his reputation as a Robin Hood style thief? Are any criminals today seen as heroes or heroines?
9. Who did Bill fall in love with? Why was this a significant milestone in his life?
10. What information did Pinkerton's detective agency have about Bill?
11. Who was Jake Terri? Compare him to Bill.
12. How did Bill rob the CPR train? Why was this robbery significant?
13. Why might Canadians have felt that Bill, the robber, "ain't so bad"?
14. Describe how the CPR was perceived by many Canadians. Why did the CPR have this reputation?
15. How was Bill perceived by many Canadian courts?
16. Explain Bill's impact on the CPR, the Canadian government, and Canadian citizens.
17. How did Bill manage to escape prison? What does the escape "hole" present problems?
18. Why do you think Miner is part of *The Canadians* biography series? Does he deserve this? Explain your opinion.