*The King of Mazy May*

*Build Your Prior Knowledge:* ***K****no****WL****edge Hunt*

*The King of Mazy May*, by Jack London, is a story about a 14 year-old boy called Walt Masters who lived at the time of the *gold rush* about 150 years ago. Walt was born at a *trading post* on the Yukon river in Northern Canada, and when his mother died, he and his father moved up the river and settled by a small *creek* called Mazy May. They were there to look for gold which had been found in the creeks and rivers of the Klondike region. In those days *prospectors* could get land for themselves by marking it out with *stakes*, and then going to the *commissioner's* office of the nearest big town to *register their claim*. When that had been done, they were the owners of the land and nobody could take it away from them.

Walt's father had registered his claim so their land was safe from claim-jumpers. Claim-jumpers were men who waited until gold had been found in part of a river and then went to the commissioner's office to claim the land for themselves before the person who found the gold had the chance to do it himself.

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Instructions: Hunt through the information in the selection and on p.281 to complete the following in the know column of your KWL chart.

1. What does it mean to register a claim?  
2. What does a prospector do?  
3. What is used to mark the land?

4. How old is Walt?  
5. What is the Mazy May?  
6. What does a commissioner do?  
7. What is a claim jumper?  
8. During what period in history does this story take place?  
9. What part of the world?

10. Who is the author of the story and what type of life did he live?

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Instructions: Hunt through the information in the selection to complete the following questions on the chart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Questions | Answers |
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