

Colorado

Unit Study

By Erica @ Confessions

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Colorado

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Directions:

Teacher Lesson Plans: Print pages 1-40 and place in a 1/2" 3 ring binder. (Optional: You may wish to work off of a copy on your computer as there are quite a few educational links mentioned in the curriculum.

Note: Although related field trip ideas are listed throughout the curriculum, see page 38 for a more complete list of educational opportunities available in the state of Colorado.

Student Workbook: Print the student workbook, pages 42-74. You will need one copy per student. Hole punch and place pages into a 1" 3-ring binder for each student. Place page 42 into the cover slot of the binder. This will be the student Colorado State Unit Study binder for the remainder of the lessons. Students will complete the pages as indicated in the teacher lesson plans.

Colorado Introduction

Materials Needed:

- US Map or Atlas
- 1" 3-ring binder to keep student Notebooking pages in.

Lesson 1:

Introduce Colorado and locate the state and it's capital city of Denver on a United States Map or Atlas.

- Print the cover (First page) from the student worksheet section for students to color and add to the front of their Colorado state binder.

Read through the State Symbols of Colorado:

- **Colorado** is in the heart of the Rocky Mountain range. It is nicknamed "The Centennial State" because it entered the union in 1876, just 100 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It has over 50 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation. The average elevation of Colorado is 6,800 feet above sea level making it the highest state in the U.S. Denver is known as "The Mile High City". It has 4 major rivers flowing through it, the Colorado River, Rio Grande, South Platte and Arkansas, can you find them on the map?
- **State Flag:** The flag of Colorado consists of 3 stripes of blue, white and blue. The blue is the same as the blue field of the national US Flag. In the center there is a circular red C which is also the same red as the US Flag. In the center of the C is a golden disk.
- **State Fish:** The Greenback Cutthroat Trout was made Colorado's official state fish in 1994. It is indigenous to many small streams and rivers in Colorado. This fish was on the verge of extinction until the CO Division of Wildlife and National Parks took steps to prevent this. It's maximum size is 18 inches. It has large spots all over its body, and like all cutthroats, it has red coloration in the area of the lower jaw and throat.
- **State Bird:** The Colorado state bird is the Lark Bunting. It has a black body and white wings and is about 6 inches long. The bunting migrates in to the plains area in April then fly south in September. [Click here for more information!](#)
- **State Flower:** The Columbine Flower or Rocky Mountain Columbine is white and lavender in color. It blooms in the spring and was named from a Latin Word Columba meaning dove, as it looked like the bird of peace. It is the most honored state flower in all of the US. In 1925 the General Assembly prohibited the destruction of this rare species of flower.
- **State Insect:** Thanks to a class in Aurora, Colorado, the [Hairstreak Butterfly](#) was named Colorado's official state insect in 1996. It is native to the American southwest and is easily identifiable by the slender tail protruding from the hind wings. The upper side of the butterfly has dark purple wings with a broad black or darker border. Each wing has orange spots at the lower outer edges, and each tail wing has a thin hair like tail. They primarily eat tree sap, raindrops and aphid honeydew.
- **State Mammal:** The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep is the state mammal of Colorado. It is a species of sheep known mostly by it's large horns. The horns alone can weigh up to 30 pounds and the sheep typically weigh an average of 300 pounds. These animals are typically found in the U.S. area of the Rocky Mountains.

Activity:

- Complete the "Where is Colorado?" student worksheet using a US map or atlas.

Colorado Landmarks

Lesson 2:

- **Pikes Peak:** Pikes Peak is one of the most famous landmarks in the State of Colorado. It is only 10 miles west of Colorado Springs and is 14,115 feet tall. It is part of the front range of the Rocky Mountains. It was discovered in the early 1800's by Zebulon Pike. Several adventurers came to Colorado in the hopes of discovering gold in the area and thus came the banner "Pikes Peak or Bust!" The words to America the Beautiful were written by Katharine Lee Bates after visiting the top of Pikes Peak in 1893. Today you can still visit the top by riding the Pikes Peak Railway to the summit.
- **Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad:** Built in the early 1880's, the Durango and Silverton narrow Gauge Railroad was put in place to carry gold and silver that had been mined out of the San Juan Mountains. The railroad is still in use today but more for tourism. It is a 5 hour ride where you can see the beauty of the Colorado mountainous landscape up close! For more pictures and information you can visit durangotrain.com
- **Mesa Verde National Park**, located in Montezuma County, CO, was established in 1906 to protect some of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the world. Mesa Verde, Spanish for green table, shows us a glimpse into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who lived there from A.D. 600 to A.D. 1300. Cliff Palace is the largest cliff dwelling at Mesa Verde. It has 150 rooms, plus an additional 75 open areas. The number of Ancestral Puebloans living in Cliff Palace at any one time was about 100-120.

Activity:

- Make your own cliff dwellings or Bent's Fort using [Flora Craft Bricks](#) and craft glue.

Field Trip Ideas:

Depending on your location, take a field trip to tour one of these historic sites!

- [Manitou Cliff Dwellings](#)—Tour the amazing cliff dwellings of the Anasazi, they also have two museums featuring cultural displays. Located in Manitou Springs, CO.
- Visit [Mesa Verde National Park](#) where you'll witness the spectacular lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people and view amazing archaeological sites, including some the best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States. Located near Durango, CO.
- [Pikes Peak](#) – Enjoy spectacular scenery, Manitou cliff dwellings, horseback riding, biking, and exploring the beautiful Pikes Peak area. You can also ride on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway to the top of the mountain where you enjoy breathtaking views! Located in Colorado Springs, CO.

Lesson 3:

Review the Colorado State Symbols from Lesson 1 and 2, then have students color the Colorado State Coloring Page.

Colorado Landmarks Part 2

Lesson 4:

- **Bent's Fort** is located in Otero County (La Junta area) in southeastern Colorado. It was formed by Charles and William Bent to trade with the Southern Cheyenne and Arapahoe Plains Native Americans and trappers for buffalo robes. The fort was destroyed in 1849. It was of the most important trading posts in the west. Today you can take a guided tour of the fort. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm> for more information.
- **Sand Dunes National Park** is located in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. The park includes 44,246 acres and was established as a national park and preserve in 2003. It contains the tallest sand dunes in North America at about 750 feet above the floor of the San Luis Valley. The dunes are formed from sand and soil deposits. There are several activities available to you in the park. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/grsa/planyourvisit/index.htm> for more information.
- **The Garden of the Gods** is a public park located in Colorado Springs, CO. It is home to the impressive red rock formations along with abundant wildlife and plant life. You can take tours of the park, as well as enjoy hiking, rock climbing horseback riding, and biking. Visit www.gardenofgods.com for more information.
- **The Cave of the Winds** is located near Colorado Springs, CO. The caves house numerous rare crystalline formations. You can view these spectacular formations in person via guided tour. Visit www.caveofthewinds.com for more information.
- **Royal Gorge:** The Royal Gorge is a canon along the Arkansas River located near Canyon City. It is 1,250 feet deep in places and about 50 feet wide. The area proved to be rich in silver and lead, so rail access to the area was a priority. On May 7, 1879 the first excursion train traveled through the canyon. Although passenger train service was discontinued in 1967, you can still take a sight-seeing train that follows the route through the gorge. The Royal Gorge Bridge is suspended at 955 feet above the river holding the record for the highest bridge in the world from 1929 to 2003.
- You can watch a video of the Royal Gorge Train here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70tD1BFv7Oo>

Activity:

- Create the Royal Gorge Bridge. (See following page for detailed directions.)

Field Trip Ideas: Visit any of the above locations depending on where you live!

- [Royal Gorge Bridge and Park](#) – Enjoy breathtaking scenery as you learn how the Royal Gorge was created. The park offers more than 360 acres and 21 rides, shows, and attractions. Please call before going as weather can affect its availability. Located in Canyon City, CO.
- [Bent's Fort](#)—This site features a reconstructed 1840s adobe fur trading post along the Santa Fe Trail. Historians have recreated the sights, sounds, and smells of the past with guided tours, and special events! Located in La Junta, CO.

Royal Gorge Bridge Activity

Popsicle Stick Bridge Craft:

Supplies:

- Paper, pencil
- Popsicle sticks
- Thick pieces of cardboard for bridge roadway, and base
- White glue or hot glue
- Hacksaw or scissors to cut popsicle sticks (adult use only)
- Clothes pins
- Yarn or string
- Play-Doh or clay
- Poster board (Preferably blue for water)

Directions:

- Draw rough profile view of your bridge on paper. (See below)
- Cut 1.5 inch wide strips of thick cardboard for roadway length. Cut one longer piece for the base of your bridge. Since your bridges will vary in length, make sure your base is long enough to hold your bridge structure as well as supporting ties.
- Create 2 identical ladders. Make it to be 3 popsicle sticks high and several 1.75" strips for the sideways ladder rungs. Glue in place and let dry. (TIP: You may want to prepare these ahead of time.)
- Using Play-Doh to secure ladder pieces vertically, place 1 ladder in a large ball of Play-Doh and place on poster board about 6 inches apart depending on how long you want to make your bridge.
- Lay cut cardboard roadway across ladders so it is resting on one of the ladder rungs.
- Tie string at top of first ladder then let curve down towards road then back up to next ladder, and tie at the top. Repeat on opposite side of ladder as well.
- Tie another long piece to ladder tops and pull at angle down to roadway end and secure.
- Using more string, tie pieces to curved main string line, loop under roadway then back up other side and tie to opposite curved main string. Repeat all across bridge using various lengths of string to support bridge while keeping the downward curve of your main string line.
- Decorate valley area as desired.



Colorado Salt Dough Map Activity

Lesson 5:

Materials Needed:

- US Map or Atlas
- **Ingredients:**
 - 4 cups of flour
 - 2 cups of salt
 - 2 cups of water
 - 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
 - green & blue food coloring
 - Poster board or cardboard for base
 - Toothpicks and paper strips to label various landmarks

- **Directions:**

Mix with your hands until the dough is soft and pliable, not crumbly. Add more water or flour as necessary. Separate into 2 balls (3/4 green and 1/4 blue) Using food coloring mix 1/4 the dough blue for water, and the remaining dough green for land. Form your green dough into a square shaped map on a piece of poster board or cardboard. Carve out areas for the water ways and fill them in with the blue dough. *Don't forget to build up mountain ranges with extra dough.*

While dough is still soft, stick toothpicks in dough to mark major landmarks, rivers, lakes, mountains etc. Glue 1/2" x 2" paper strips to toothpicks to label each region.

Some things to label: (You may label whatever you like, here are some suggestions to help you)

Mountains:

- Rocky Mountain Range
- Pikes Peak
- Longs Peak
- Mt. Elbert

Cities/Towns:

- Denver
- Your home town
- Central City
- Colorado Springs
- Fort Collins
- Durango/Silverton

Landmarks:

- Bent's Fort
- Sand Dunes National Park
- Royal Gorge
- Garden of the Gods
- Mesa Verde
- Royal Gorge

Water:

- Colorado River
- Platte River
- Arkansas River
- Rio Grande River

Colorado State Symbols

Lesson 6:

Review state landmarks and have students complete the "Landmarks of Colorado" worksheet.

Lesson 7:

The **Colorado state seal** was designed by Lewis Ledyard Weld, the Territorial Secretary appointed by President Lincoln on November 6, 1861. Around the seal are the words "State of Colorado" and "1876" the year Colorado came into statehood.



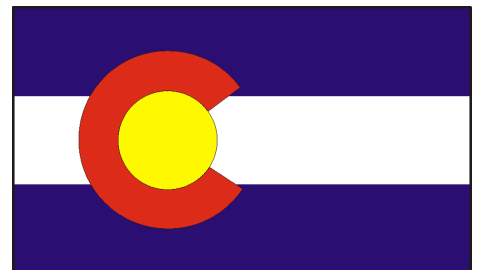
The seal is two and one-half inches in diameter. At the top is the Eye of Providence or all seeing eye within a triangle. Below the eye is a scroll, and a bundle of birch rods with a battle ax bound together with a ribbon of red, white, and blue symbolizing strength. The top of the heraldic shield has a red sky behind three snow-capped mountains. The lower half of the shield has a pick and sledge hammer, representing the mining industry of the state.

Below the shield is the state motto, "Nil Sine Numine", Latin meaning "Nothing without Providence", or "Nothing without the Deity."

Activity: Have students read and complete the State Seal Worksheet.

Lesson 8:

The flag of Colorado was adopted on June 5, 1911. consists of three alternate stripes. The outer two stripes are blue, and the center stripe is white, representing the white snow capped mountains of the state. The blue is the same as the blue field of the national US Flag and represents the clear blue skies of Colorado. In the center there is a circular red C which is also the same red as the one found in the United States Flag. The red represents the color of much of the state's soil. In the center of the "C" is a golden disk. The golden color represents the abundant sunshine enjoyed by Coloradans.



Activity: Read and complete the Colorado Flag worksheet

Colorado State Symbols

Lesson 9:

On August 1, 1876, Colorado became the 38th state admitted to statehood. It currently has a population of 4,301,261 people. Its residents are named "Coloradans" and specialize in agriculture, tourism, mining, and manufacturing.

With an area of 104,100 square miles, Colorado is the eighth biggest state in the United States. It is also home to some of the highest peaks in the nation. It has over 50 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation. Mt. Elbert is the highest point in the state reaching 14,433 feet above sea level. The average elevation of Colorado is 6,800 feet above sea level making it the highest state in the U.S. and giving it the nickname "The Mile High City". Other nicknames of the state include the "Centennial State" because it entered the union in 1876, just 100 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is also known as "Colorful Colorado" due to the amazing display of plant life across the state.

The word Colorado is Spanish for the color red, and refers to the muddy color of the Colorado River. The state is bordered by the states of Wyoming to the north, Nebraska and Kansas to the northeast and east, New Mexico and Oklahoma to the south, and Utah and Arizona to the Southwest.

The four states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona all meet together in a common point known as the "Four Corners" where all four states touch.

Activity:

Research more information on Colorado online and complete the "State of Colorado Information" worksheet.

Lesson 10:

Research your city online and complete the "My City Information" worksheet.

Lesson 11:

Research your county online and complete the "My County Information" worksheet.

Mapping Colorado

Lesson 12:

Using an atlas or online research, have students mark items on the “Political and Physical mapping” worksheet. Make sure to create a key for your maps. Below are some ideas of what to label on each map.

Political Map: Make sure to mark major cities (including capital), neighboring states, interstates, and highways.

- Denver
- Boulder
- Fort Collins
- Durango
- Grand Junction
- Colorado Springs
- Pike’s Peak
- Arizona
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Utah
- Wyoming

Physical Map: Mark major rivers, lakes, mountains, deserts, and national parks.

- Colorado River
- Arkansas River
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Pike’s Peak
- South Platte River
- Rocky Mountain Range

Mapping Colorado Part 2

Lesson 13:

Using an atlas or online research, have students mark items on the "Agricultural and industries mapping" worksheet. Make sure to create a key for your maps. Below are some ideas of what to label on each map.

Agricultural Map: Draw symbols to represent each agricultural product and where they are located. For a full size printable version of the map shown below visit:

www.colorado.gov

- Wheat: Colorado ranks first nationally in production of millet which is an annual grain used for livestock feed.
- Cattle is one of the largest industries averaging 2.6 million head of cattle in the state.
- Dairy: Colorado produces more than 2.5 billion pounds of milk and over 1 billion eggs each year.
- Colorado's sheep, lamb, and wool production is fourth ranked in the nation.
- Colorado produces 100 million pounds of pinto beans each year.
- Peaches, apples, and cantaloupe are the largest fruit crops.

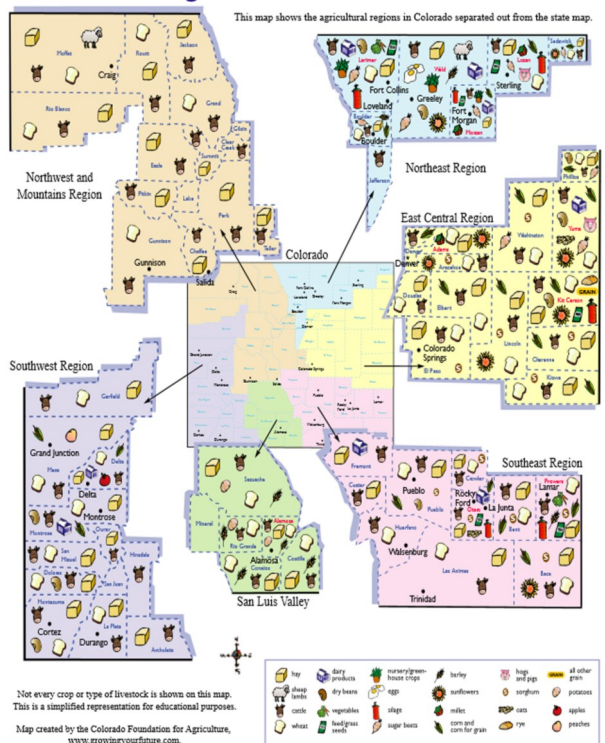
Industries Map: What industries can be found in Colorado and where are they located?

- Agriculture (wheat, cattle, sheep)
- Tourism (skiing)
- Mining (gold, silver)
- Oil
- Finance
- Manufacturing

Lesson 14:

Have students research two of Colorado's agricultural products and industries. Complete the "Colorado Industry & Agriculture" worksheet.

Where our Ag Products are Grown or Raised



Colorado Wildlife

Lesson 15:

Having four different climate zones, Colorado is home to one of the most diverse group of wildlife. Today we'll discuss some of the animals found in the great plains and foothills regions of Colorado.

Plains:

The great plains is a grassland prairie ecosystem that extends from Northern Canada all the way down to Southern Texas. The Colorado section of the great plains are at an elevation of about 4,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation. It is home to a variety of animal life such as American badgers, brown bats, Bison, coyote, white-tailed deer, moles, foxes, ground squirrels, jackrabbits, harvest mice, nine-banded armadillos, kangaroo rats, gophers, prairie dogs, and skunk. Other animals include the barn owl, sparrow, crow, nighthawk, golden eagle lark bunting, sparrow, morning dove, and western meadowlark. Reptiles such as the racerunner, lizard, box turtle, prairie rattlesnake, bull snake, toad, tarantula, and scorpion can all be found here. The bald eagle, our country's national symbol, can also be found all over Colorado during both the summer and winter. You will most often see them near large reservoirs and along major rivers.

Foothills:

The foothills are at an elevation of 5,500 to 7,000 feet. The foothills house similar animals as the plains but also include animals such as the black bear, bobcat, mule deer, mountain lion, cougars, porcupines, and raccoon. You will also find the magpie, grouse, bluebird, chickadee, and wild turkey living here. It is also home to reptiles such as the tree lizard, skunk, gopher snake, garter snake.

Activity:

Have students research and fill in the appropriate wild life for the plains and foothill climates of Colorado on the "Wildlife of Colorado by Region" worksheet.

Colorado Wildlife Part 2

Lesson 16:

Having four different climate zones, Colorado is home to one of the most diverse group of wildlife. Today we will discuss animals found in the higher elevations and alpine tundra regions.

Higher Zones:

The areas between 7,000 to 11,500 feet are considered the higher zones of Colorado. Animals such as the American pika, Bighorn sheep, lynx, elk, red fox, snowshoe hare, pine marten, and yellow-bellied marmot call this region home. Along with the wood frog, tiger salamander, garter snake, and western toad.

Alpine Tundra:

Any region located above 11,500 feet is classified as Alpine Tundra. Here you will find animals such as the American pika, bighorn sheep, Canada lynx, chipmunk, snowshoe hare, vole, moose, mountain lion, American marten, pocket gopher, shrew, and opossum. Hummingbirds, ravens, eagles, owls, and white-tailed ptarmigan also call this area home.

Activity:

- Have students research and fill in the appropriate wild life for higher zones and alpine tundra climates of Colorado on the "Wildlife of Colorado by Region" worksheet.

Lesson 17:

Take a field trip to any of the above climates in Colorado accessible to you. Draw pictures, or take photos of the various animals you see. Return home and research to find out what the animals you saw are. Use the "Wildlife life—nature walk" worksheet to help you note what you see on your trip.

NOTE: For a fun field trip checklist of Colorado Wildlife visit:

<http://www.colorado.com/sites/colorado.com/master/files/WildlifeList2012.pdf>

Lesson 18:

Choose your favorite climate region of Colorado and create a wildlife diorama. (See following page for detailed directions.)

Lesson 19:

Sort animals you've learned about into classes using the "Colorado Wildlife by Class" worksheet.

Field Trip Idea: If you are in the area, visit the [Butterfly Pavilion](#), [Cheyenne Zoo](#), or [Denver Zoo](#).

Colorado Wildlife Diorama

Supplies:

- 1 Shoe box or cardboard box
- Green paint
- Paper towel tubes, or wrapping paper tubes
- Plastic wildlife Animals
- Hot Glue Gun
- Pipe Cleaners, brown & green
- Optional: Colored construction paper, peat moss material, flowers, leaves, and any other decorations you would like. (Most of those items can be found at your local craft store)

Directions:

- Paint shoe box bottom green, and sides blue. Feel free to add in clouds and a blue river if it fits in your subject area.
- Wrap pipe cleaners around paper towel tubes to create tree branches, then glue on fake leaves or cut out leaves from green construction paper and add to branches. Use a hot glue gun to secure the "tree" to the shoebox.
- Add in Peat moss for grass, flowers, and appropriate wildlife. These can be all be created from construction paper and glued on, or you may choose to use plastic wildlife.

Below is a sample of a rainforest diorama to help you get an idea of what it will look like.



Colorado Wildlife Part 2

Lesson 20:

Introduce animal classes below:

Amphibians are a class of vertebrate that spend the first part of their life in water, then once they reach adulthood, can later live on land. Amphibians are cold-blooded (or ectothermic) meaning their body temperature is dependent upon their environment. Amphibians may spend their lifetime living on land and water. The word *amphibian* means “living a double life.”

Reptiles are a class of vertebrates that include snakes, lizards, turtles, crocodiles, and alligators. Unlike amphibians reptiles do not begin their life in the water. Although some reptiles give birth to live young, most lay eggs. And all reptiles breathe with lungs. Reptiles are cold-blooded (or ectothermic) meaning they rely on their environment to regulate their body temperature. As such reptiles cannot live in an area that experiences extreme temperatures.

Birds are the only class of vertebrates that have feathers. They also have wings, though not all birds can fly. All birds hatch from eggs, have two legs, and either a beak or a bill. Birds help us by eating insects that are harmful to plant life. They can either nest in trees, or on the ground in well covered brush. Birds that nest on the ground are usually a dull color to help them blend into their surroundings. This is called “camouflage”.

Fish are vertebrates (animals with a backbone) that live their entire lives in the water. Their bodies are covered with scales for protection. Instead of hearing, fish feel vibrations in the water. They can also smell extremely well. All fish have gills which help them breathe in the water. They also have fins that help them to swim. Fish are cold-blooded meaning that their body temperature changes when the temperature of the water changes.

Mammals are a class of warm-blooded (endothermic) vertebrates. All mammals are alike in five ways. Mammals are unique in that they produce milk for their babies and typically take good care of their young. Mammals also have at least some hair, they are tetrapods meaning they have four limbs, and they have lungs with which to breathe air.

Arthropods: Insects are part of the arthropod class of invertebrates. They are all alike in three ways. They have six legs, three body parts (the head, thorax, and abdomen), and all have an outer skeleton. The insects head contains the antennae, eyes, and mouth. The thorax a.k.a. the motor room contains the insects legs and wings. And the abdomen contains its stomach and spiracles for breathing. Insects do not have lungs, instead they have spiracles (tiny tubes) which carry the oxygen through to the insects blood.

Activity:

Sort animals you've learned about into classes using the “Colorado Wildlife by Class” worksheet.

Colorado Plant Life

Lesson 21:

There are four main climate zones in the state of Colorado. The biomes of the plains, foothills, higher zones, and alpine tundra are home to an extensive variety of plant life. Each season brings colorful changes to this beautiful state.

Plains:

The Colorado plains, or prairies, are at an elevation of about 4,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation and can be found on both the eastern and western sides of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. They are home to a variety of grasses such as Indian rice grass, Western wheatgrass, and needle grass. There are also many species of cacti, sagebrush, wildflowers, and yucca found in the plains of Colorado. The colorful fields of wildflowers bloom in spring and early summer.

Foothills:

The foothills are at an elevation of 5,500 to 7,000 feet. Since this region is in between the plains area and the higher mountains it is home to a diverse mixture of plant life. Some common plants in this region include the mariposa lily, wallflower, purple fringe, and larkspur. You will also find many types of trees here including oak, juniper, and pinion pine trees along with a variety of shrubs.

Activity:

Have students research and fill in the appropriate wildlife for the plains and foothill climates of Colorado on the "Plant Life by Region" worksheet.

Lesson 22:

Have students research some more of the diverse plant life found in Colorado by type and fill in the "Colorado Plant Life" worksheet.

Field Trip:

If you are in the Denver area, take a field trip to the [Denver Botanic Gardens](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org/) where you can see a variety of plant life along with a live rainforest!

Colorado Plant Life Part 2

Lesson 23:

There are four main climate zones in the state of Colorado. The biomes of the plains, foothills, high zones, and alpine tundra zones are home to an extensive variety of plant life. Each season brings colorful changes to this beautiful state.

Higher Zones:

The areas between 7,000 to 11,500 feet are considered the higher zones of Colorado. They are home to coniferous forests including the ponderosa pine, spruce trees, and Douglas fir trees. You will also find quite a bit of shrubs such as snowberry and elderberry growing between the dense trees. Late September and October provide the best time of the year to witness the beautiful color changes in Colorado's iconic Aspen trees.

Alpine Tundra:

Any region located above 11,500 feet is classified as Alpine Tundra. Colorado is home to many of the United States "14er's" or mountains higher than 14,000 feet. Here you will find moss, lichen, sedges and some grassland. Early summer is a good time to visit this region as its colorful flowering plants are in bloom.

Activity:

Have students research and fill in the appropriate wild life for the higher zones and alpine tundra climates of Colorado on the "Plant Life by Region" worksheet.

Lesson 24:

Take a field trip to any of the above climates in Colorado accessible to you. Draw pictures, or take photos of the various plants and trees you see. Return home and research to find out what the plants you saw are. Use the "Plant life—nature walk" worksheet to help you record what you see on your trip.

Colorado History Timeline

Lesson 25:

Read through some of the historical timeline facts for Colorado.

- 1100—Formation of great Cliff Dwelling Civilization in the Mesa Verde Region formed.
- 1276-1299—Mesa Verde region deserted due to prolonged drought on the Colorado Plateau.
- 1541—Spanish military expedition led by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado searches the Great Plains for “Quivira” in search for the golden Seven Cities of Cibola.
- 1682—Explorer La Salle appropriates all of the area now known as Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains for France.
- 1803—The United States acquires a large area which includes most of eastern Colorado through the Louisiana Purchase, signed by President Thomas Jefferson.
- 1806—Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike and a small party of U.S. soldiers discover the now famous Pikes Peak while exploring the southwestern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase. Pike failed to climb the peak, but reaches the headwaters of the Arkansas River near Leadville.
- 1820—Numerous Native Americans inhabit the Colorado area during this time. The Utes reside in the mountains. The Cheyenne and Arapahoe on the plains and the Kiowas and Comanches south of the Arkansas River. The Pawnee tribe hunts buffalo along the Republican River.
- 1820—Major Stephen H. Long explores the southern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase coming up the South Platt River. Discovers Long’s Peak.
- 1825—Fur-traders, trappers, and mountain men make their way to Colorado establishing posts in the South Platte Valleys.
- 1832—One of the most important trading posts in the west, Bent’s Fort, is built by the Bents near present day city of La Junta.
- 1840’s—Lieutenant John C. Fremont takes the first of his five expeditions into the Rocky Mountains.
- 1848—By the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico cedes to the United States most of Colorado that was not originally acquired by the Louisiana Purchase.

Activity:

- Have students pick out some important events and add more events to their timeline worksheet. (Print as many copies as needed for this activity.)
- Begin historical landscape today. (*See detailed directions on following page.*)

Historical Landscape Craft

Landscape Craft:

Supplies:

- Tempera paint (for finished cabin, and landscape additions to poster board base)
- Large sheet of cardboard or poster board to use as a base.

Directions:

Paint a landscape scene on your poster board. You might wish to add in grasslands, a river, mountains, etc. Let base of project dry.



Colorado History Timeline Part 2

Lesson 26:

Read through some more of the historical timeline facts for Colorado.

- 1850—The Federal Government purchases Texas' claims in Colorado and establishes the present day boundaries of Colorado.
- 1851— The First non-Native American settlement in Colorado is founded in the San Luis Valley. Fort Massachusetts was established in the area to protect settlers from Native American's who felt the settlers were encroaching on their land.
- 1854—Treaties between the settlers and Native Americans do not go well, resulting in a conflict with the Utes who kill fifteen settlers of Fort Pueblo on Christmas Day.
- 1858-59—Gold is found by Green Russell near the South Platte River causing the "gold rush" from the east and the "Pikes Peak or Bust" slogan. In 1859 more gold is found by George A. Jackson along the Chicago Creek near present day Idaho Springs.
- 1859—
 - On March 9 the first stagecoach with mail heads west from Leaven worth Kansas.
 - On April 23 the first newspaper was published by William N. Byers, he called it the "Rocky Mountain News".
 - On May 6, John Gregory makes a famous gold strike in North Clear creek further enticing the gold rush. Camps were formed in Black Hawk, Central City, and Nevadaville.
 - October 3 the first school is opened by O.J. Goldrick at Auraria.
- 1861—Congress establishes the Colorado Territory with it's current boundaries and President Lincoln appoints William Gilpin as the first Territorial governor for the state. Later in the year the Supreme Court is organized the congressional delegates are chosen. Colorado's population is approximately 25,370 at this time.
- 1863—A telegraph line linking Denver with the east coast is created, costing \$9.10 to send ten words all the way from Denver to New York.
- 1864—Tension between settlers and the Native American tribes escalates leading to the Sand Creek Massacre killing many Native American men, women, and children in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe encampments.

Activity:

- Have students pick out some important events and add more events to their timeline worksheet. (Print as many copies as needed for this activity.)
- Complete Tepee Craft, and add it to your landscape from yesterday. (*See following page for directions.*)

Tepee Craft

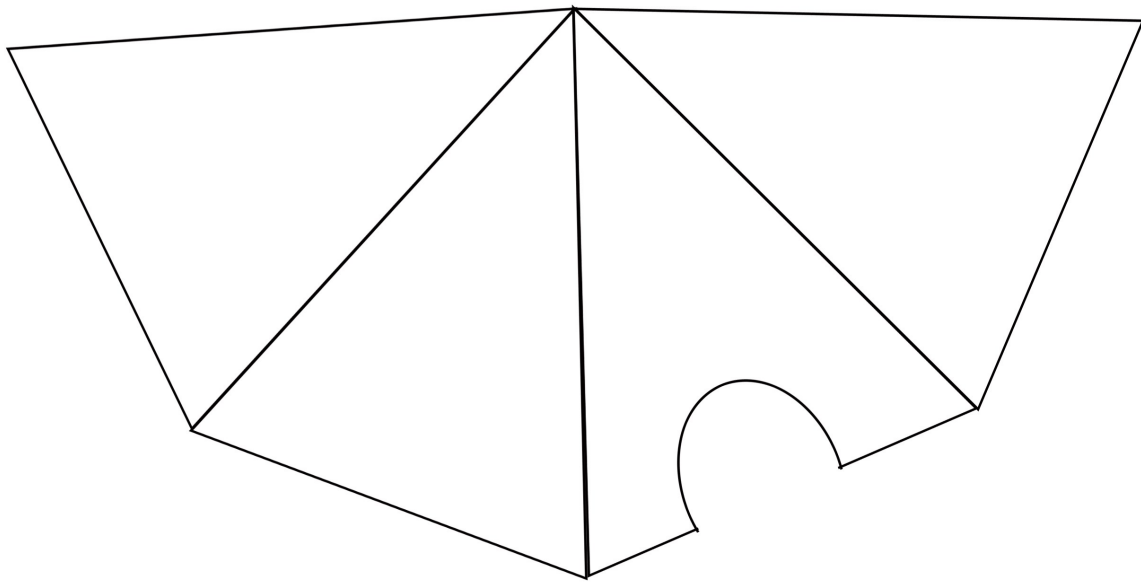
Landscape Craft:

Supplies:

- 4 BBQ skewers
- Glue
- Markers
- Tan or off white construction paper.
- String, twine, or a rubber band.

Directions:

1. Bind the skewers together about an inch down from the top using the string or rubber band.
2. Trace 4 triangle shapes on the construction paper, see illustration below.
3. Tape the triangles together along the 'seams' and re-fold along them to create a tepee shape.
4. Cut a small half circle out of one of the triangles for the door, see illustration below.
5. Snip off the top of the tepee to create a small hole for the BBQ skewers to poke through.
6. Carefully set up and adjust the skewers so they form a tepee shape.
7. Fit tepee around the BBQ Skewers and tape each skewer to a seam along the inside of the tepee.
8. Set the tepee upright on your landscape from yesterday.



Colorado History Timeline Part 3

Lesson 27:

- 1865—Attacks by Native Americans along trails causes an increase in the price of goods. Potatoes go for \$15/bushel and flour costs \$40/100 pounds.
- 1870—The Denver and Pacific Railroad is built connecting Denver with the Union Pacific at Cheyenne Wyoming. Population for Colorado is approximately 39,860 at this time.
- 1871—The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad is built southward from Denver and the Colorado School of Mines is established in Golden, CO.
- 1876—Colorado is admitted to the Union as the 38th state on August 1, 1876. Greeley's first industry, tanning of buffalo hides, creates 12 robes per day.
- 1877—The University of Colorado, Boulder opens classes with only two teachers and forty-four students.
- 1878—Leadville becomes one of the world's greatest mining camps boasting to be rich in silver, iron, and carbonate. The first opera house opens in Central City. And the first telephone lines are installed in Denver, and in February of 1879 the Denver Telephone Dispatch Company opens for business.
- 1880—On July 22 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reaches Leadville carrying the former President Ulysses S. Grant, the man who brought statehood to Colorado.
- 1881—The City of Denver is made the permanent capital of Colorado by a state referendum.
- 1883—The Narrow gauge line of Denver and Rio Grande Railroad is completed from Gunnison to Grand Junction. Also the first electric lights are installed in Denver.
- 1888—The deserted Mesa Verde cliff dwellings are discovered by two cowboys.
- 1894—The State Capital building is completed with a cost totaling more than \$2,500,000.

Activity:

- Have students pick out some important events and add more events to their timeline worksheet. (Print as many copies as needed for this activity.)
- Complete Log Cabin Craft, and add it to your landscape. (See following page for detailed directions.)

Log Cabin Craft

Log Cabin Craft:

Supplies:

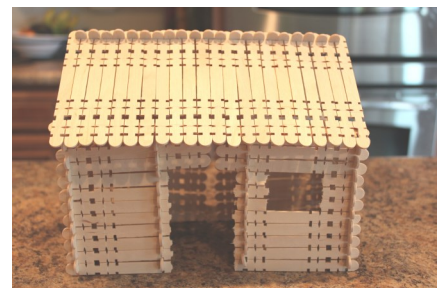
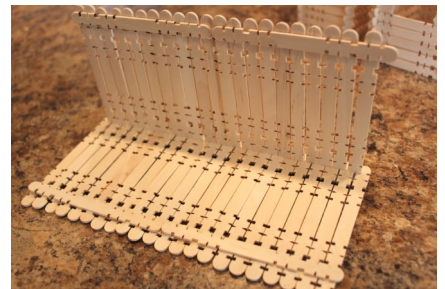
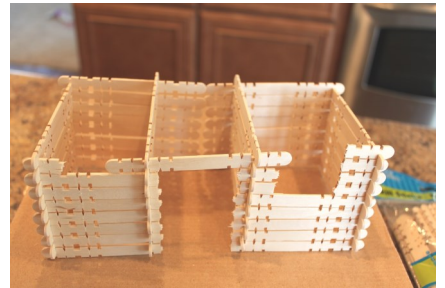
- Building Sticks (They are similar to popsicle sticks, but have little notches cut out of each side)
- Hot Glue or Wood Glue (Hot glue will make the process go faster, but should be used only with the help of an adult)
- Scissors, or small saw to cut sticks.
- Pencil, paper for planning
- Tempera paint (for finished cabin, and landscape additions to poster board base)
- Large sheet of cardboard or poster board to use as base to build house on.

Directions:

1. Using paper and pencil, draw a basic sketch of what your log cabin will look like, adding in windows, doors, a chimney and any other feature you'd like to add.
2. Using poster board base, draw a rectangle or square shape where your house will set.
3. Start by building the base of the house using the building sticks.
4. Slowly build up each layer taking into consideration where windows and doors will go in your plan.
5. Cut or break sticks where necessary for windows and doors.
6. Finish by placing roof sticks in a "V" pattern row. Glue horizontal sticks to them to secure.
7. Add roof to top of structure.
8. Paint completed log home with a dark brown color.
9. Add landscape features, horse corrals etc. onto poster board base for added interest.

Alternatives for younger children:

- Cardboard box or empty milk container can be used as house base. Craft sticks will be glued to the cardboard box.
- Lincoln logs - these can be easier for younger children to work with.



Colorado History Timeline Part 4

Lesson 28:

- 1900—Colorado gold production reaches its peak of more than \$20,000,000 annually at Cripple Creek, the state's second richest gold camp. The population of the state is approximately 539,700 at the time.
- 1906—The United States Mint located in Denver issues the first coins and Mesa Verde is named a national park by Congress.
- 1910—The first long distance phone call is made from Denver to New York on May 8. And the first airplane flight occurs in Denver.
- 1917—The famous Native American scout, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, dies and is buried on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver.
- 1931—The Colorado state population reaches over one million.
- 1958—The Air Force Academy of Colorado Springs is built, and the first class graduates in June, 1959.
- 1960—Colorado gets their first professional football team called the Denver Broncos.
- 1967 The Denver Rockets become Colorado's first professional American Basketball Association team. In 1974 they are renamed to the Denver Nuggets.
- 1974—Denver schools began desegregation in an attempt to receive racial balance.
- 1976—On July 31 a cloudburst on the Big Thompson River results in a massive flood killing more than 145 people in Larimer County.
- 1993—The Colorado Rockies become the first major league baseball team in Colorado.
- 1995—The Colorado Avalanche (formerly Quebec Nordiques) move to Colorado as the state's first National Hockey League team.
- 1998—Coloradans elect the first Republican Governor, Bill Owens, to the state house in twenty-four years.
- 2000—Population approximately 4,301,260.
- 2009—On February 27, The Rocky Mountain News, the oldest and second highest circulation newspaper, publishes its last edition.
- 2010—Population approximately 5,029,190.

Activity:

- Have students pick out some important events and add more events to their timeline worksheet. (Print as many copies as needed for this activity.)
- Complete Covered Wagon Craft, and add it to your landscape. (See following page for detailed directions.)

Field Trip:

Visit the [Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave](http://www.buffalobill.org/) located in Golden, Colorado! Visit: <http://www.buffalobill.org/> for more information on this historic site.

NOTE: For more detailed information on the history of Colorado visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Colorado_history

Covered Wagon Activity

Covered Chuck Wagon:

Supplies:

- Popsicle Sticks
- Skill Sticks
- Wood Glue
- Brown Paper Bag
- Cardboard

Directions:

1. Using skill sticks create the bed of your wagon. We did 3 sticks high all the way around.
2. Using regular Popsicle sticks, create a frame by gluing 4 sticks together at the corners.
3. Once corners are dry, fill in middle by placing sticks all the way across and gluing to form a solid plank. Turn it over and apply glue to the bottom 2 sticks.
4. Set the wagon bed onto the glue and let dry. (Glue guns make this part go much faster)
5. Using 4 Popsicle sticks, glue one in each corner of the wagon like posts.
6. Cut a long shape from the paper bag and curve up edges. Glue to the wagon posts.
7. Trace 4 identically sized circle shapes onto cardboard for wheels.
8. Glue 2 popsicle sticks together to make a wheel axel and poke holes in the center of wheels sticking through ends of popsicle sticks.
9. Glue axels to bottom of wagon at the front and back of the frame.
10. Add the wagon to your landscape and add any other final decorations you would like to complete the historical landscape project.



Craft used with permission by Valerie from [The Crafty Classroom](http://TheCraftyClassroom.com). Visit her site for step by step illustrated instructions.

Famous Coloradans

Lesson 29:

Colorado has quite a few famous historical people. Today we are going to learn a bit of information about the influences these people have had on our state. Below is a list to help you get started and there is a more complete list of famous Coloradans you can research at www.worldatlas.com

William Bent: In the early 1830's William Bent built Bent's Fort along the Arkansas River. The fort became one of the most important forts in the area trading furs, horses, food, and other household goods to travelers along the Santa Fe trail. Visit:

http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/bent.htm for more information.

Clara Brown was born in 1800 and was a former slave from Virginia. At age 56 she received her freedom and worked her way west as a cook and laundress until she reached Denver, Colorado. Here she became a community leader during the time of Colorado's gold rush. Brown was also a founding member of a Sunday school and generously supported those in her community. Visit <http://www.historycolorado.org> for more information.

Molly Brown was born in 1867 and was an American socialite and philanthropist. She is most well known for her survival during the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic. She adamantly exhorted crew members to return to look for survivors, and has since been referred to as "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". Visit <http://www.mollybrown.org/> for more information.

Kit Carson was born in 1809 in Madison, Wisconsin. He was an American frontiersman. At age 16, he traveled west to become a mountain man and trapper working along Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. He eventually married into the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes. He died in Fort Lyon, Colorado in 1868. Visit http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/carson.htm for more information.

Activity:

Research some more of your favorite famous Coloradans and fill in the "Famous Coloradans" worksheet for each person. You can use either the pre-titled page, or the blank page if you'd prefer to research your own list of Coloradans.

Famous Coloradans Part 2

Lesson 30:

Buffalo Bill (William Frederick Cody) was born in LeClaire, Iowa in 1846. He left home at the age of 12 and headed to Wyoming working for a wagon train. He was best known as an illustrious prairie scout. He was continuously employed by the US Army as a scout and in 1872 received a congressional Medal of Honor. In 1872 he appeared on stage playing himself in "Scouts of the Prairie". He created the Wild West Show in 1883 and from there traveled the country performing in his show. At the time he was one of the most famous and recognizable men in the world! Visit: http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/buffalobill.htm for more information.

Francisco Vasquez De Coronado was born in Spain in 1510. He led a Spanish military expedition led by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado searches the Great Plains for "Quivira" in search for the golden Seven Cities of Cibola. During the excursion, he traveled up the Colorado river hauling supplies.

Visit: http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/coronado.htm for more information.

Zebulon M. Pike was born in 1779 and was an American brigadier general and explorer. In 1806-1807 he led the Pike Expedition to explore the southern portion of the Louisiana territory. He recorded discovery of what is now called Pikes Peak, and though he tried, he was never able to climb to the top of the peak. Visit: <http://www.zebulonpike.org/>

Chief Ouray was born c. 1833 and was a native American chief of the Ute tribe located in western Colorado. Ouray worked to secure a treaty for the Ute who wanted to stay in Colorado, but the U.S. forced them to the west to reservations in present day Utah.

Visit: <http://ouraychief.blogspot.com/> for more information.

Activity:

Research some of your favorite famous Coloradans and fill in the "Famous Coloradans" worksheet for each person. You can use either the pre-titled page, or the blank page if you'd prefer to research your own list of Coloradans.

Lesson 31:

Have students research their favorite famous Coloradan and the complete a report using the "Famous Coloradan" report.

Colorado Weather

Lesson 32:

Colorado is known for averaging 300 days of annual sunshine each year! They typically experience mild temperatures and record snowfalls. Though most of the year Colorado experiences mild temperatures, the summer can bring temperatures in the high 90's, while wintertime can bring temperatures in the low teens.

Colorado Records:

- The highest recorded temperature was 103°F in 1990.
- The lowest recorded temperature was -24°F in 1990.
- January is the average coolest month.
- May is the average wettest month.
- July is the average warmest month.

Colorado's weather statistics:

- 300 days of sunshine
- More than 300 inches of snow at the mountain resorts
- 16.5 inches of precipitation
- 33 percent average humidity
- The first snowfall usually arrives in September, but it can actually snow somewhere in the state every month of the year, sometimes with the exception of August.

Snow/Blizzards: One of the things people think of when they talk about Colorado weather is snow. And true to form, Colorado has received some memorable blizzards and winter storms.

- **December 1913:** One of the most memorable blizzards in Colorado occurred in December of 1913 bringing 45.7 inches of snow burying the city and making removal a challenge! To help clear the city, hundreds and hundreds of horse-drawn wagonloads of snow were dumped in the open space in front of the State Capital Building in what is now Civic Center Park.
- **December 1982:** On Christmas Eve 1982 a blizzard descended on the city dumping almost two feet of snow, closing most of the city.
- **March 2003:** In the heaviest snowfall since the blizzard of 1913, a snow storm dumped 31.8 inches of snow in Denver making it one of the costliest storms in history. An estimated \$33.6 million in insurance claims were submitted due to the storm.
- **Visit** <http://photos.denverpost.com/2012/02/02/photos-historic-snowstorms-in-colorado/> to see some pictures from these historic storms!

Activity:

Using the below data, have students create a line chart mapping the average high and low temperatures in Colorado by month. (*Colorado Annual Temperatures Chart provided in the Student Worksheet section.*)

Average Monthly Temperature Denver, Colorado 2013					
	High	Low		High	Low
Jan	40	8	Jul	85	50
Feb	42	10	Aug	80	45
Mar	50	20	Sep	75	40
Apr	60	25	Oct	60	30
May	70	40	Nov	50	20
Jun	80	50	Dec	40	10

Colorado Weather Part 2

Lesson 33:

Tornados:

Colorado is home to the seventh most tornados in the nation. There have been approximately 1900 tornados in the Colorado area, mostly occurring in Weld and Adams counties. Most tornados in Colorado occur between May through mid August, with the majority occurring between noon and seven in the evening. They typically move southwest to northeast. During the last decade Colorado averaged 60 tornados per year.

- **In March 2007** an EF3 tornado snuck through Colorado's Doppler radar and without notice at 8:11 p.m. it cut a 4 block wide, 2.2 mile long path through the southeastern community of Holly. 35 homes were lost an additional 32 damaged and 11 were people injured.
- **In May of 2008**, Weld County near the Town of Windsor experienced one of the most destructive twisters in state history killing one person and injuring 78 others. The tornado, rated at an EF3, with winds between 136 and 165 mph, caused \$147 million in damage.

Activity: Tornado in a bottle

Supplies:

- Clear Plastic Bottle with a cap that won't leak
- Glitter
- Dish washing liquid
- Water

Directions:

- Fill the plastic bottle 3/4 full with water.
- Add a few drops of dishwashing liquid.
- Add a bit of colorful glitter. (This will help make the tornado visible.)
- Put the cap on and tighten.
- Turn the bottle upside down and hold it by the neck. Quickly swirl the bottle in a circular motion then stop. Look inside and watch as a mini-tornado forms in the water. The circular motion creates a water vortex that resembles a tornado. The water spins around the center of the vortex due to centripetal force.

For more variations of this simple tornado experiment visit the Steve Spangler site here:

<http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/tornado-in-a-bottle>

Colorado Weather Part 3

Lesson 34:

Wildfires: Another issue in Colorado are wildfires. These fires can be caused by careless people or natural occurrences such as lightening strikes, and are typically seen during the warm summer months.

- In June 2013 fire set out across the Black Forest near Colorado Springs, CO. It has been named the most destructive wildfire in Colorado's history. The fire burned hundreds of homes and killed two people. It burned approximately 16,000 acres, destroyed over 500 homes, and forced around 38,000 people to be evacuated from their homes. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
- In June 2012 the Waldo Canyon fire, near Colorado Springs, burned a total of 18,247 acres. It consumed 350 homes and killed two people. It was believed to be started intentionally, however investigation to the cause is on going.
- And another fire in June 2012, the High Park fire near Larimer county, was started by a lightning strike. The fire burned a total of 87,284 acres, consumed 259 homes, and killed one person.

Activity: (NOTE: Please do this activity under adult supervision only.)

There are three things that fire needs to burn: Heat, Air, & Fuel

Supplies:

- 3 small candles
- 1 spray bottle filled with water
- 1 metal tray (like a cookie sheet)
- clumps of play-Doh or clay
- drinking glass or jar
- matches or a lighter
- A fire extinguisher (*Do NOT use the fire extinguisher, just show it to students so they know how it works, and remember to check them regularly*)

Experiment: As a demonstration, place 3 birthday candles into clumps of play-Doh and place them in the center of a cookie sheet. Complete the demonstrations below to show the 3 things that fire needs to burn and how to put out a fire safely.

Demonstration 1: Heat

Light candle 1. Spray the first candle with a water bottle to show that if you remove the heat, the flame will go out. Discuss how if there is a fire on the stove top that involves oil, water will not work but instead create larger flames. Talk about fire fighters and how to contact them during an emergency.

Demonstration 2: Air

Light candle 2. Place a glass over the top of the 2nd candle to show that if you take away the air the flame will extinguish. Remind students of the oil fire from demonstration 1 and explain the best way to put out that type of fire is by placing a lid on the pot thereby removing the oxygen.

Demonstration 3: Fuel

Light candle 3. Finally, allow the 3rd candle to burn until the wax was all gone to show that if you remove the 'fuel' the fire will go out.

Colorado Weather Part 4

Lesson 35:

Flooding: Approximately 250,000 people live in the Colorado floodplains. Colorado typically experiences flooding during mid July through October. Here are some historically well known floods that have occurred in Colorado's history. The highest recorded amount of annual precipitation in Colorado was in 1999 when we received 27.58 inches. The lowest recorded annual precipitation was 6.07 in 1939.

- **Cheery Creek Basin Flood of July 14, 1912:** In 1912 Torrential rains occurred near the Cherry Creek drainage basin between Castle Rock and Denver. Between 3:25 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. 2 inches of rain fell in Denver, of that amount 1.72 inches fell during a 30 minute timeframe. The rain contributed to a rise of about 3 feet in the South Platte, which came down Cherry Creek with a rush around 9:30 p.m. that night resulting in flood waters up to 2-3 feet deep near Union Depot. The maximum height was about 11 feet with a max flow of about 11,000 second/feet. The estimated damage caused was between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 and two lives were lost.
- **Golden Flash Flood of June 7, 1948:** A cloudburst in the mountains northwest of Golden caused a 25 foot wall of water to come flashing down Tuckers Gulch. The stream flowed out of its banks and washed out state highway 58 in several places. Another burst poured down Crawford's Gulch into Golden Gate Canyon and into Christman Gulch. The water from the three streams poured into Tucker's Gulch and backed up behind a bridge carrying the railway spur to the Golden Fire Brick Co. The bridge eventually gave way sweeping down a second railway bridge and three automobile bridges along with the main gas line of the Colorado Wyoming Gas Co. The flood resulted in a quarter to a half million dollars of damage.
- **South Platte River Flood of June 1965:** On the evening of June 16, 1965 a wall of water some 15 feet high came rushing down the South Platte River. By midnight the torrent crested at 25 feet above normal and carrying 40 times its normal flow. The flood spread mud-encased wreckage all the way from Littleton to the Colorado-Nebraska border.
- **Big Thompson Flood of July 31, 1976:** The Big Thompson Canyon flooded after a stationary thunderstorm dropped torrential rain producing between 12 to 14 inches of rainfall in less than five hours. This resulted in a flash flood sending a 19 foot wall of water and debris washing down the canyon. In under two hours there were 145 fatalities, 418 homes, and 152 businesses destroyed, and another 138 homes damaged. There were more than \$40 million dollars in damages reported.

Activity:

Using the below data, have students create a bar graph mapping the precipitation in Colorado by month. (*Colorado Annual Precipitation Chart in the Student Worksheets.*)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • January—0.5 inches | • July—2.4 inches |
| • February—0.4 inches | • August—1.8 inches |
| • March—1.25 inches | • September—1.3 inches |
| • April—2.0 inches | • October—1.0 inches |
| • May—2.5 inches | • November—1.0 inches |
| • June—1.7 inches | • December—0.7 inches |

Colorado Government

Lesson 36:

The State of Colorado Constitution outlines three branches of government: the Legislative branch, Executive branch, and the Judicial branch. The people of Colorado are represented in the United States federal government by two United States Senators and seven Congressional Representatives.

Legislative: The Colorado General Assembly is made up of two houses, the House of Representatives, and the Colorado Senate. House members are elected to serve two year terms, and state senators are elected to four year terms. There are 65 members in the House of Representatives, and 35 members in the Senate for a total of 100 legislators in Colorado.

Executive: The Governor of Colorado is head of the state's executive branch. Other officials serving in this area are the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State of Colorado, Colorado State Treasurer, and Attorney General of Colorado. These officials all serve four-year terms. One district attorney is elected for each of the state's 22 judicial districts. The district attorney of Colorado is responsible for prosecuting most crimes within the state. Other officials elected are members of the Colorado State Board of Education, and the Regents of the University of Colorado. The Governor does not have direct management over the Department of Education.

Judicial: The Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court is responsible for the administration of the state judicial system. The Court is the executive head over Denver County Courts and Municipal Courts.

Colorado is divided into 64 different counties that operate as follows:

- 2 consolidated city-counties: Denver and Broomfield
- 61 cities and 35 towns that are home rule municipalities
- 12 statutory cities
- 160 statutory towns
- 1 territorial charter municipality

The state of Colorado has elected 12 Republican and 17 democrat governors over the last 100 years. For more information on the Colorado Government visit:

<http://www.colorado.gov/>

Activity:

[Colorado State Capital](#) – Visit the Colorado State Capital building for a tour where students learn about early Colorado history, Capitol construction, and a visit to see the Senate and House of Representatives. The facility offers historical tours, Mr. Brown's Attic tours, Legislative Tours, and general building tours free of charge.

[Denver \(United States\) Mint](#) – Take a tour of the United States Mint located in Denver, Colorado. Tours welcome students of all ages to come and see the present state of coin manufacturing and the history of the Mint. They will learn about the "craftsmanship required at all states of the minting process from the original designs and sculptures to the actual striking of the coins".

Colorado Sports Teams

Lesson 37:

Denver, Colorado has seven major professional sports teams representing the state.

The Denver Broncos are Colorado's Professional American Football team and are based in Denver. They are members of the West Division in the National Football League. The team was founded in 1960 and joined the NFL in 1970. During 1970—1982 the Bronco's were nicknamed the "Orange Crush". The Broncos home field is most well known as Mile High Stadium, but was recently renamed to Invesco Field, and now Sports Authority Field at Mile High. The Bronco uniforms are orange, navy blue, and white. The Broncos season runs late August to early January, with Super Bowl Sunday ending each season. Their mascots are "Thunder" a live solid white horse, and "Miles" a costumed version. Currently the Broncos have won five AFC Championships and two Super Bowls.



The Denver Nuggets are Colorado's professional basketball team. They started as the Denver Larks in 1967 then changed their name to the Rockets before their first season. The name was later changed to the Nuggets in 1974. They joined the NBA in 1976, making the playoffs for nine consecutive seasons in the 1980s. Their home stadium is the Pepsi Center and their team colors are powder blue, gold, white, and navy. You can enjoy a Nuggets game during regular season from late October through April. Their mascot is named Rocky and wears a lightening bolt tail. He was inducted into the Mascot hall of Fame in 2008 and owns the title of 2013 Most Awesome Mascot.

The Colorado Rockies are Colorado's Major League Baseball franchise based in Denver. The team was founded in 1991. Their colors are purple, black, silver, and white. You can enjoy the Rockies during their annual April through September seasonal games. Their home venue is Coors Field. The team mascot is a purple triceratops named Dinger. The Rockies have won one National League Championship in 2007 qualifying them for the 2007 World Series. Unfortunately they lost to the Boston Red Sox four games to none.



The Colorado Avalanche are Colorado's profession ice hockey franchise and are based in Denver, Colorado. They play in the Pepsi Center along with the Denver Nuggets. The team was founded in 1972 as the Quebec Nordiques, and were renamed to the Avalanche following the 1995 season. The Avalanche have won eight division titles and qualified for the playoffs in each of their first ten seasons in Denver. Their team colors are steel blue, black, silver, and white. Their mascot is a costumed St. Bernard named Bernie. Their regular season runs October—April.

Colorado Sports Teams

Lesson 38:

Denver, Colorado has seven major professional sports teams representing the state.

[The Colorado Rapids](#) are our Major League Soccer Club. The team was founded in 1996 and wear the colors of maroon and blue. They play at the world's largest soccer stadium and complex, Dick's Sporting Goods Park. The season runs March through November and features international exhibition matches as well as Colorado's biggest 4th of July fireworks display following their home game on Independence Day!



[The Colorado Mammoth](#) are a member of the National Lacrosse League. The team was founded in 2003 and play at their home arena, the Pepsi Center. Colors for the team are Maroon and Black. In 2006 the Mammoth won the National Lacrosse League championships. Their season runs from December through April.

[Denver Outlaws](#) are Denver's professional outdoor Lacrosse team, and a part of the Major League Lacrosse. Their season runs May through August. Home games are played at Sports Authority Field at Mile High. The team was founded in 1006 and wear colors black, orange, and silver.



Activity: If possible, head out and support one of Colorado's sports teams by attending a game.

Colorado Unit Study

Lesson 39:

Have students design their own Colorado State postcard. (See student workbook pages for a template.)

Lesson 40:

Have students fill out the Road Trip Mini-state book. (See student workbook.)

Lesson 41:

Have students play a "Colorado Jeopardy" game. (See Student workbook pages)

Lesson 42:

Have students complete a report on the state of Colorado using information they've learned in this unit. Complete the "Colorado Report" page in the student workbook section.

Field Trip Ideas:

- As a closing activity, make a Colorado dinner. Visit a trout farm and catch your own Rainbow trout, then come home and make trout for dinner! (*See the Rainbow Trout recipe on the following page.*)

Note: There are several trout farms across the state, a great one to visit is [Trout Haven](#) is located in Estes Park, Colorado. No equipment necessary, and they guarantee you'll catch a fish! They're open for fishing from June to September.

- If you live in the Denver area, visit the [Buckhorn Exchange](#) restaurant in Denver, Colorado. The restaurant has liquor license Number One in the State of Colorado. It was founded in November 17, 1893 by Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz. The restaurant is located at 1000 Osage Street in Denver, and features unique cuisine such as Yak, Ostrich, and rattlesnake.

Colorado Souvenir:

Write a letter to your state Senator, Representative, or the Governor telling them you completed a study of the state of Colorado and would like a State Flag that flew over the capital on the day you completed your study as a memento of your study.

Colorado - Rainbow Trout Recipe

Grilled Rainbow Trout:

Ingredients:

- 4 six-ounce fillets of rainbow trout.
- ¼ cup of canola oil.
- 2 tablespoons of fresh lime juice.
- 1 tablespoon of ginger root, minced.
- 1 teaspoon of grated lime peel.
- 1 teaspoon of crushed red pepper.

Directions:

- In saucepan over medium heat, sauté minced ginger and grated lime peel in the canola oil until just lightly browned.
- Remove saucepan from heat and stir in red pepper
- Once oil is completely cool, whisk in lime juice and set aside.
- Heat grill to moderate temperature and brush grill pan with oil to reduce sticking.
- Grill trout fillets with flesh side down for about 2 minutes
- Gently turn fillets and grill for 2 minutes more or until trout becomes opaque
- Serve immediately with a bit of the ginger/lime sauce.

Optional: Serve with rice and favorite veggies, I recommend steamed asparagus with this meal.

Colorado

Field Trip Ideas

Colorado - Field Trip Ideas

Field Trips & Educational Places

Chances are there are several educational opportunities within the rich resources of your local community. A little research can go a long way to creating memorable hands on educational trips for your students. As you create your schedule for the year, make a list of field trips that will enhance your learning. Before showing up, contact the coordinator for the site. Many places offer a discount for homeschooling families or groups.

Don't forget to check with local companies, many offer free tours of their facilities. For example our local nursery offers free tours along with a project for small groups. We were able to get a tour of the grounds along with a personal guide who explained all about various plants, soil types, and plant care. We finished our tour with a hands-on activity where the students each potted their own small plant to take home.

Here are just a few of Colorado's fine attractions!

[Botanical Gardens](#) – Enjoy a beautiful variety of plant life at the Denver Botanical Gardens, they even have a rainforest exhibit! Check the website for special group pricing as well as educational programs and tours.

[Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave](#) illustrates the life, times, and legend of William F. Cody. The museum includes exhibits about Buffalo Bill's life and the Wild West shows. Located in Golden, Colorado.

[Butterfly Pavilion](#) – Take an adventure into the world of butterflies and insects at the Butterfly Pavilion. Students can see insects and butterflies up close. Check their website for current events. Located in Westminster, CO.

[Cave of the Winds](#): With two different tours to choose from, Cave of the Winds is a adventurous tour through caves and taverns where you'll witness some of the wonders of the underground world! Located in Colorado Springs, CO

[Cheyenne Mountain Zoo](#) – This zoo features up close animal exhibits as well as many interactive events as well. Students can feed giraffes as well as birds, and you can expect to see some unique animals on your visit here. The zoo offers various educational tours and programs, visit their website for more information. Located in Colorado Springs, CO

[Colorado Kids Activity and Family Vacation Guide](#)

[Colorado State Capital](#) – Visit the Colorado State Capital building for a tour where students learn about early Colorado history, Capitol construction, and a visit to see the Senate and House of Representatives. The facility offers historical tours, Mr. Brown's Attic tours, Legislative Tours, and general building tours free of charge.

[Cripple Creek Narrow Gauge Railroad](#) – You'll learn all about pioneer days of railroading as you take a 45 minute trip through the gold mining district on the Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad.

[Crow Canyon Archaeology Adventures](#) – A hands-on adventure exploring Mesa Verde, for students 10+, or families. Located in Cortez, CO 1-800-422-8975

[Denver \(United States\) Mint](#) – Take a tour of the United States Mint located in Denver, Colorado. Tours welcome students of all ages to come and see the present state of coin manufacturing and the history of the Mint. They will learn about the "craftsmanship required at all states of the minting process from the original designs and sculptures to the actual striking of the coins".

Colorado - Field Trip Ideas (cont.)

[Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#) – The Denver Museum has various exhibits depending on the time of year, check with their website for special group pricing and events. Located in Denver, CO

[Denver Zoo](#) – Come see some of the coolest animals around at the Denver zoo! They also offer family and educational programs, zoo camps and many other educational activities! Located in Denver, CO

[Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad & Museum](#) – Take a train ride on the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railway which was first founded in 1880. It is estimated over \$300 million in precious metals has been transported across this route.

[History Colorado Center](#) – This museum offers tours based on Colorado historical events and people, it includes various exhibits and events. Check their website for current attractions. Located in Denver, CO

[Focus on the Family](#) – Take a tour through the kids' play area featuring a three-story slide, Wit's End Soda Shoppe, and bookstore as you learn more about the Focus on the Family Ministry. Located in Colorado Springs, CO.

[Garden of the Gods](#) – Take a guided tour, or hike on your own as you view some of the most beautiful of God's creations here in Colorado! You can expect to see not only glorious landscape, but also a variety of plant life and wild life. Located in Colorado Springs, CO.

[Littleton Historic Museum](#) – This museum offers free tours of their 1860's and 1890's living farms. They feature a museum with four galleries, educational classrooms, as well as hands-on tours and activities for families and groups. The museum is located in Littleton, CO

[Manitou Cliff Dwellings](#) – Tour the fascinating cliff dwellings of the Anasazi. They also have two museums featuring cultural displays. Located in Manitou Springs, CO

[Mesa Verde National Park](#) – Tour the spectacular lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people where you'll view amazing archaeological sites, including the best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States.

[NCAR](#) – Visit the National Center for Atmospheric Research where students can learn more about NCAR's mission and all about atmospheric science. NCAR offers many varying tours and events, visit their website for more information. Located in Boulder, CO

[NOAA](#) – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offers guided tours for students ages Kindergarten – 12 and university level students. The tour includes stops at the space weather prediction center, global monitoring division, the National Weather Service Forecast, and Science on a Sphere. Located in Boulder, CO

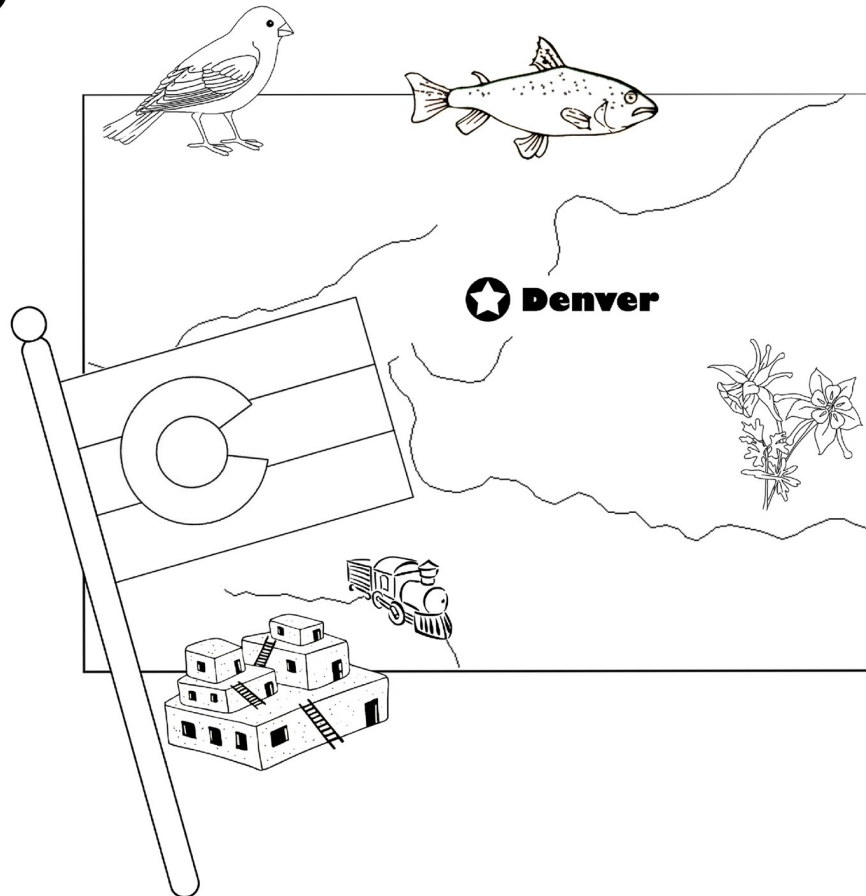
[Pikes Peak](#) – Enjoy spectacular scenery, Manitou cliff dwellings, horseback riding, biking, and exploring the beautiful Pikes Peak area. You can also ride on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway to the top of the mountain where you enjoy breathtaking views! Located in Colorado Springs, CO.

[Royal Gorge Bridge and Park](#) – Enjoy breathtaking scenery as you learn how the Royal Gorge was created. The park offers more than 360 acres and 21 rides, shows, and attractions. Please call before going as weather can affect its availability. Located in Canyon City, CO.

Colorado

Student Workbook

MY colorado

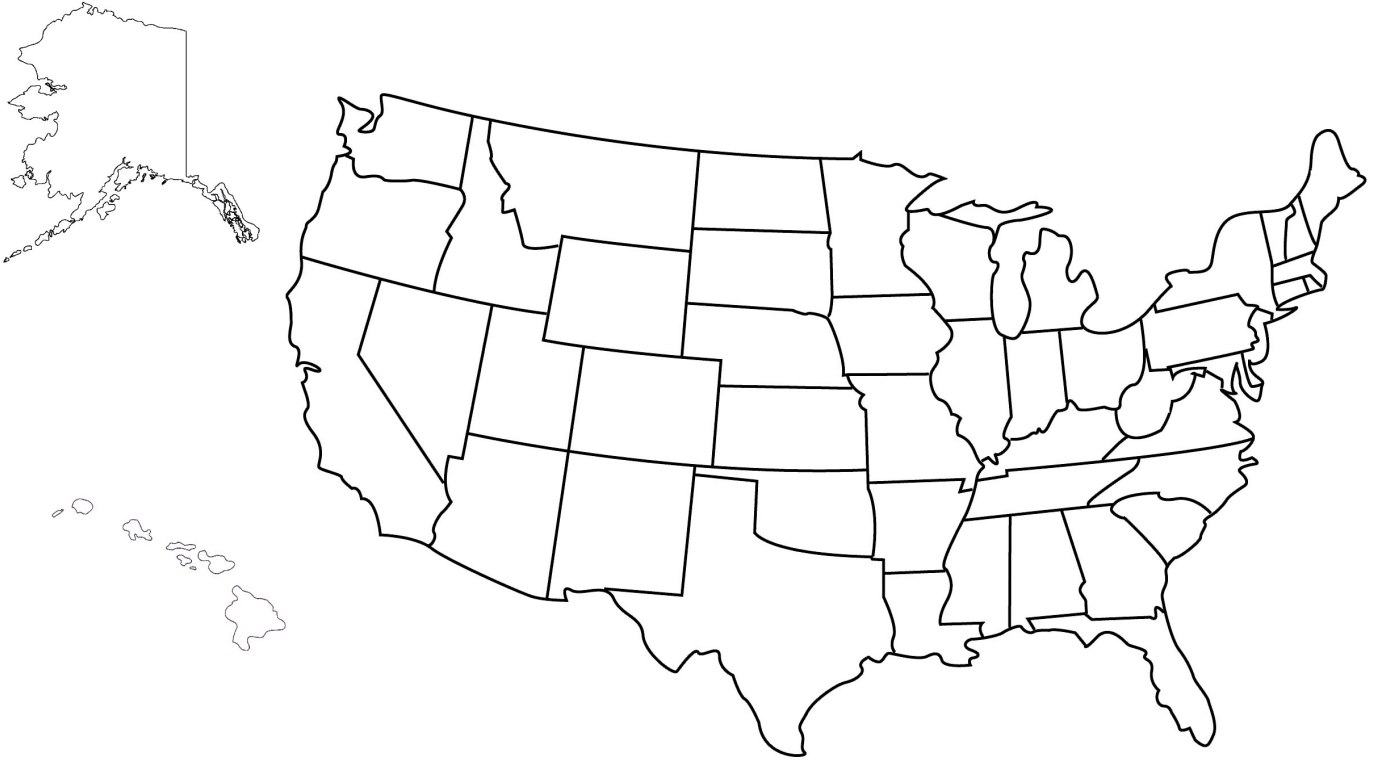


By: _____

Notebook

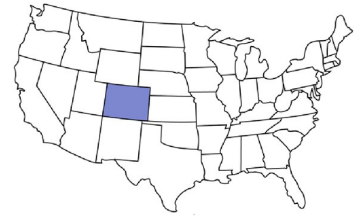
Where is Colorado?

Color Colorado on the United States Map below, mark the capital with a star.



What states border Colorado?

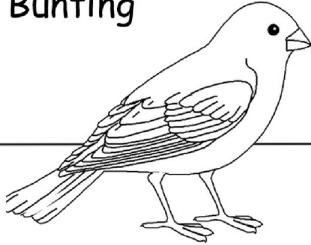
COLORADO



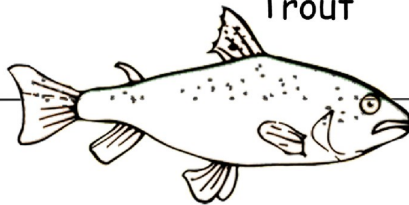
CO

Abbreviation

State Bird:
Lark Bunting



State Fish:
Greenback Cutthroat
Trout



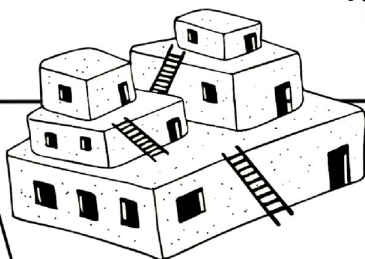
State Flag:
Blue & White
Stripes, Red C and
gold circle

★ **Denver**

State Flower:
Columbine



Durango/Silverton
Narrow Gauge Railroad
Durango, CO



Mesa Verde, CO
Cliff Dwellings

Nickname: The Centennial State

Statehood: August 1, 1876
Region: West

LANDMARKS OF...

COLORADO



Map Key:

Locate the below landmarks using a map then label them on the above map.



Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings



Colorado River



Rocky Mountain Range



Pikes Peak



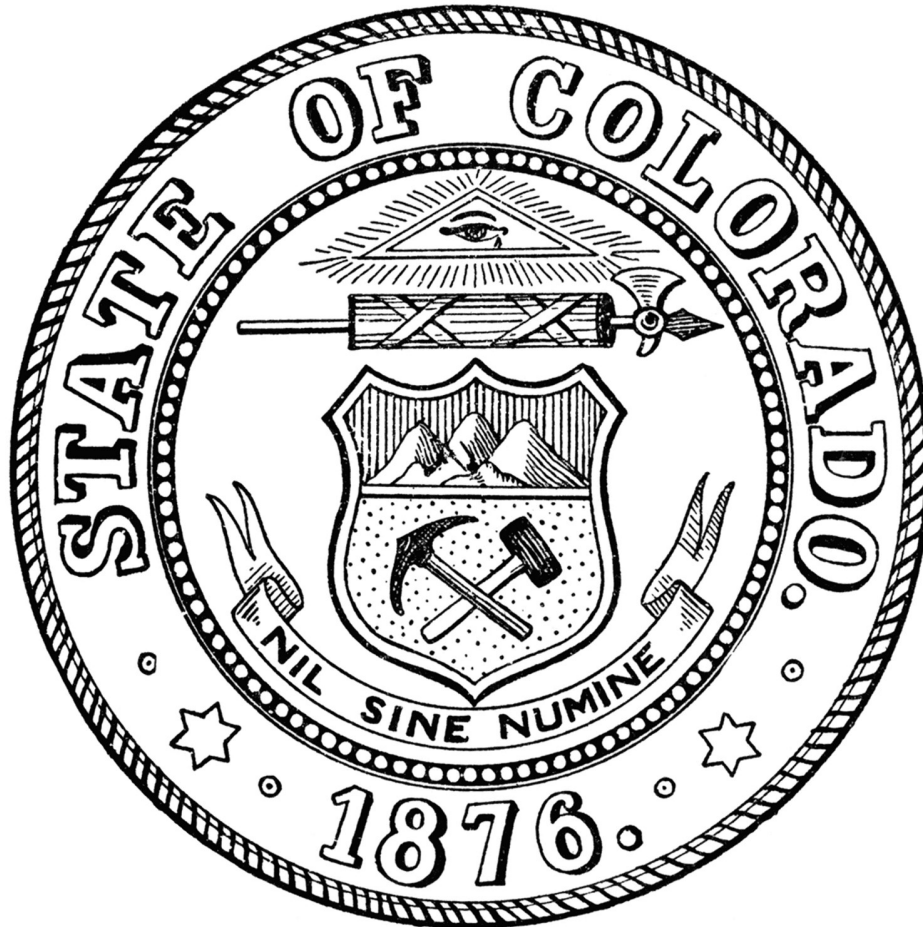
Durango Narrow Gauge Railroad



Bent's Fort

Colorado

State Seal



The Colorado state seal was designed by Lewis Ledyard Weld, the Territorial Secretary appointed by President Lincoln on November 6, 1861. Around the seal are the words "State of Colorado" and "1876" the year Colorado came into statehood.

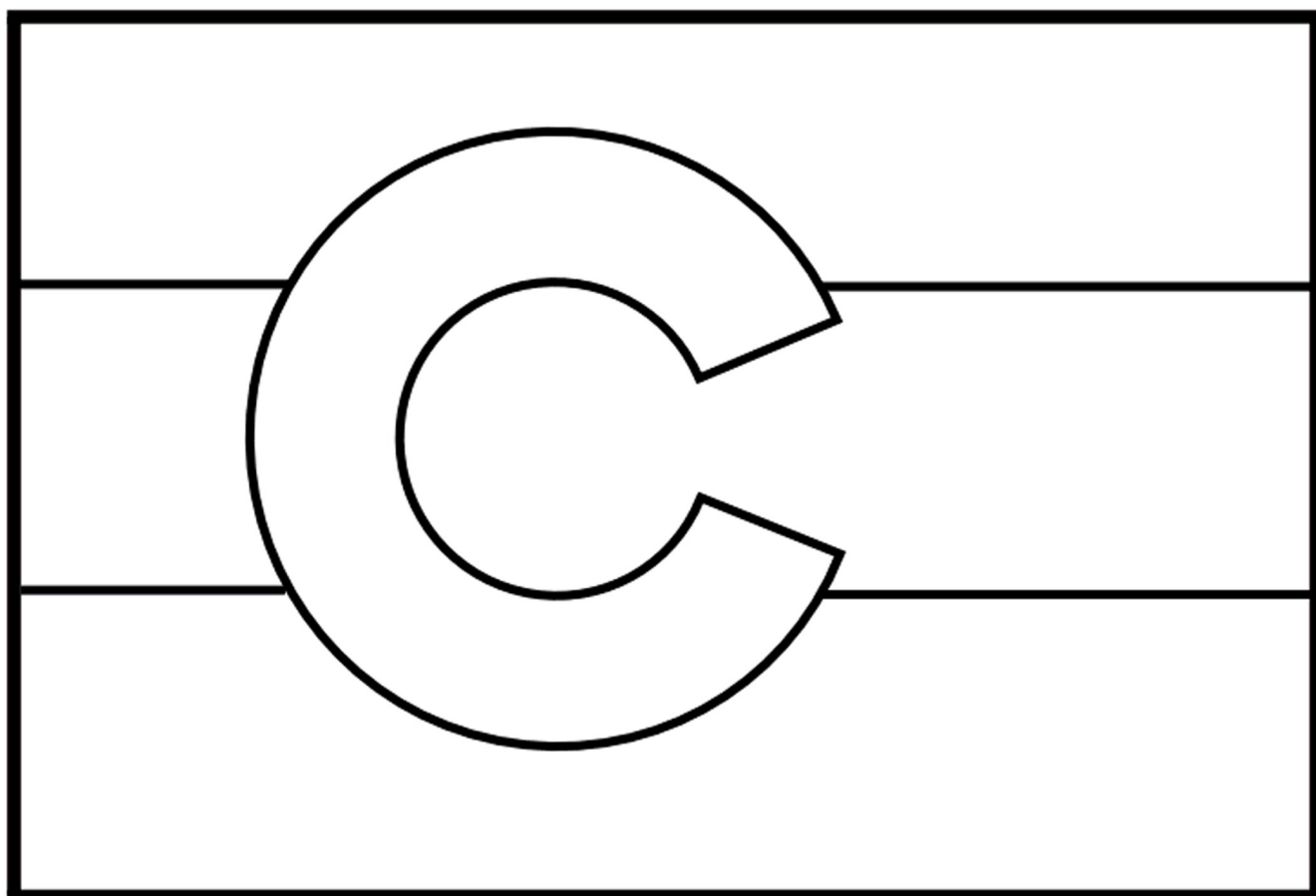
The seal is two and one-half inches in diameter. At the top is the Eye of Providence or all seeing eye within a triangle. Below the eye is a scroll, and a bundle of birch rods with a battle ax bound together with a ribbon of red, white, and blue symbolizing strength.

The top of the heraldic shield has a red sky behind three snow-capped mountains. The lower half of the shield has a pick and sledge hammer, representing the mining industry of the state.

Below the shield is the state motto, "Nil Sine Numine", Latin meaning "Nothing without Providence", or "Nothing without the Deity."

THE FLAG OF...

COLORADO



The flag of Colorado was adopted on June 5, 1911, and consists of three alternate stripes. The outer two stripes are blue, and the center stripe is white, representing the white snow capped mountains of the state.

The blue is the same as the blue field of the national US Flag and represents the clear blue skies of Colorado.

In the center there is a circular red "C" which is also the same red as the one found in the United States Flag. The red represents the color of much of the state's soil.

In the center of the "C" is a golden disk. The golden color represents the abundant sunshine enjoyed by Coloradans.

State of Colorado Information

What is the Capital City of Colorado? _____

What is the population of Colorado? _____

What is the name for the residents of Colorado? _____

When did it become a state? _____

What is Colorado's nickname and why? _____

What is the highest point in the state? _____

What is abbreviation for Colorado? _____

Name a few of the state senators for your city/county:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name a few of the state representatives for your city/county:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Map Activity:

- ★ Label and mark the location of the state's Capital City on the map to the right.
- ★ Label and draw a major river in Colorado on the map below.
- ★ Label and draw a major landmark on the map.
- ★ Label the Rocky Mountain Range on the map.



My City Information

What is the name of your city? _____

What is the population of your city? _____

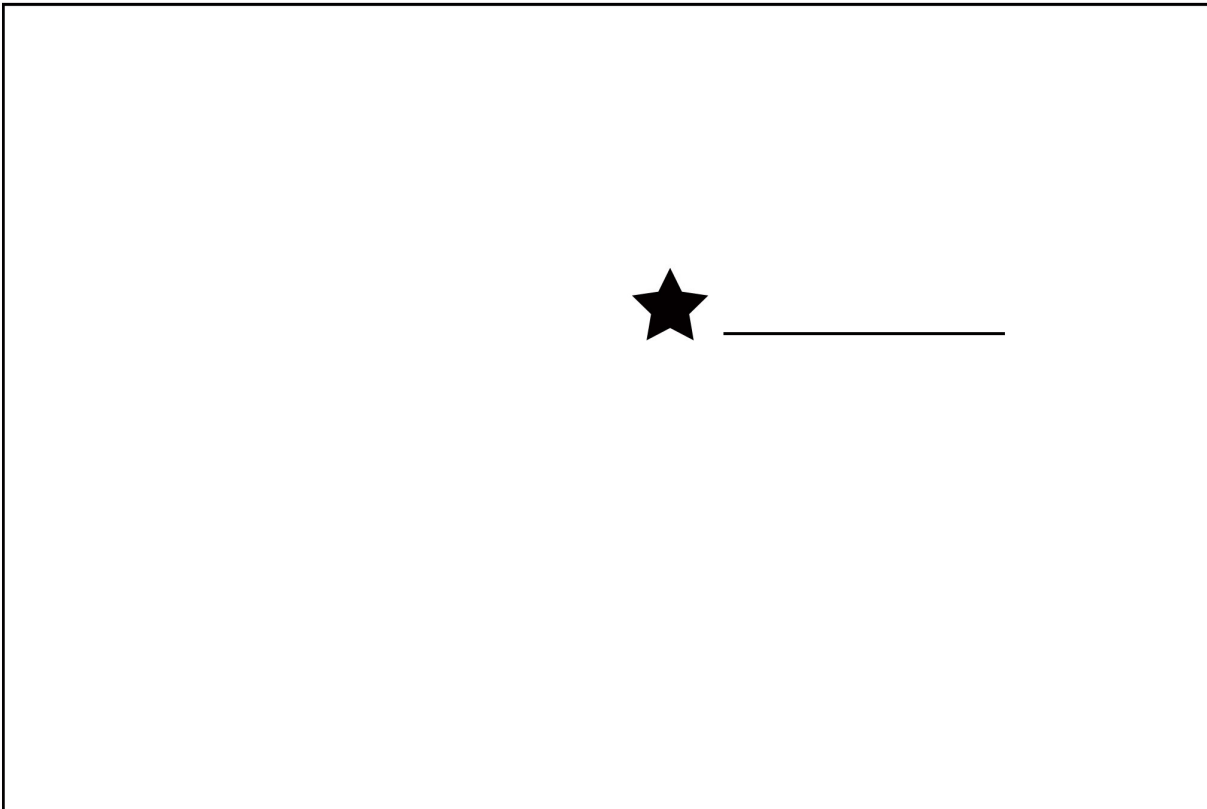
Who is the mayor of your city? _____

What is the capital city of Colorado? _____

What is the largest city in Colorado? _____

How far is it from your city to the Capital of Colorado? _____

Label your city on the map below & draw a route from your city to the Capital:



My County Information

What is the name of your county? _____

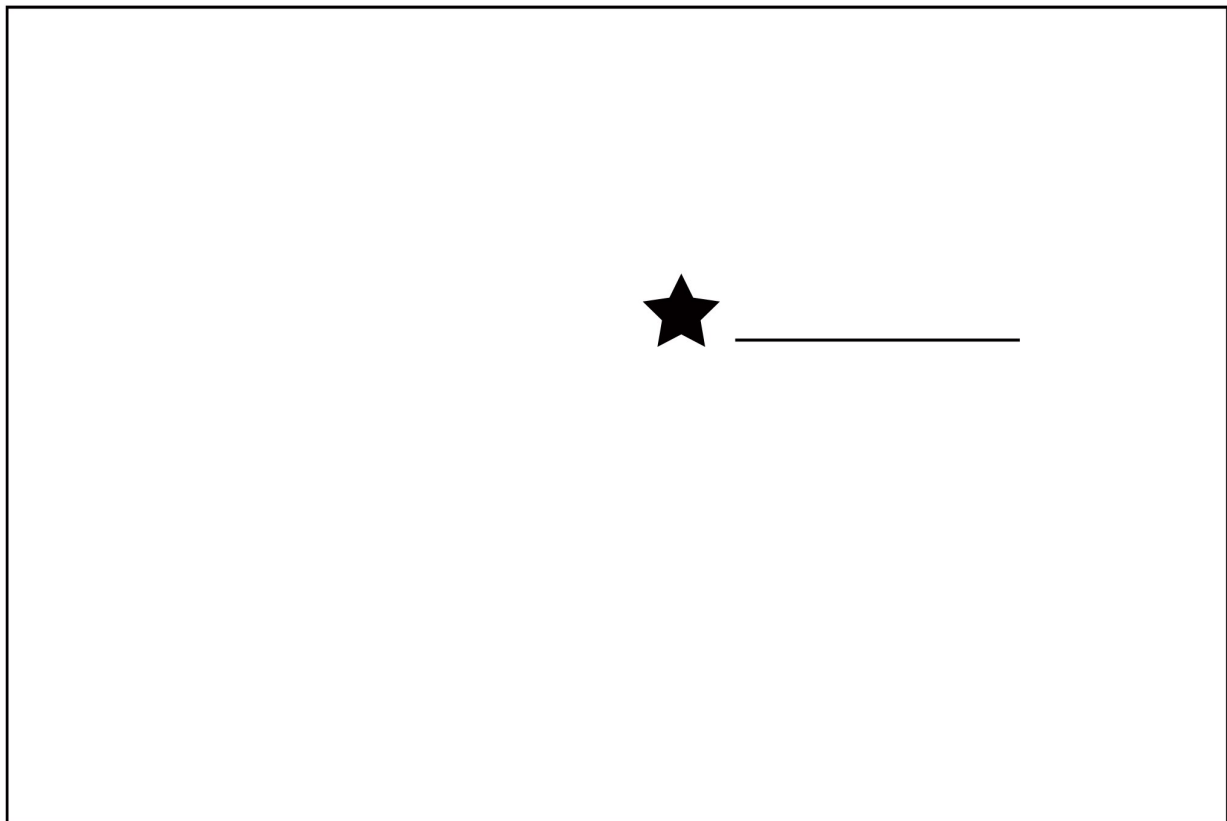
What is the population of your county? _____

What is the largest county in Colorado? _____

Name a few of your county's commissioners:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

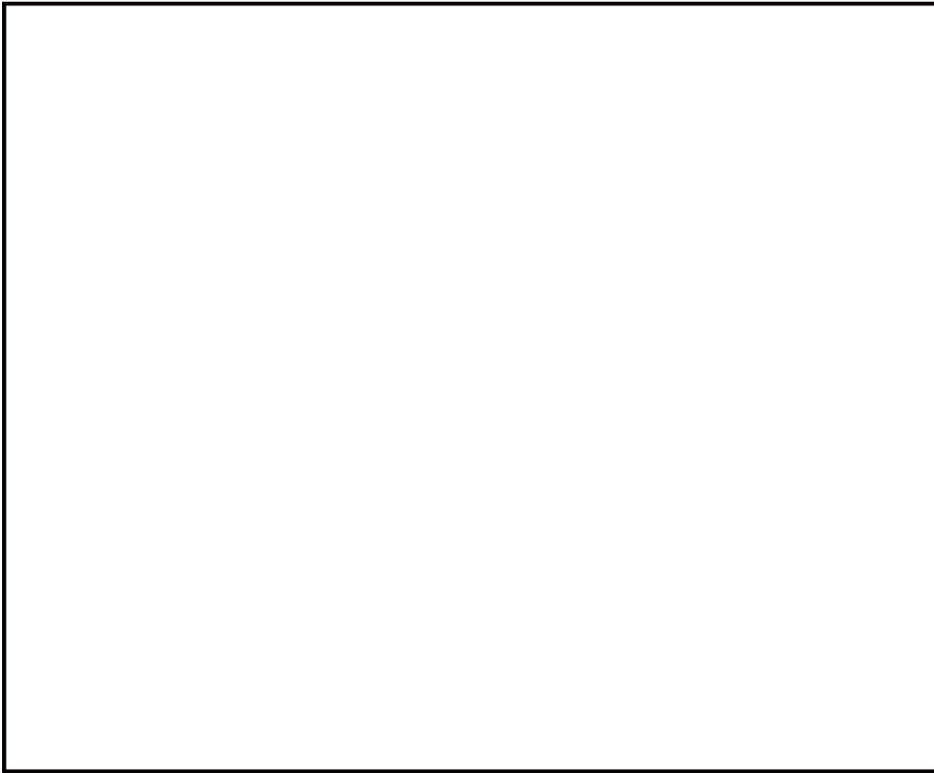
Draw an outline of your county on the map below and mark where your city is located within that county:



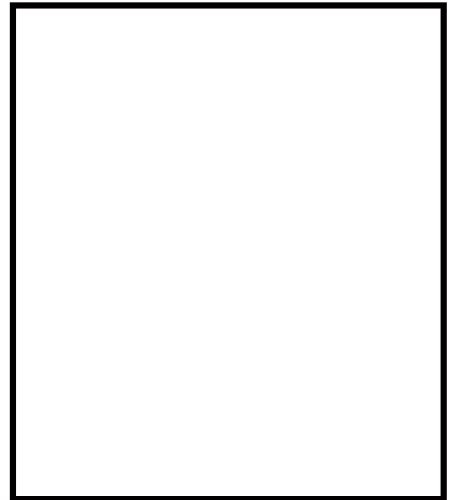
Mapping Colorado

Political & Physical Maps

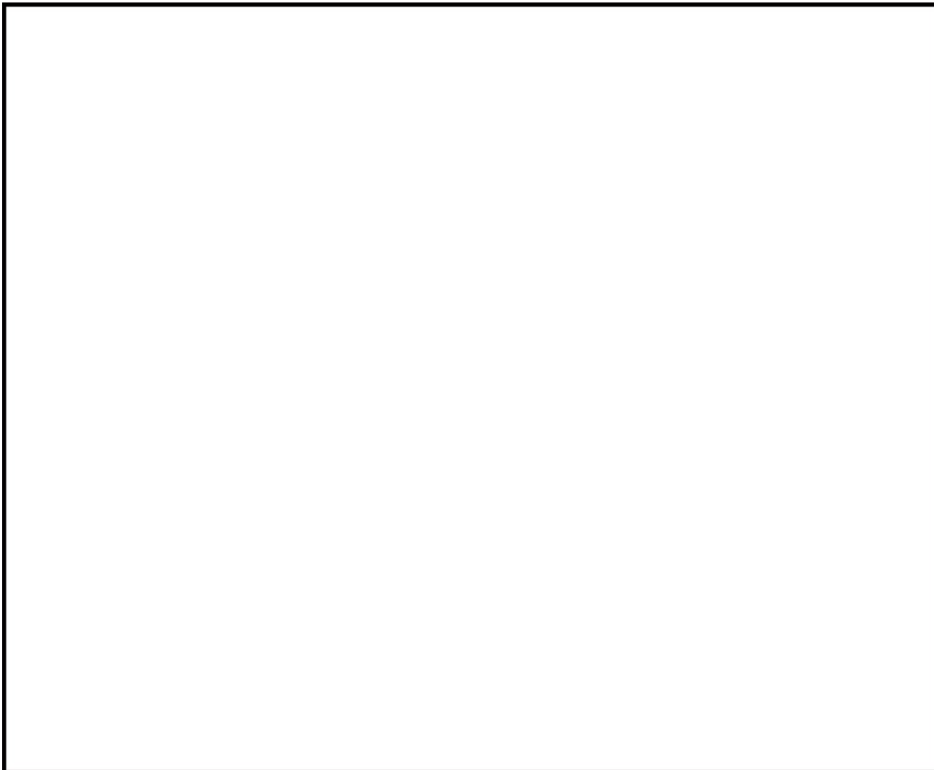
Political Map



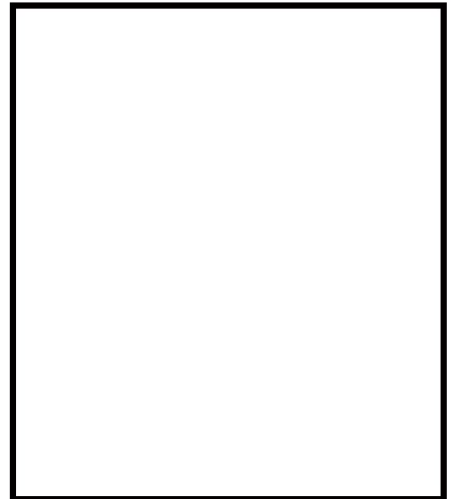
Key



Physical Map



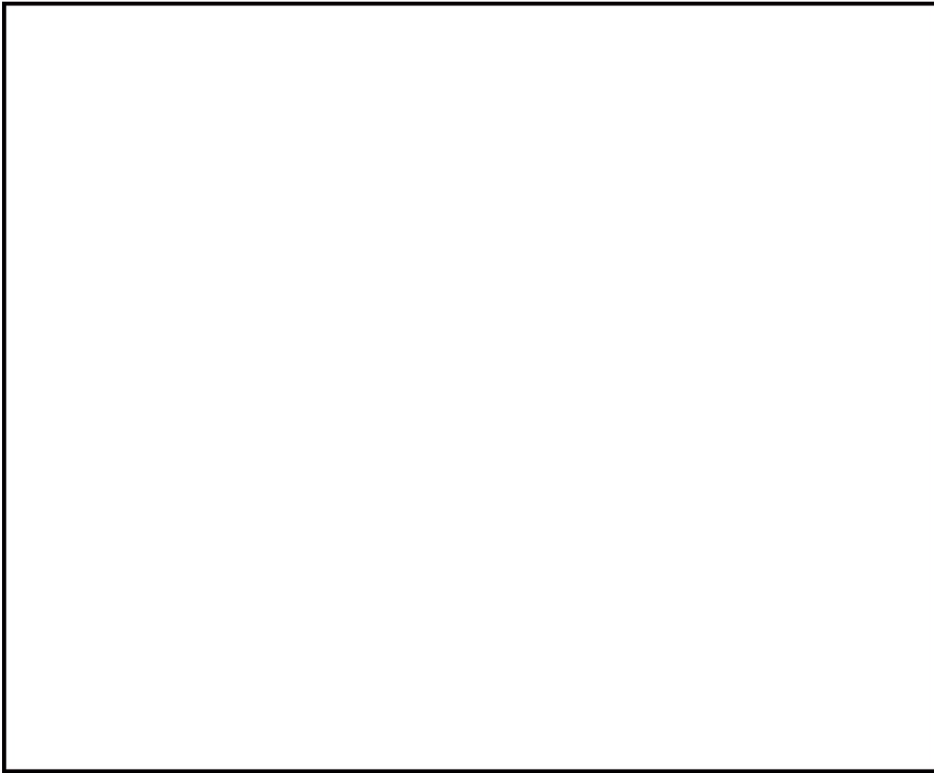
Key



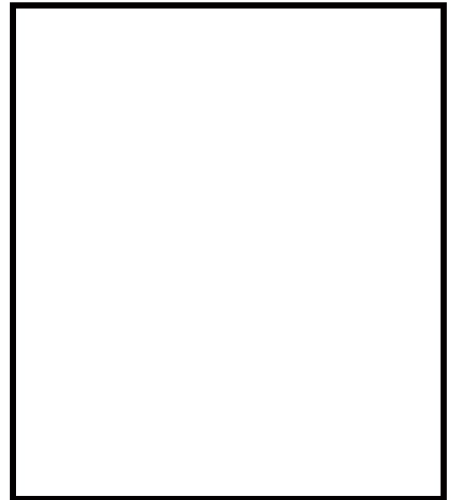
Mapping Colorado

Agriculture and Industries

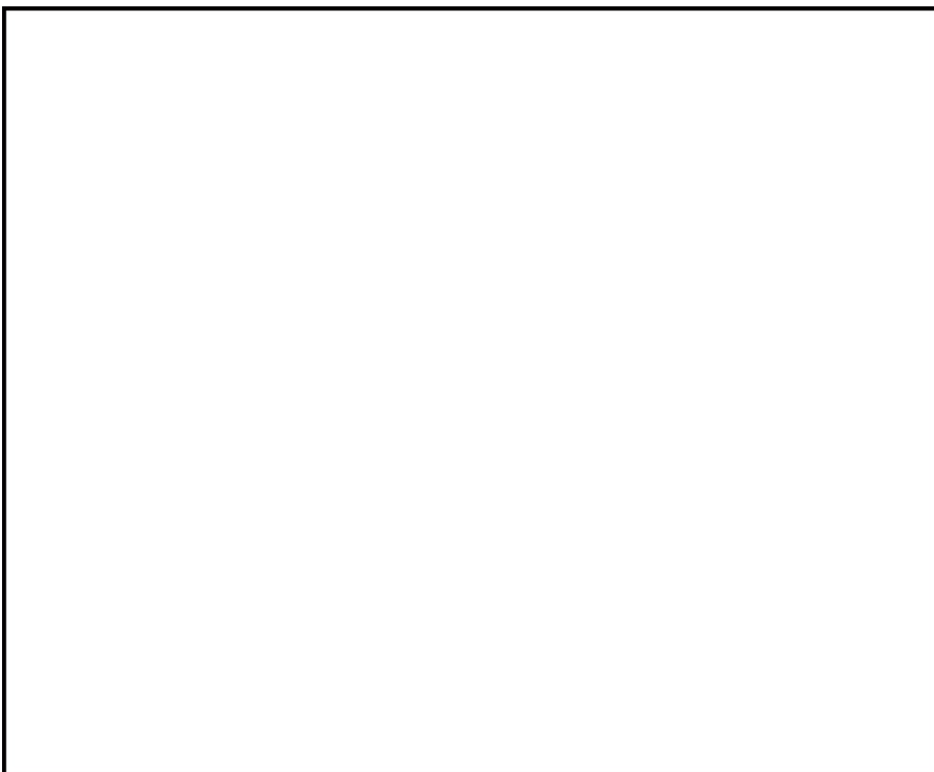
Agricultural Map



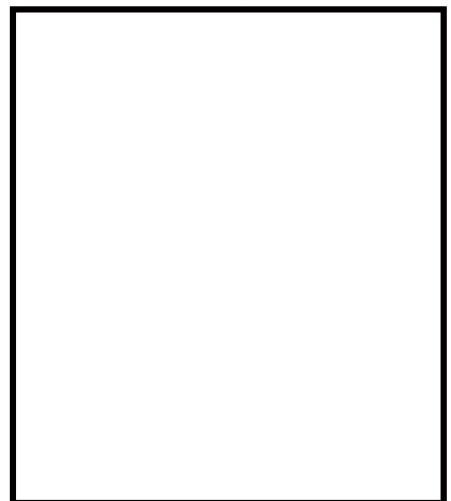
Key



Industry Map



Key



Colorado Industry & Agriculture

Industry

Name two industries that are found in Colorado:

1. _____ 2. _____

Where are these industries located?

1. _____ 2. _____

Why are these industries important?

1. _____ 2. _____

Agriculture

Name two agricultural products that are found in Colorado:

1. _____ 2. _____

Where are these products grown or raised?

1. _____ 2. _____

Why are these products important?

1. _____ 2. _____

Colorado Wildlife ~ by Region

Research wildlife found in Colorado and list animals found in each region of the state.

Great Plains:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Foothills:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Higher Zones:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Alpine Tundra:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Colorado Wildlife ~ Nature Walk

Go on a nature walk, either draw, or take photos of the animals you see. Research them to find out what they are, then add your photo or drawing and a brief description on this sheet.

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Colorado Wildlife by Class

Research wildlife found in Colorado and list your findings in the appropriate box below.

Mammals:

Reptiles:

Birds:

Amphibians:

Arthropods:

Fish:

Colorado Plant life ~ Nature Walk

Go on a nature walk, either draw, or take photos of the plants you see. Research them to find out what they are, then add your photo or drawing and a brief description on this sheet.

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Name:

Description:

Drawing or Photo:

Colorado Plant Life

Research plants found in Colorado and list your findings in the appropriate box below.

Cacti:

Shrubs:

Trees:

Wildflowers:

Edible Plants:

Weeds:

Famous Coloradans

William Bent

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Clara Brown

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Molly Brown

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Kit Carson

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Francisco Vasquez De Coronado

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Buffalo Bill

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Zebulon Pike

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Chief Ouray

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Famous Coloradans

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Born: _____

Known for: _____

Born: _____

Known for: _____

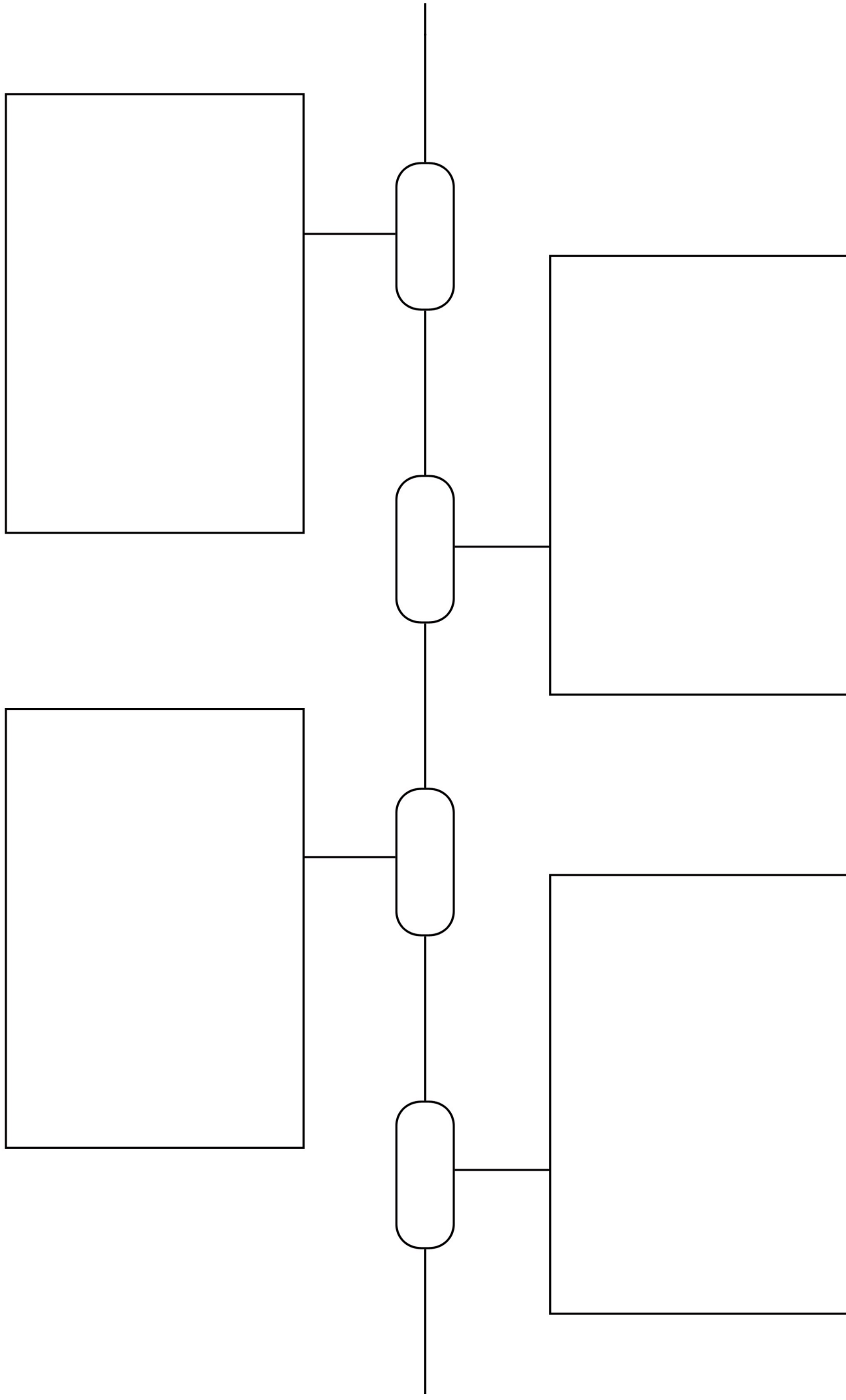
Born: _____

Known for: _____

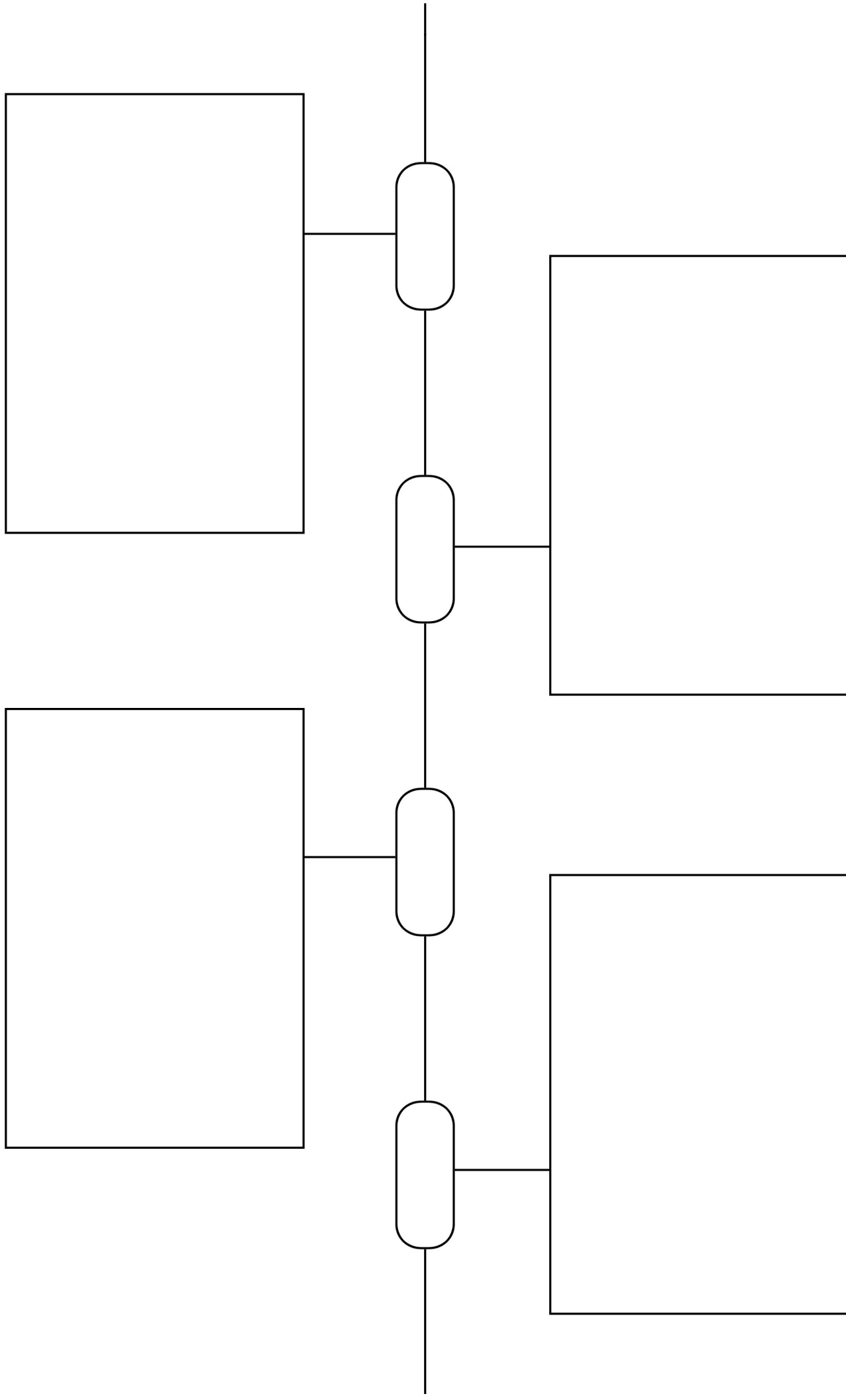
Born: _____

Known for: _____

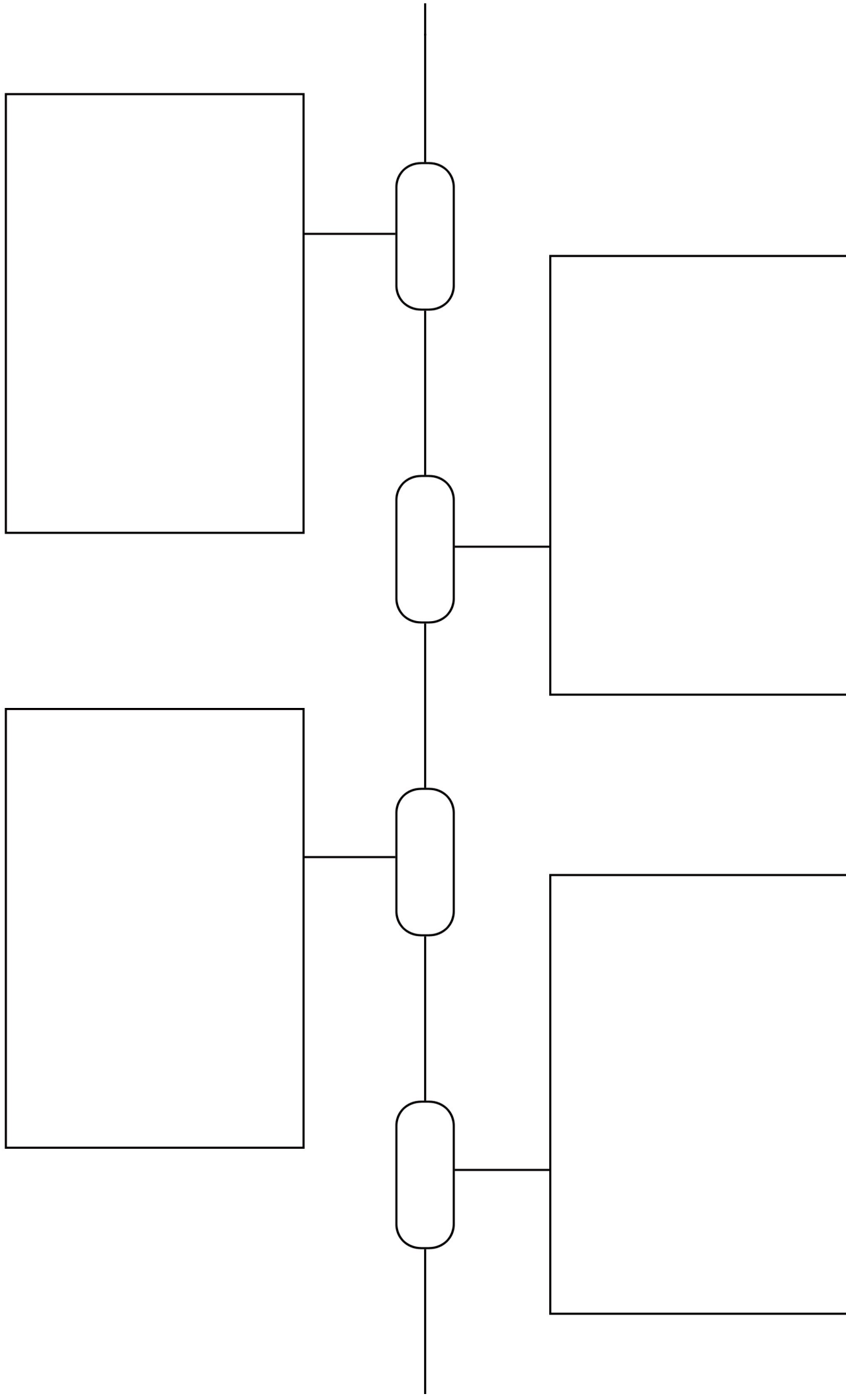
History of Colorado Timeline



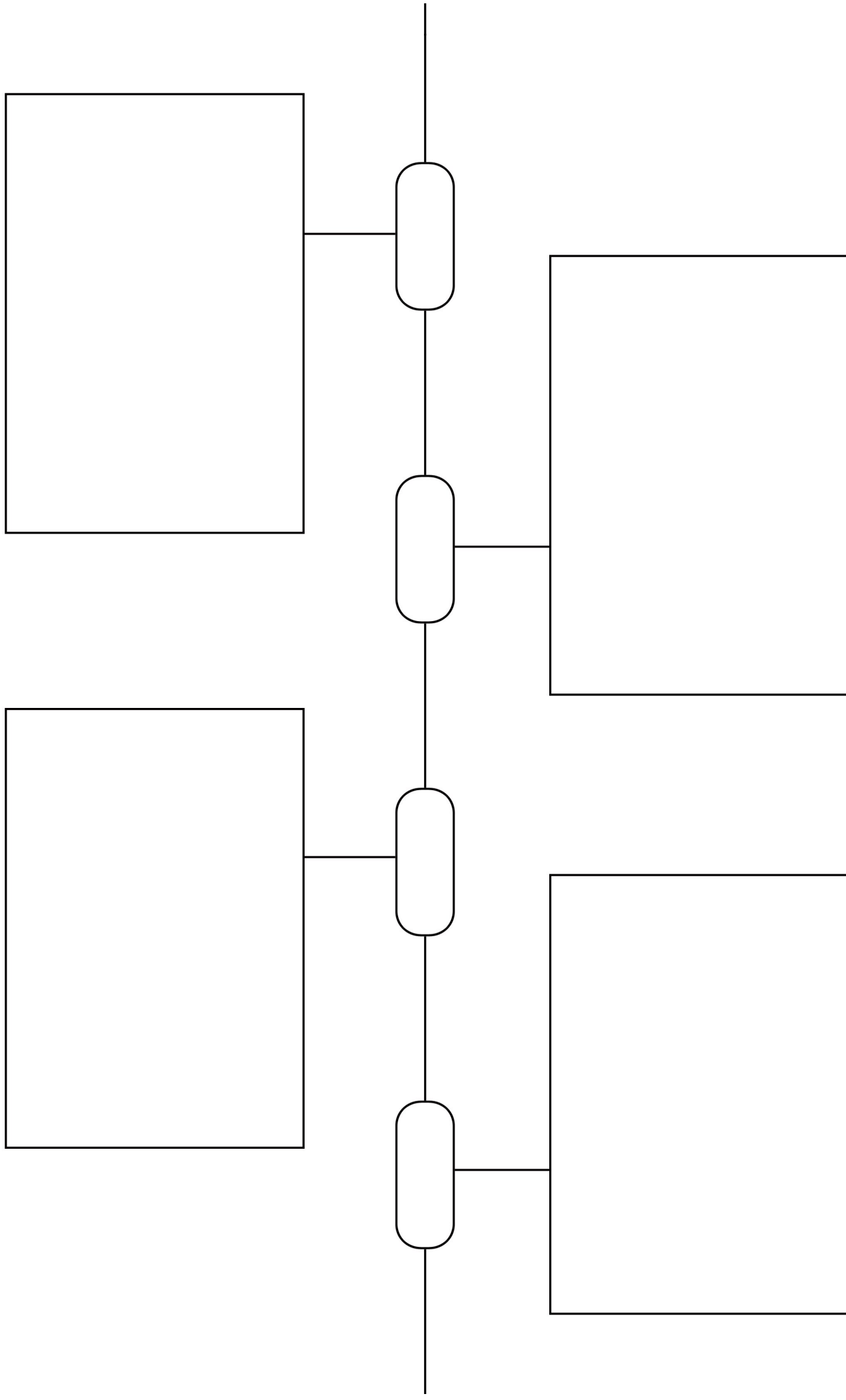
History of Colorado Timeline



History of Colorado Timeline

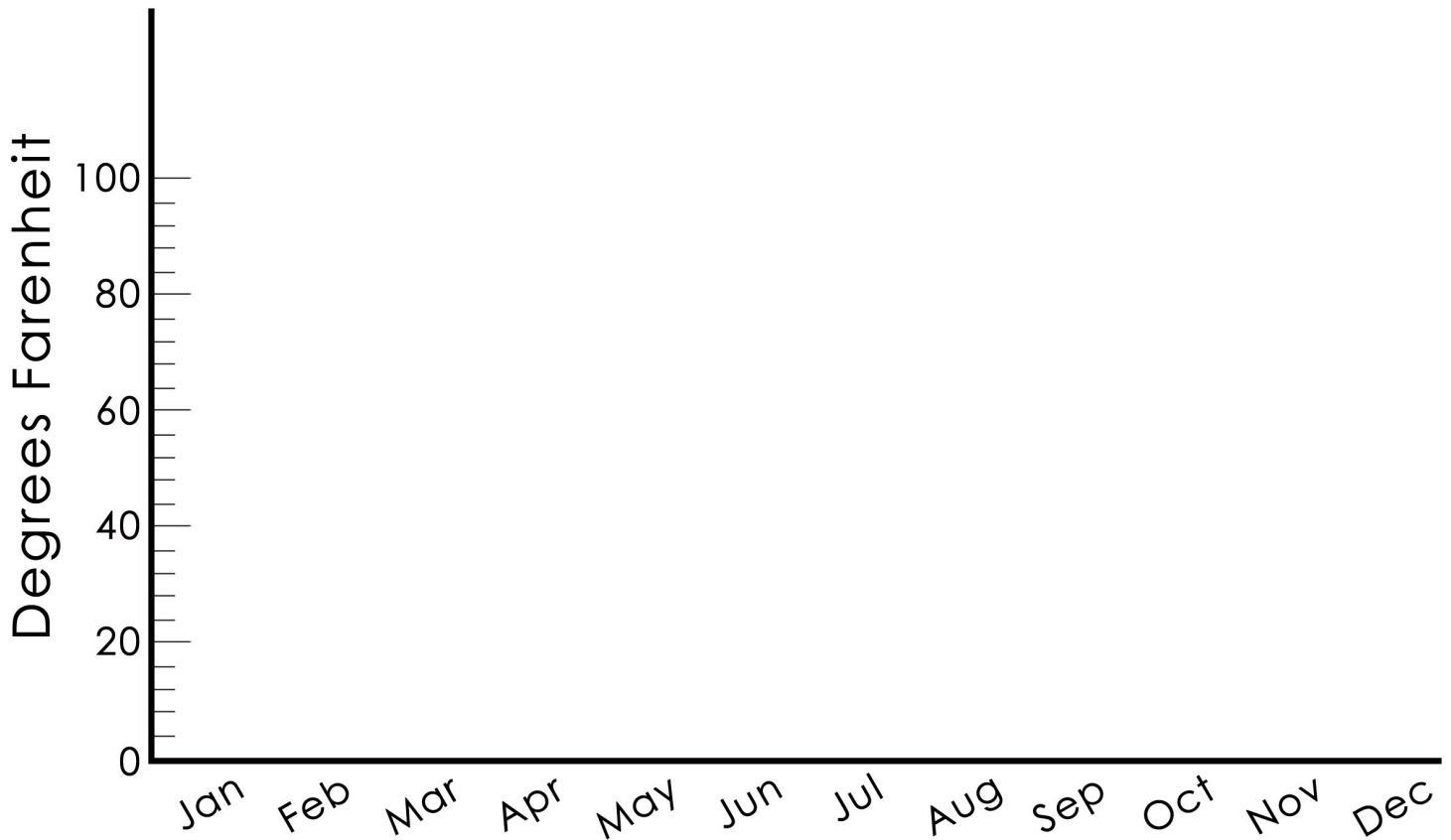


History of Colorado Timeline



Colorado Annual Temperatures

Using the monthly temperatures in the list below, create a line chart to show the average high and low temperatures for Colorado.



What month has the warmest temperatures? _____

What month has the coolest temperatures? _____

Using the chart, what is the average temperature? _____

What is the highest recorded temperature and when? _____

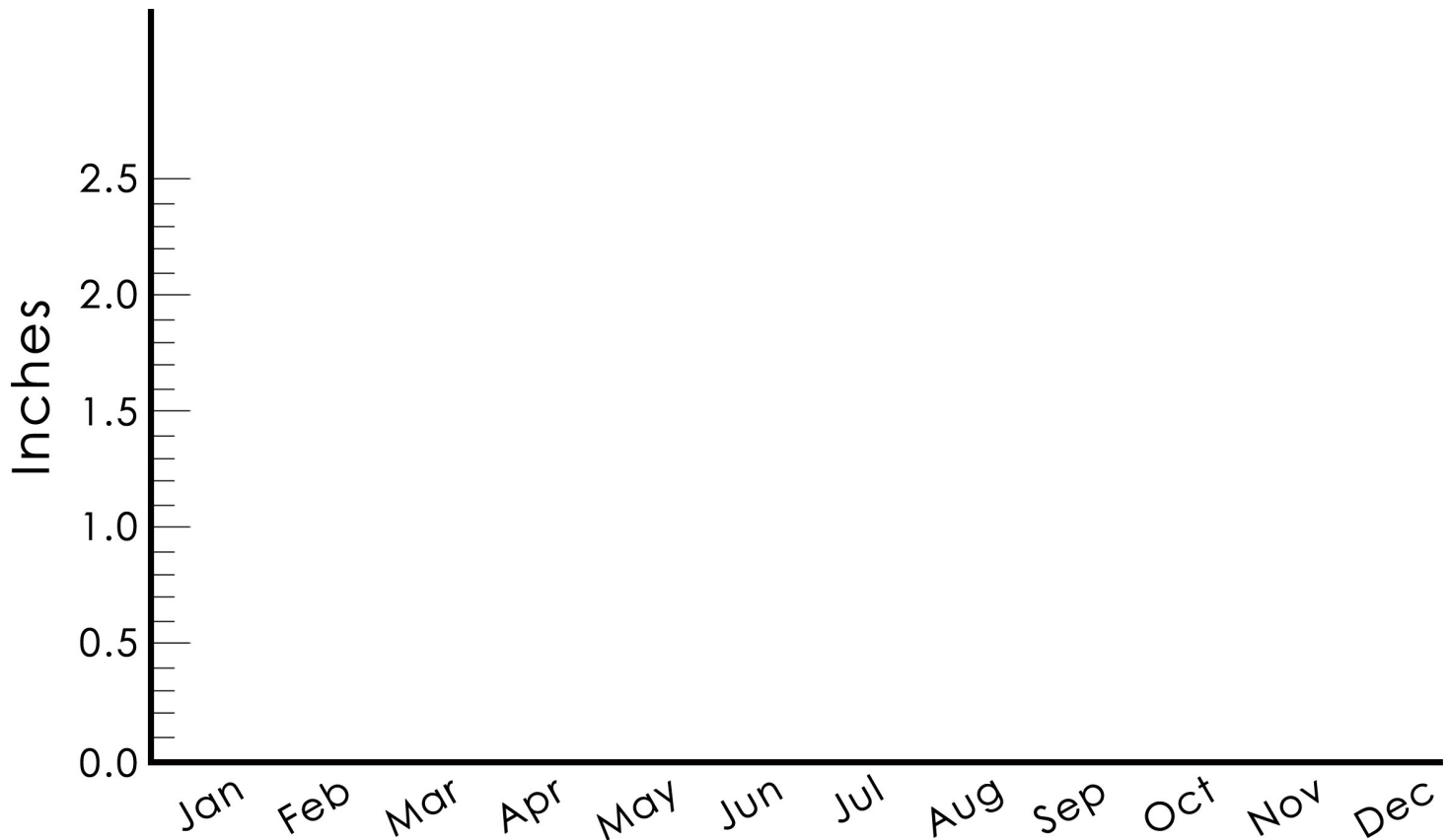
What was the lowest recorded temperature and when? _____

Average Monthly Temperature Denver, Colorado 2013

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Jan	40	8	Jul	85	50
Feb	42	10	Aug	80	45
Mar	50	20	Sep	75	40
Apr	60	25	Oct	60	30
May	70	40	Nov	50	20
Jun	80	50	Dec	40	10

Colorado Annual Precipitation

Using the monthly precipitation amounts below, create a line chart to show the average precipitation for Colorado.



What month has the most precipitation? _____

What month has the least precipitation? _____

What are the highest & lowest recorded amount of precipitation and when?

Highest

Lowest

Average Monthly Precipitation Denver, Colorado 1971-2000

January—0.5 inches
February—0.4 inches
March—1.25 inches
April—2.0 inches
May—2.5 inches
June—1.7 inches

July—2.4 inches
August—1.8 inches
September—1.3 inches
October—1.0 inches
November—1.0 inches
December—0.7 inches

Famous Coloradan by:

Name: _____

Date Born: _____ Date of Death: _____

Location of Birth: _____

What was their childhood like?

Did they attend school?

Who were their parents, brothers, sisters?

Did anyone have a primary influence during their life?

How and when did this person die?

Famous Coloradan by:

What were their major accomplishments?

Did they face any personal challenges or obstacles?

In what ways was this person's life remarkable or memorable?

What types of character qualities did this person display?

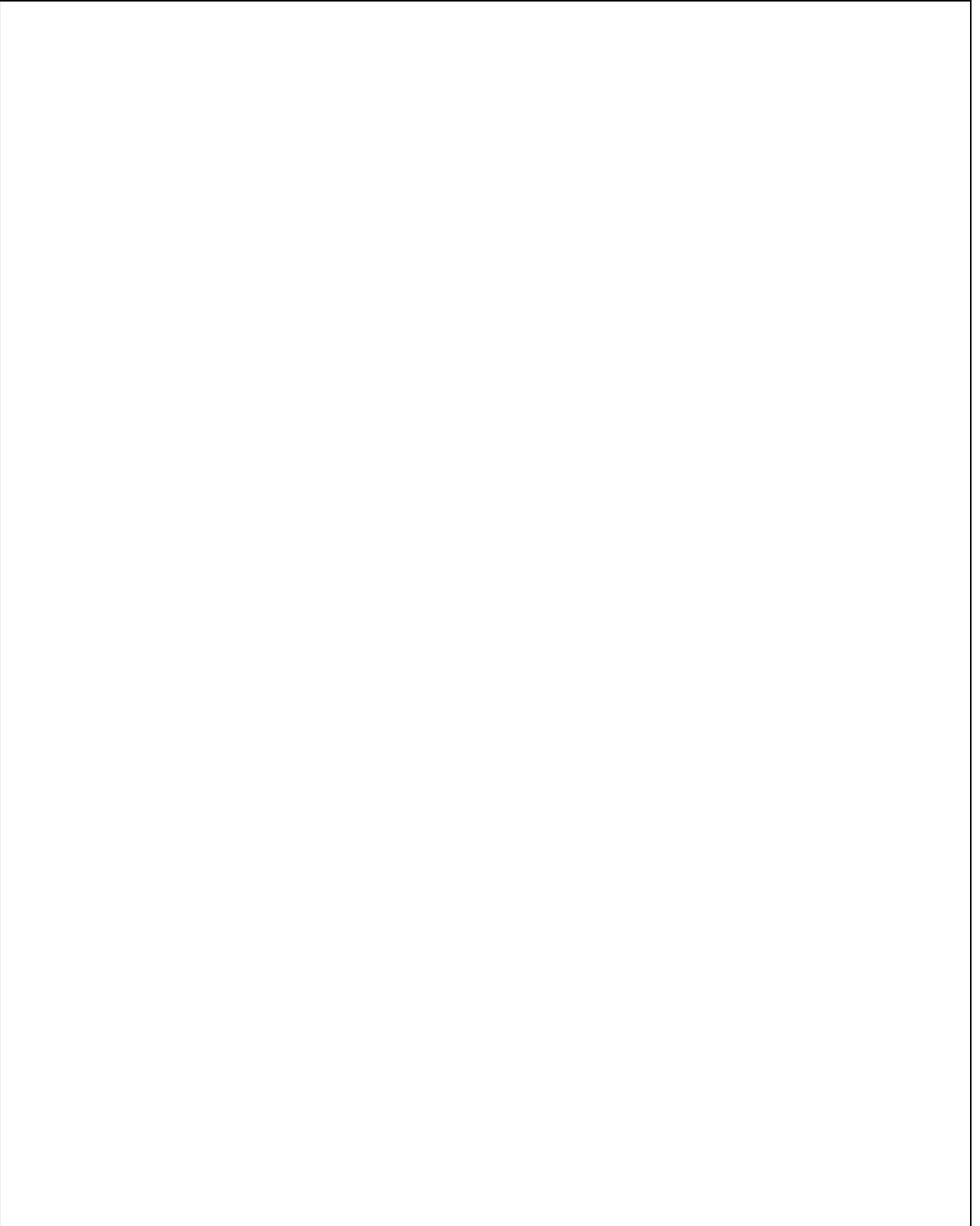
Famous Coloradan by:

Complete a brief timeline of this person's life:

The timeline template consists of a central horizontal line. From this line, three vertical lines branch off to the left and three to the right. Each of these vertical lines connects to a rectangular box. The boxes are arranged in a staggered fashion, with three boxes on the left and three on the right, each connected to the central line by a vertical line. The boxes are intended for the user to write key events from the person's life.

Famous Coloradan by:

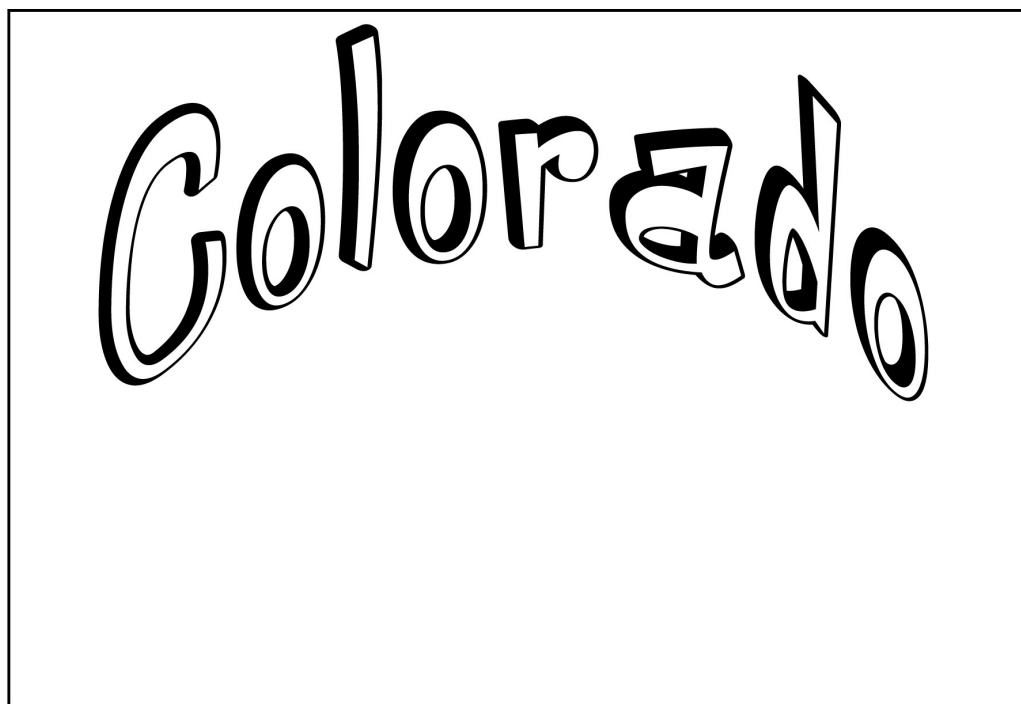
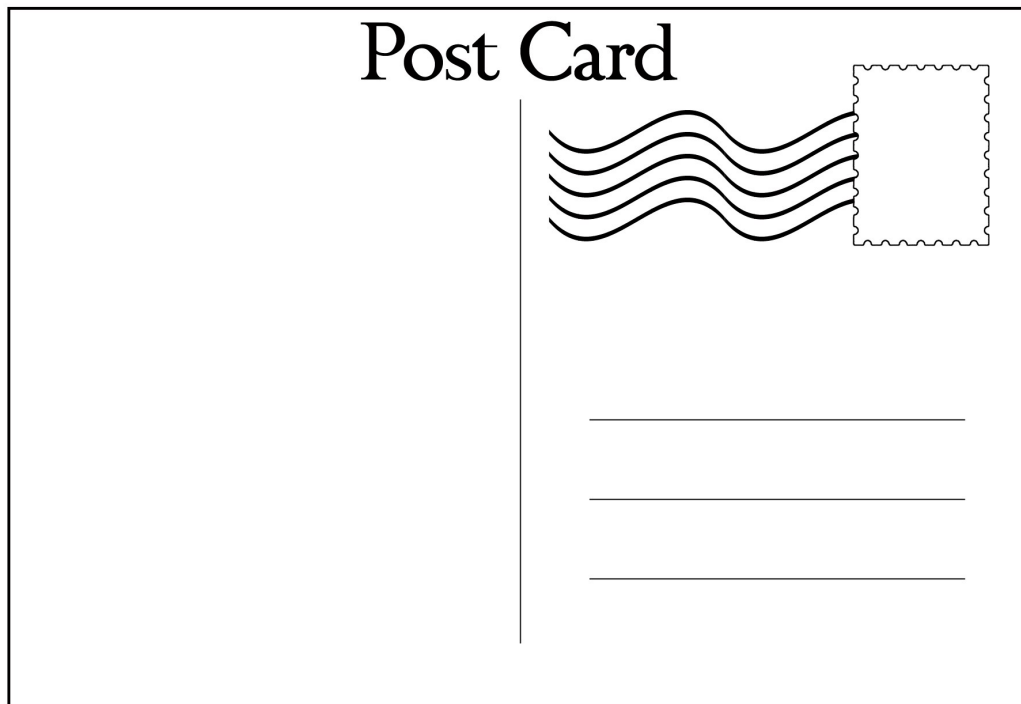
Draw a portrait of this person:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a portrait of a famous Coloradan.

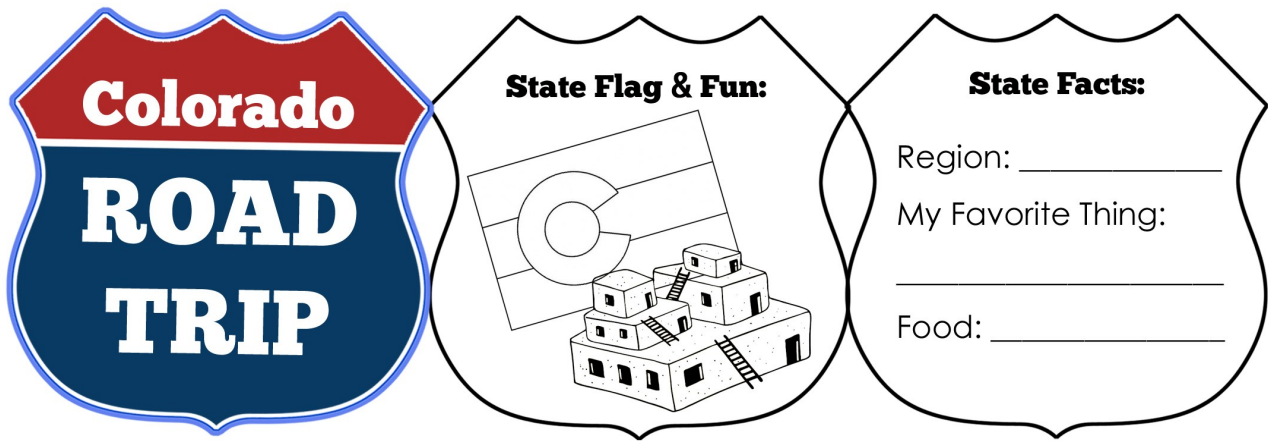
Post Card Instructions: Cut out the below postcard front and back sides and glue together with printed sides facing out. Design a front cover for the postcard. On the back side write a fun letter to a friend telling them something about Colorado.

Examples:

- Do you like this state, why or why not?
- Would you invite your friend to come visit you here?
- What are the people like here?
- What is your favorite thing to do here?



Cut out the mini-booklet along the outer solid lines being careful not to cut through where the shapes touch.
Accordion fold and fill in the booklet information.



What state is known as "The Centennial State"?

5 Bonus Pts:
Why is it called this?

Answer: Colorado, it entered the union in 1876, 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

What is the State Abbreviation for Colorado?

Answer: CO

What is the capital city of Colorado?

3 Bonus Pts:
How do you spell the capital city?

Answer: Denver

What is the state flower of Colorado?

Answer: Columbine

Where is Pikes Peak located?

10 Bonus Pts:
How tall is it?

Answer: Colorado, 14,115 feet

What was the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad used for?

10 Bonus Pts:
What state is it located in?

Answer: Hauling gold, silver, and today passengers. Durango, Colorado

What is Mesa Verde?

10 Bonus Pts:
Where is it located?

Answer: Preserved Cliff Dwellings, Montezuma County Colorado

What Food is popular in Colorado?

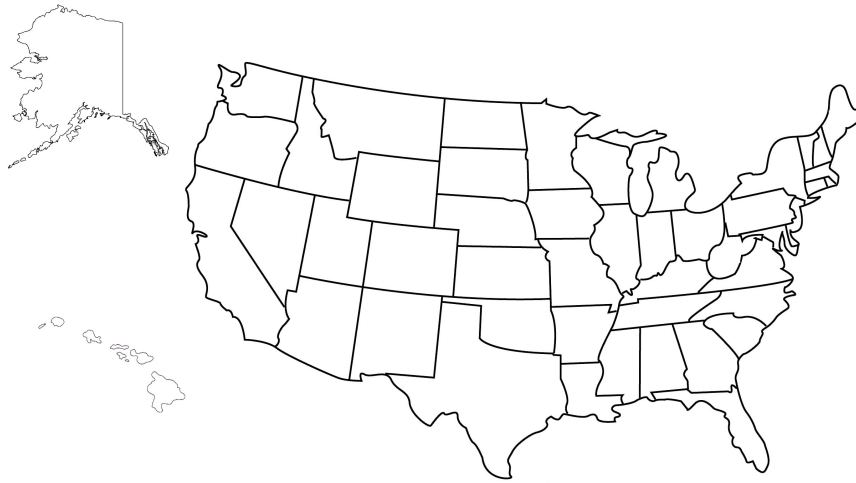
Answer: Rocky Mountain Rainbow Trout

Colorado Report by:

USA Region: _____

State Abbreviation: _____

Color Colorado on the Map:



State Bird: _____

State Flower: _____

State Animal(s): _____

Famous People/Places: _____

Geographical Features: Mountains Deserts Plains Coast

What is your **favorite** thing about this state and why? _____

What is **unique** about this state? _____

Bibliography:

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www.theflowerexpert.com
www.clipartconnection.com/en/
www.usa-printables.com/50_States
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www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/
www.allrecipes.com

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Statistical data gathered from numerous public domain reference materials,
every effort was made to be as accurate as possible.