



The Mystery in the

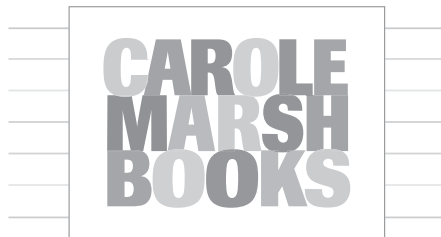
ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Teacher's Guide

by
Carole Marsh



Editor: Sheila Phinazee • Art & Design: Lynette Rowe



GALLOPADE
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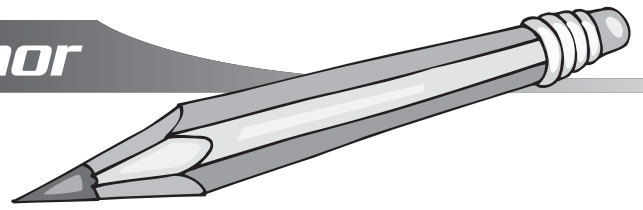
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A Word from the Author

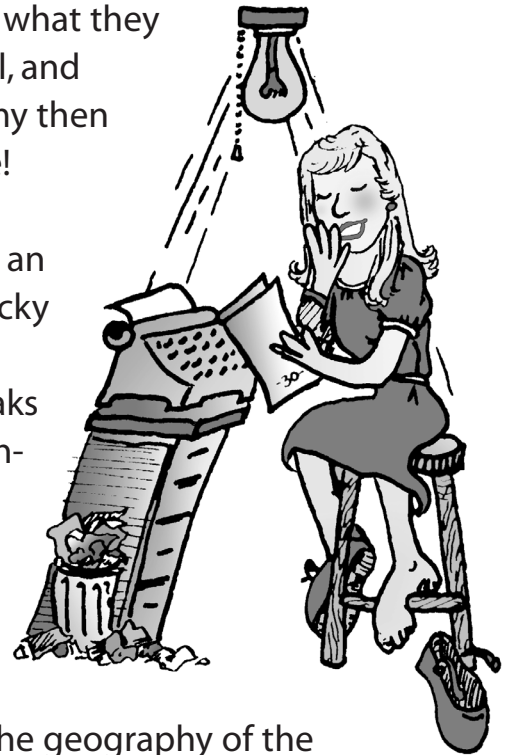


Dear Teachers,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

Many people believe that the Rocky Mountains are an amazing sight to see — and they're right! Visiting the Rocky Mountains and seeing them for the first time are an unforgettable experience. To see those snow-capped peaks jutting out from the flatness of the Great Plains is a breathtaking sight.

Yes, the Rocky Mountains are a major, world-class tourist attraction, but they are also a gigantic history lesson! It is fascinating to learn about the Native Americans, the early explorers, the first miners, and how the geography of the land changed their way of life.



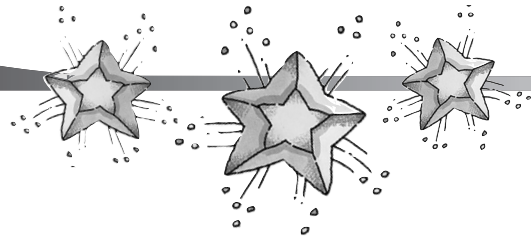
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts that made up their lives. We learned that history is still “living” and is not lost on kids! In fact, it is quite a revelation!

Enjoy your Rocky Mountain mystery adventure!!

Carole Marsh



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The Mystery in the
**ROCKY
MOUNTAINS**

30 YEARS
AGO . . .

As a mother and an author, one of the fondest periods of my life was when I decided to write mystery books for children. At this time (1979) kids were pretty much glued to the TV, something parents and teachers complained about the way they do about video games today.

I decided to set each mystery in a real place—a place kids could go and visit for themselves after reading the book. And I also used real children as characters. Usually a couple of my own children served as characters, and I had no trouble recruiting kids from the book's location to also be characters.

Also, I wanted all the kids—boys and girls of all ages—to participate in solving the mystery. And, I wanted kids to learn something as they read. Something about the history of the location. And I wanted the stories to be funny.

That formula of real+scary+smart+fun served me well. The kids and I had a great time visiting each site and many of the events in the stories actually came out of our experiences there. (For example, we really did stick our toes in the cold ocean, climb Jockey's Ridge, and see *Flyer* for ourselves!)

I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? What's great is that you and your children have an experience that bonds you together forever. Something you shared. Something you both cared about at the time. Something that crossed all age levels—a good story, a good scare, a good laugh!

30 years later,

Carole Marsh



Colorado Visitor Information

Colorado Tourism Office

Official Colorado State Travel & Tourism Website

www.colorado.com

or call 1-800-COLORADO

Official State of Colorado Site

www.colorado.gov

Rocky Mountains Recreation

www.rockies.com

Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center / Buell Children's Museum

210 N. Sante Fe Avenue

Pueblo, Co 81003

www.sdc-arts.org

719-295-7200

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy

Colorado Springs, CO

719-593-8847

Kit Carson County Carousel

Fairgrounds and 15th Street

Burlington, CO 780807

719-348-5562

Cripple Creek Mine Tour

P.O. Box 339

Cripple Creek, CO 80813

719-689-2466

Old Hundred Gold Mine

Underground tours for all ages.

Open Mid-May to Mid-October

P.O. 430, Silverton, CO 81433

1-800-872-3009

Denver Zoo

23rd Avenue, Denver, CO 80205

303-376-4800

www.denverzoo.org

Ocean Journey

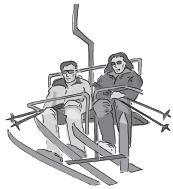
700 Water Street, Qwest Park

Denver, CO 80211

www.oceanjourney.org

1-888-561-4450

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>EXPLORE!</u>
1	Geography	What states do they fly over traveling from Georgia to Colorado?
1	Life	Have you ever been on a plane? If you were on a trip, what would you do? Sleep or try to stay awake? Why?
2	Geography	Denver is called the Mile High City because it is a mile above sea level.
2	Recreation	Skiing is a popular sport in Colorado. Because of its geography, it has mountains and lots of snow. Can you think of the geography of other parts of the country and how geography influences their choice of recreation? Example: Surfing in Hawaii
2	Vocabulary	Acoustics relates to the quality of sound
2	Science	Echos—Created by the repetition of a sound by the reflection of sound waves.
2	Vocabulary	A kiosk is a small structure like a refreshment stand or newstand.
2	Manners	Is it a good idea to talk with food in your mouth? Why or why not?
2	Science	An avalanche is a fall or slide of a large mass of snow, rock, or other material down a mountainside.
2	Pop Culture	Who is Lizzy McGuire? Who are your favorite young stars?
2	Geography	Look at the map. Which states border Colorado?



Colorado State Facts



Colorado Population:

4.3 million residents and is the third fastest growing state in the United States.

Area:

104,100 square miles (269,598 square km)

Capital:

Denver

Nickname:

Centennial State or Silver State

Date of Statehood:

August 1, 1876

Highest Elevation:

Mt. Elbert 14,433 feet

State Flower:

Columbine

State Bird:

Lark bunting

State Insect:

The Colorado Hairstreak Butterfly

State Motto:

Nil Sine Numine
(Nothing Without Providence)

State Gemstone:

The Aquamarine

State Animal:

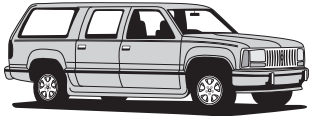
The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

State Fossil:

Stegosaurus

(Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona)

3 Vocabulary



An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or phrase. Find the abbreviations on page 13. SUV, CD, and DVD. What are their full names? Sport Utility Vehicle, Compact Disc and Digital Video Disc.

3 Safety

Why was it important for the kids to be quiet while Papa was driving?

3 Science

Fog is condensed water vapor in mass like a cloud close to the ground.

3 Math

If a mile is 5,280 feet, how many feet is 2 miles? (10,560 feet) What about 10 miles? (52,800 feet)

3 Geography

Altitude is the height of a place above sea level or above the earth's surface.

3 Vocabulary

The phrase "like a banshee" is an expression that means to run wild. Can you think of other expressions? Example: Wild as boars.

3 Vocabulary

A valet is a person at a hotel or restaurant who parks your car for you. It can also be a personal servant or attendant.

3 History



The Victorian Era was during the reign of Queen Victoria of England in the 19th century. Buildings and homes built during this period were very ornamental or fancy, inside and out.

3 Vocabulary

Palatial means large and spacious—like a palace.

3 History

Like most of Europe, England drank coffee. Tea

Effects of Altitude

On People...

Headaches, shortness of breath, poor appetite, and nausea are all symptoms of mild altitude sickness. A wet cough; being too weak to eat or get up; disorientation; shortness of breath at rest; and blue lips or fingernails are all symptoms of severe altitude sickness!

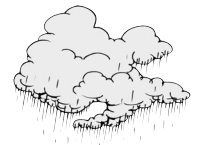


Altitude sickness is

usually preventable if your ascent is slow. Sleeping a night or two at a lower elevation helps speed the body's process of acclimation. Being in excellent physical condition has no bearing on one's ability to acclimate to altitude!

On Plants...

For each 1,000-foot (305-meter) rise in altitude there is a 4°F (-16°C) drop in temperature. For example, if at sea level the average temperature is 75°F (24°C) at 10,000 feet (3048 meters) the average temperature would be only 35°F (2°C). This has a dramatic effect on plant and animal distribution.




At sea level, there are lowland rainforests

and mangroves. At cloud level, moist, dripping cloud forests may occur. They are cooler than lowland forests. High mountains may have alpine, tundra, and snow-covered peaks.



in England began in the middle of the 17th century when Catherine of Braganca of Portugal married Charles II and introduced tea to the nation. Green tea became very popular with royalty, but it took 100 years for it to catch on with the rest of the country.

By the mid 18th century, public tea gardens were popular where men and women came together to eat, dance, show off the latest in fashion and drink tea.

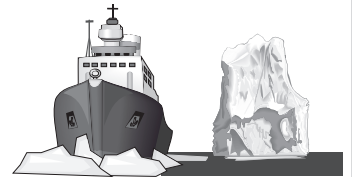
- 3 Family Are there special things you like to do with your family and friends?
- 4 Books What do you like to read? Do you have a favorite type of book like science fiction or mystery books?
- 4 Vocabulary Dawdle means to take more time than necessary or to waste time.
- 4 Occasions Are there special times when you get dressed up? What do you wear?
- 4 Manners Christina showed good manners or etiquette by placing her napkin in her lap and keeping her elbows off the table. Do you know other ways to be polite?
- 4 Geography  The historical character on page 24 was from Missouri. Since there were no airplanes in 1886, how did she most likely travel? What states did she cross?
- 4 Vocabulary A helmsman is someone who steers a ship or boat.

Icebergs!

An iceberg is a huge piece of floating ice that breaks off from glaciers and ice shelves. Only 1/7 of the whole iceberg is visible above water, so they are quite a bit bigger than they seem.

The largest iceberg ever sighted was in the South Pacific Ocean. This mammoth iceberg was 200 miles long (322 km) and 65 miles wide (105 km).

For fun, can you think of other terms with the word ice? (Ice cream, ice storm, ice hockey, Iceland, etc.)





Iceberg Lab

To observe the effects that icebergs have on the ocean:

1. Give small groups of students these items: a graduated cylinder, a beaker, and an ice cube.
2. Have students make a hypothesis about what is going to happen when the ice cube melts. (i.e. What percentage of the ice cube appears above the surface of the water? How does the ice cube affect the level of the water? Does the level of the water change after the ice cube melts?)



- 4 Writing What feelings are being described as the story of the Titanic is being told? Fear, anger, excitement, humor, suspense, anticipation, etc.
- 4 Career If you were an actor, what character would you like to portray? Why?
- 4 Life Some kids can't wait until they get older. How about you? How old would you like to be and why?
- 4 Vocabulary Do you know any abbreviations or nick names for other places? Like the Big Apple, the Windy City, IHOP, ATM, etc.
- 5 Safety What do you know about talking to adults you've never met?
- 5 Writing  "After what seemed like a hundred songs..." is an exaggeration used to show how long the concert seemed. Make up a sentence using an exaggeration to emphasize your point.
- 5 Career Meteorologists are people who study the weather. They gather information from airplanes, satellites, weather stations, and weather balloons and use computers to help make predictions.
- 6 History Most cowboys were around 24 years old. Many were African American or Mexican and only earned \$30 per month.
- 6 History  In the 1940's people moved from cities into new homes in the suburbs. Today, people are fixing up older, run-down areas and are moving back to the cities for convenience and less commuting time.

Weather

The highest temperature measured on earth is 136 degrees Fahrenheit (58 degrees Celsius) in northern Africa. The coldest is -128 degrees Fahrenheit (-89 degrees Celsius) in Antarctica.



The Chinook, also called the Snow Eater, is a hot, winter wind that whips down the Rocky Mountains. It can zoom up to 100 miles per hour (161 kilometers per hour) and within a few hours, melt several feet of snow.



Temp Watch!

104°F / 40°C
Feel the heat!

86°F / 30°C
Take a dip in the pool!

68°F / 20°C
Feeling groovy!

50°F / 10°C
Nice, but hang on to that sweatshirt or sweater!

32°F / 0°C
Button up that coat—water freezes now!

14°F / -10°C
Icicle time!

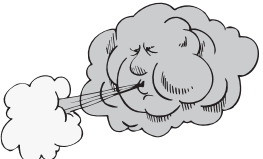
-4°F / -20°C
Baby, it's cold outside!

Colorado Weather Facts

Average Temperature:
(Season, High, Low)

Spring	69°F / 21°C	27°F / -3°C
Summer	86°F / 30°C	41°F / 5°C
Winter	47°F / 8°C	3°F / -16°C
Fall	75°F / 24°C	10°F / -12°C



- 6 Vocabulary A special side saddle allowed women to sit with both legs on one side of the horse. This came in handy while wearing long skirts!
- 6 Vocabulary A conglomeration is a group or a collection of things.
- 6 Math How much would Mimi spend if each adult picked a book for \$15 and each child picked a book for \$10? (\$60)
- 6 Vocabulary Grouse means to complain or grumble.
- 7 Weather  What are the winters like where you live? Very cold, warm, rainy or snowy? The sun is the Earth's source of heat and light. The areas of the world that are closer to the equator receive more of the sun's rays and have warmer temperatures.
- 7 Geography Mountains are landforms that are 2,000 feet or higher. They can be tall and rocky or covered with trees and rounded.
- 7 Biology Tarantulas are large, hairy, tropical spiders with a painful, but not very poisonous bite.
- 7 Language To mine means to dig out ore or minerals from the earth.
- 7 Language A myth is a traditional story often dealing with heroes, ancestors or the supernatural. A myth can also mean fiction or half truth.
- 7 Science Molybdenum is a gray, hard, metallic substance used to toughen steel. It is also used in dyes and fertilizers.

Mining Tidbits

Gold was discovered in the mountains of Colorado in 1858. Shortly after in 1859 hopeful prospectors rushed to Colorado starting the "Pikes Peak Gold Rush." Mining in Colorado has taken on many faces: gold, silver, copper, tungsten, molybdenum, uranium, coal, and even diamonds. The industry of mining gold and other minerals has been a very important part of Colorado's economy and history. This rich mining history continues today.





In 1923 Senator Samuel D. Nicholson, a former miner himself, donated money to build a memorial for his fellow Colorado miners. It took more than 50 years, but in 1979, artist George Carlson created Colorado Miner, a sculpture that you can see in the city of Denver.



After the first gold was discovered, many towns sprang up in Colorado. Many of those same towns have long since been abandoned. Some miners struck it rich while others lost everything. The ghost towns that were left behind often have clues that teach us what life was like during the early mining days.



- 7  **Writing** How does the author create a sense of foreboding which means a feeling that something is going to happen. Which words create suspense? (Darkness, eerie, etc.)
- 8 **Vocabulary** Adobe is sundried brick made of clay and straw.
- 8 **Vocabulary** Terra cotta is hard, water proof, ceramic clay used in making pottery and buildings. Popular in the west and the midwestern part of the United States.
- 8 **Culture** Kivas were underground or partly underground rooms in a Pueblo Indian village often used by men for councils or ceremonies.
- 9 **Health** Snow blindness is loss of sight caused by sunlight reflected off snow or ice.
- 9 **Math** If the kids travelled 120 miles to get to Colorado Springs at 60 miles per hour, how long would take for them to arrive? ($120 / 60 = 2$ hours)
- 9 **Vocabulary** In, "We got a bead on them," bead means a small knob on the muzzle of a gun or rifle used for sighting. Do you think they really have a gun or rifle?

- 9  **History** The Louisiana Purchase was when the United States bought the land of the western part of this country from France. It extended from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, between the borders of Canada and Mexico.

- 10 **Music** Honky tonk is the type of ragtime music often played on a tinny-sounding, old piano. It is also a slang for a noisy dance hall or bar.

Colorado's Native People

Anasazi

The commonly used name for an early "four-corners" people who were ancestors of the Pueblo peoples. They achieved great progress in the arts, architectural engineering, and agriculture. Today, some Native Americans object to the use of this term, which in Navajo means "enemy ancestors" and prefer Hisatsinom or Moqui.

Pre-Pueblos or Cliff Dwellers

Lived in the steep sides of the mesas by AD 1100.

Utes

Lived on mountains in open land. They shielded their homes by blocking mountain passes. The Utes lived in Colorado longer than any other people.

Apache, Navajo, and other Tribes

Came from Canada and lived on the eastern plains of Colorado.

Native Americans Today

For more information about present-day Native Americans living in Colorado, contact:

Southern Ute Tribe

PO Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137
(303) 563-4525
Fax: (303) 563-0393

Ute Mountain Ute

PO Box 52
Towaoc, CO 81344
(303) 565-3751
Fax: (303) 565-7412

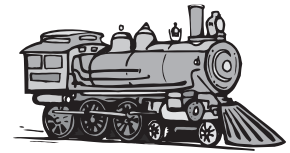


- 10 Vocabulary “Varmint” is used here as a nickname for kids, but it was originally used for a troublesome or undesirable bird or animal.
- 10 Science Steam engines convert the heat energy of steam under pressure into mechanical energy to make the train move.
- 10 Vocabulary An abyss is a very deep gulf or pit.
- 10 Vocabulary The firebox is a chamber on a steam locomotive’s furnace where fuel is burned.
- 11 Life What is a practical joke? (A mischievous trick played on someone, sometimes causing embarrassment.) When can having fun go too far?
- 11 Writing Why is “helpful” in quotation marks? Who are these two men and are they really being helpful?
- 11 Vocabulary Festooned means decorated with garland of leaves, flowers, or other decorations.
- 11 Life If you lived in the wild, how would you survive? What would you eat? (No fast food!)
- 11 Science A piñon is a pine tree with edible nutlike seeds.
- 11 Laws Rules are made not just to protect people, but animals, places, and things, too.
- 12 Biology What dinosaur names do you know? Examples: Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus, etc.
- 12 Hobbies Grant is obviously interested in dinosaurs. What are your hobbies or favorite things?

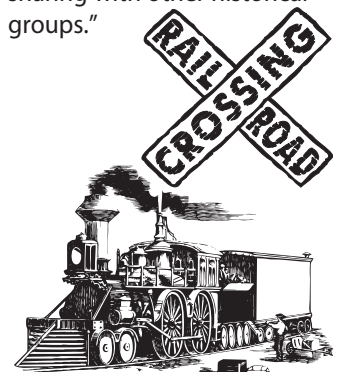




Train Tracks!

The Colorado Railroad Museum is recognized as one of the best privately supported rail museums in the United States. This “can’t miss” site for railfans features over 70 historic narrow and standard gauge locomotives and cars exhibited on 15 acres (6 hectares) at the foot of North Table Mountain, near Golden, Colorado.



The museum was established in 1959 to preserve for future generations a record of Colorado’s flamboyant railroad era, particularly the state’s pioneering narrow gauge mountain railroads. The mission of the Colorado Museum is: “...to acquire, preserve and exhibit to the general public, railroad equipment, artifacts, paper records, books, artwork, and photographs emphasizing Rocky Mountain area railroads; to explain and interpret the role of railroads in the history of this region from the 1860s to the present by means of exhibits, a reference library, educational programs, publications; and information sharing with other historical groups.”



- 12 Spelling Remember: Desert has one ‘s’ but dessert has two because it is so sweet. “My favorite is strawberry shortcake.”
- 12 Traditions  Some traditional Christmas goodies include gingerbread and peppermint candy. Do you have any favorite holiday foods?
- 12 Life Being considerate means considering the needs of others as well as your own. How were the girls considerate of others in the inn?
- 13 Sports Skiing requires a variety of equipment. Can you think of other sports that need special gear?
- 13 Nutrition Carbohydrates are great for energy! A carbohydrate is a substance found in sugars, starches, and cellulose which is from plants.
- 13 Writing  The author uses onomatopoeia, when words imitate what they represent. Like the word “SPLAT!” Can you think of other fun words that describe how the girls fell? (Bam!, etc.)
- 13 Biology Fir trees are evergreen trees with flat needles and upright cones.
- 13 Vocabulary A snowplow is a vehicle used to remove snow from roads. It is also the name of a skiing maneuver where the tips of the skis are brought together to stop or slow down.
- 14 Writing Christina felt grown up in her ball outfit. What makes you feel more grown up?
- 14 Life Traditions are thoughts or behaviors of a culture, passed down from generation to

Old-Fashioned Carbing Up!

Miner Forty-Niner Flapjacks

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 egg
- 4 tablespoons oil or melted butter
- 1 cup milk



Mix all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Cook over hot griddle. Serve hot in metal mining pan with maple syrup!

Makes about 10 flapjacks.

NOTE: Adult supervision is required for preparing all dishes.




Guess What?

This recipe can help prevent altitude sickness! Reducing your fat intake by eating a lot (as much as 70% of your total calorie intake) of carbohydrates (i.e., pasta, rice, pancakes) makes it easier for your body to metabolize and speed up elevation acclimation! Hopefully, you’ll never suffer the effects of altitude sickness! At least now you know ahead of time what you can do to minimize its effects!



generation.

- 14 Vocabulary Gumption means to have boldness.
- 14 Vocabulary “To egg” means to encourage or incite to action.
- 14 Writing By the end of the page, had Christina learned her lesson? What would you do if you were in her shoes?
- 15 Geography  The Eisenhower Tunnel was blasted through the mountains so that cars could cross the Continental Divide. Before the tunnel was built, travelers had to use the Loveland Pass, a road that is 11,992 feet high.
- 16 Writing A pun is a play on words. It’s “snow fun” can be a pun for it’s “no fun.”
- 16 Vocabulary Serendipity means a fortunate and unexpected discovery. A pleasant surprise!

Be sure to read Carole Marsh Mystery #:14
The Mystery on the Mighty Mississippi



Ski Slang

- Cliff Dweller:** Tube junkie
- Cold Smoke:** Contrail following fast powder skier
- Colorado Starfish:** Snowboarder, forward fall in powder
- Crack of Nooners:** Skiers that hit the lifts around 11’ish on a powder day
- Face plant:** Head first forward fall on pack
- Fatties:** Wide powder skis
- Freeheeler:** Telemark skier
- Gearhead:** A person outfitted in all new equipment – and can’t ski
- Head Auger:** Alpiner, forward fall in powder
- Hillrodder:** An excellent skier
- Huckster:** Skier that launches off of cliffs
- Jibblets:** Kids in the tube
- Klinton:** Uninvited member in your squad
- Loud Powder:** Ice
- Moderate Wind:** Talkative skier on chairlift
- Photo Op:** Your buddy face-plants
- Rentoid:** A person outfitted in all rental equipment – and can’t ski
- Schussboomer:** A sudden stop by an expert skier
- Snow Hole:** An area that attracts large amounts of snowfall
- Squad:** Your regular ski buddies
- Tray Racer:** Snowboarder
- Wad:** Cluster of snowboarders sitting on slope
- Yard Sale:** Gear scattered across slope after fall
- Yepper:** Affirmative



Discussion Questions

❖ On page 5, do you know where Grant gets, “Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?” Can you think of other slogans from TV commercials or other advertisements? Why do you think it is important for companies to have catchy sayings?

❖ Grant and Christina tried ice skating for the first time while visiting Colorado. Do you like to try new things? Do you like to ease into a new experience slowly or jump right in? How would you feel if you messed up or fell down like Grant did?



❖ Compare and contrast winter where you live with wintertime in the Rocky Mountains. What is your favorite season? Why?

❖ Christina would like to have a summerhouse at the beach and a winter house in the mountains. What would you prefer? What are the flora and fauna—animals, plants, and birds of your desired locations?

❖ The grizzly bear, the gray wolf, and the bald eagle are some of Colorado’s endangered or threatened animals. Discuss how these animals become endangered and what we can do to help save them.



❖ Why did the people dress up as historical characters in the old western town of Durango? Who would you dress up as if you visited this town and why?

Colorado’s wonderful wildlife:

BY LAND

Moose
Beaver
Mule Deer
Bighorn Sheep
Mountain Lion
Coyote
Fox
Porcupine
Prairie Dog
Bobcat
Marten
Skunk
Squirrel
Pronghorn

BY WATER

Bass
Catfish
Walleye
Sunfish
Kokanee Salmon
Perch
Carp
Trout

AND MORE...

Tiger Salamander
Water Bug
Turtle
Leech
Crayfish
Fishing Spider
Diving Beetle
Muskrat
Toad

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES:

Black-footed Ferret
Grizzly Bear
Lynx
Gray Wolf
Wolverine
Wood Frog
Bald Eagle
River Otter
Whooping Crane

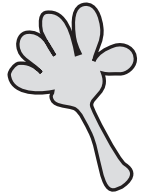


Bayou Bargain Puts Colorado in the Bag!



Howdy Neighbors!

States that border Colorado are Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming.



Four Corners is the only place in the United States where four states meet! They are Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

No boundaries! Colorado is the only state without a natural boundary like a river, mountain range, or coast.

Early Settlers

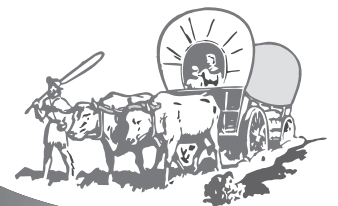
In the 1820s and 1830s, fur trappers and traders, called



mountain men, started settling in Colorado in search of beaver and other fur-bearing animals. Trading posts were built, and both the mountain men and the Native Americans traded furs and manufactured goods. Many mountain men also served as scouts.

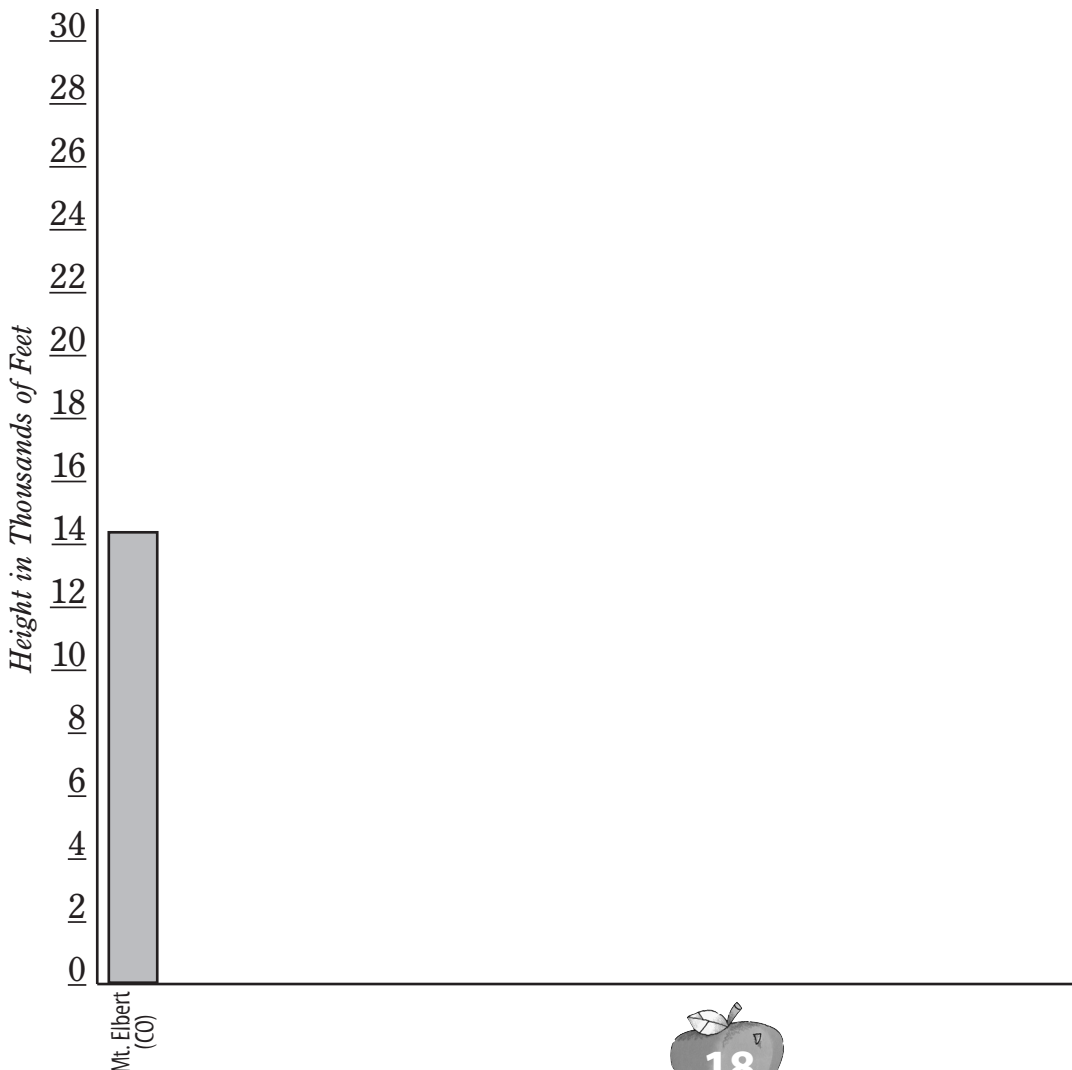
In 1821, Mexico offered large tracts of land to citizens willing to establish a colony in the San Luis Valley. Only a few settlers moved to Colorado at that time.

1. Can you find Colorado on this map? Fill in the names of the other states, too.
2. The Louisiana Purchase covered about 827,000 square miles (2,141,765 square kilometers). How many states were formed completely or partially, from this land?
3. The United States purchased this land from France in 1803. In 1858, gold was discovered in Colorado. This was how many years later?



Make a bar graph using the following Mountain Heights of the World:

- Mount Elbert (Colorado) 14,433 feet (4,399 meters)
- Mount Everest (Nepal-Tibet) 29,028 feet (8,848 meters)
- Mount Lincoln (Colorado) 14,286 feet (4,354 meters)
- Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) 19,340 feet (5,895 meters)
- King George Mount (Canada) 11,226 feet (3,422 meters)
- Mount Stanley (Uganda) 16,763 feet (5,109 meters)
- Brasstown Bald (Georgia) 4,784 feet (1,458 meters)
- Mount McKinley/Denali (Alaska) 20,320 feet (6,194 meters)
- El Pico de Orizaba (Mexico) 18,555 feet (5,656 meters)
- Mount Washington (New Hampshire) 6,288 feet (1,917 meters)



Interesting Facts!

The bighorn sheep

is the living symbol of the Rocky Mountain National Park. They often come out during daylight hours.



The beaver

has altered the landscape in many ways. You can see them begin their work at sunset and they continue working through the night.



A Fourteener is a mountain over 14,000 feet (4,267 meters) high. Colorado has more Fourteeners than any other state!

Mountains of the Ruwenzori Range

of East Africa are of volcanic origin. Although they are near the equator, they are ice-capped because they rise over 16,000 feet (4,877 meters) above sea level!



Brasstown Bald, formerly called Mount Enotah, is the highest point in Georgia, Grant and Christina's home state. It is just south of the North Carolina border, in the Blue Ridge Mountain Range.

Although **Brasstown Bald** is heavily wooded, its top is bare. The name Brasstown may have come from a mistake in interpretation of the Cherokee Indian name Itse'yl which means "green place," confused with Untsai'yi which means "brass."



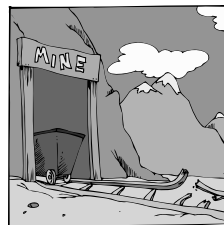
English: Write It!

1. Write a newspaper article telling about the arrest of the two thieves. Be sure to answer the questions who, what, when, where, and why in your story.
2. Write a new ending for the last chapter of the mystery.
3. If you could talk to Molly Brown, what would you say to her? Write a letter with your thoughts.
4. Write an acrostic poem using the word:

R
O
C
K
Y

The first letter of each line should begin with letters from this word.

5. Choose one of the “Memorable Mines” and write a fictional story telling how it got its name. See page 129 for Colorado mine names.



6. Pretend you are skiing with the kids. Write a paragraph using descriptive adjectives and lots of action verbs to create excitement.
7. Write five new titles for *The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains*.
8. Write a list of what the well-dressed skier should have before hitting the slopes.
9. Write a commercial that advertises a place, activity, or thing from *The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains*.



Great Colorado Reading

My First Book about Colorado
by Carole Marsh

Margaret's Magnificent Colorado Adventure
by Julie Danneberg

Beardance
by Will Hobbs

Gold in the Hills
by Laurie Lawlor

Hiking through Colorado History
by Vickie Leigh Krudwig

In the Heart of the Rockies
by G.A. Henty and G.C. Hindley

On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids
by Mary Taylor Young

The True Story of Nickel: The Baby Buffalo Who Thought He Was a Dog
by Nancy Savage, Kathy Parks and Jane Maxwell

Colorado Websites

www.durangotrain.com
www.coloradovacation.com
www.coloradoghosttowns.com
www.coloradoski.com
www.cripple-creek.co.us
cumuseum.colorado.edu
www.coloradohistory.org
www.buffalobill.org
www.cmdenver.org
www.nps.gov/flfo
mollybrown.org
www.pikes-peak.com/rodeo
www.dinoridge.org

Study the words below. Then fold the page in half and take a spelling test! Unfold the page to check your work. Study the words you miss!

TRADITION _____

MYSTERY _____

COLORADO _____

MOUNTAIN _____

BISON _____

AVALANCHE _____

SECRET _____

CONCERT _____

VALET _____

VICTORIAN _____

TATTERED _____

INSTRUMENT _____

BREAKFAST _____

BLIZZARD _____

POLICE _____

PURCHASE _____

RAILROAD _____

PALACE _____

CACTUS _____

DINOSAUR _____

WEATHER _____

DESERT _____

PEPPERMINT _____

TIMBER _____

SKIING _____

DENVER _____

AUCTION _____

TUNNEL _____

SCENIC _____

Buffalo Bill

Colonel William F. Cody was a well-known cowboy



who earned his nickname hunting buffalo to feed railway workers who were building a railroad after the Civil War.

Buffalo Bill had many jobs —



Pony Express rider, soldier, Indian scout, hunting guide, and actor. Probably his most famous job was as the organizer and performer of the famous "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show."

With sharpshooter Annie Oakley and the respected Indian chief Sitting Bull, Buffalo Bill traveled all over the United States. Eventually, his show's popularity grew and they traveled



overseas — even performing before Queen Victoria! Colorado's beloved cowboy and entertainer is buried west of Denver in Golden, atop Lookout Mountain.

For more information contact:
Buffalo Bill Grave and Museum

987-1/2 Lookout Mountain Rd.
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 526-0747
www.buffalobill.org

—or—

Buffalo Bill Museum

720 Sheridan Ave.
Cody, WY 82414
(800) 533-3838
www.bbhc.org



Birdseed Mining Activity

This activity will illustrate how the “needle in a haystack” process of mining works. Students will be able to experience the difficulty that miners face in locating valuable mineral deposits. They will also learn a simple lesson in economics – a less valuable commodity may be more profitable because it is more abundant. Students will be shown the importance of clean, environmentally conscious mining, and will learn that all mining operations must pay for reclamation work.

1. Divide students into groups of 4 to 6.
2. Pour approximately 1 pound of birdseed in each pan.
3. Add 2 gold beads, 4 silver beads and 8 blue beads, and 3 white beads to each pan – mix into birdseed.
4. The beads and seeds represent the following:
 - Gold beads = Gold
 - Silver beads = Silver
 - Blue beads = Coal
 - Sunflower seeds = Copper
 - All other seeds = Waste
 - White beads = Reclamation *(These beads will be assigned a COST rather than a VALUE because reclamation must be done at all mining operations regardless of how much profit was made.)*
5. Students search through the seed mixture and separate out or “mine” beads, sunflower seeds, and other grain products, making piles of each. Allow 5 to 10 minutes for the mining activity. (NOTE: The instructor should hint to the students that they should mine NEATLY, not mixing waste seeds with their beads, sunflower seeds and not scattering seeds all over the area. Instructor can have the option of examining the work of each group, or assigning a helper to monitor each group to see how cleanly the “mining” is being done. Instructor or helper may assign an arbitrary “fine” to cover costs for “environmental damage” at the messy tables.
6. Assign a value for each type of bead or seed.
7. Have the students count up the number of gold, silver, and blue beads, sunflower seeds from their piles and multiply the number of each by their values given in #6. Document all information on a separate sheet of paper. Students should also note the amount of any environmental damage fines on the spreadsheet. Students should count the number of white beads in their pile and multiply by the reclamation factor. This number should be recorded on each group’s paper.
8. Have each group total up the dollar value of their “mining” operation, subtracting the environmental damage fines and reclamation costs. Have each group share their success with the others. Prizes may be awarded to the best table of “miners.”



Materials:

- Wild Bird Food - any commercial birdseed mix with sunflower seeds and at least 2 other seed varieties
- Shallow pans (inexpensive plastic paint pans work well)
- Small beads (approximately 2mm) blue, gold and silver
- Medium beads (approximately 4-6mm) white color

Assigned Values:

- Gold bead = Gold = \$50.00 each
- Silver bead = Silver = \$40.00 each
- Blue bead = Coal = \$30.00 each
- Sunflower seeds = Copper = \$20.00 each
- All other seeds = Waste = \$0.00
- White beads = Reclamation = \$1,000.00 each

More Colorado Minerals:

MOLYBDENUM: 47% of this mineral is used in steel alloy. In pure form it is used because of its high melting temperature. The filament supports in light bulbs is made from molybdenum.

GYPSUM: used in making gypsum board or sheet rock which is used to make walls in houses and buildings everywhere!

LIMESTONE: used for building, for making chalk, and for various other purposes.

TITANIUM: used for alloys with with other metals. They are used in the aerospace industry, for both airframes and engines, where lightweight strength and ability to withstand extremes of temperature are important.



Tea and Crumpets

A crumpet is a light, soft bread similar to a muffin that is baked on a griddle and is often served toasted. (It came before the English muffin!)

Crumpets

Ingredients

- 1 envelope of dry yeast*
- 1/3 cup warm water*
- 1 teaspoon of sugar*
- 1 1/2 cups milk*
- 2 cups bread flour*
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda*
- 1 teaspoon salt*



Directions

1. Add warm water to a mixing bowl.
2. Sprinkle sugar and yeast on top of the water. Let rest for 5 minutes.
3. Add milk, flour, baking soda and salt. Stir.
4. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and wait 30 minutes.
5. Grease 3-inch cookie cutters and a griddle.
6. Warm griddle over medium heat, place cutters in the griddle, and add 3 spoons of batter into each cutter.
7. Reduce heat, cook until batter is set and bubbles appear, approx. 10 min.
8. Remove cookie cutters and brown on other side and serve!



NOTE: The preparation of all dishes should be carried out with the supervision of an adult.



It's All in the Tea Leaves

Tea comes from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. It is an evergreen bush that grows 42 degrees north of the equator. Where is the best tea grown? China, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Japan and India have tea that is hand picked to preserve its quality.

Types of tea:

- Black tea—fermented
- Green tea—unfermented
- Oolong—partially fermented

Popular sips

•Black tea from Sri Lanka and India gets thumbs up in the United States, Europe, and in the United Kingdom.

•Green tea is most popular in Japan.

•Oolong, with its more delicate flavor, is all the rage in China.

Chocolate Tea Sandwich Recipe

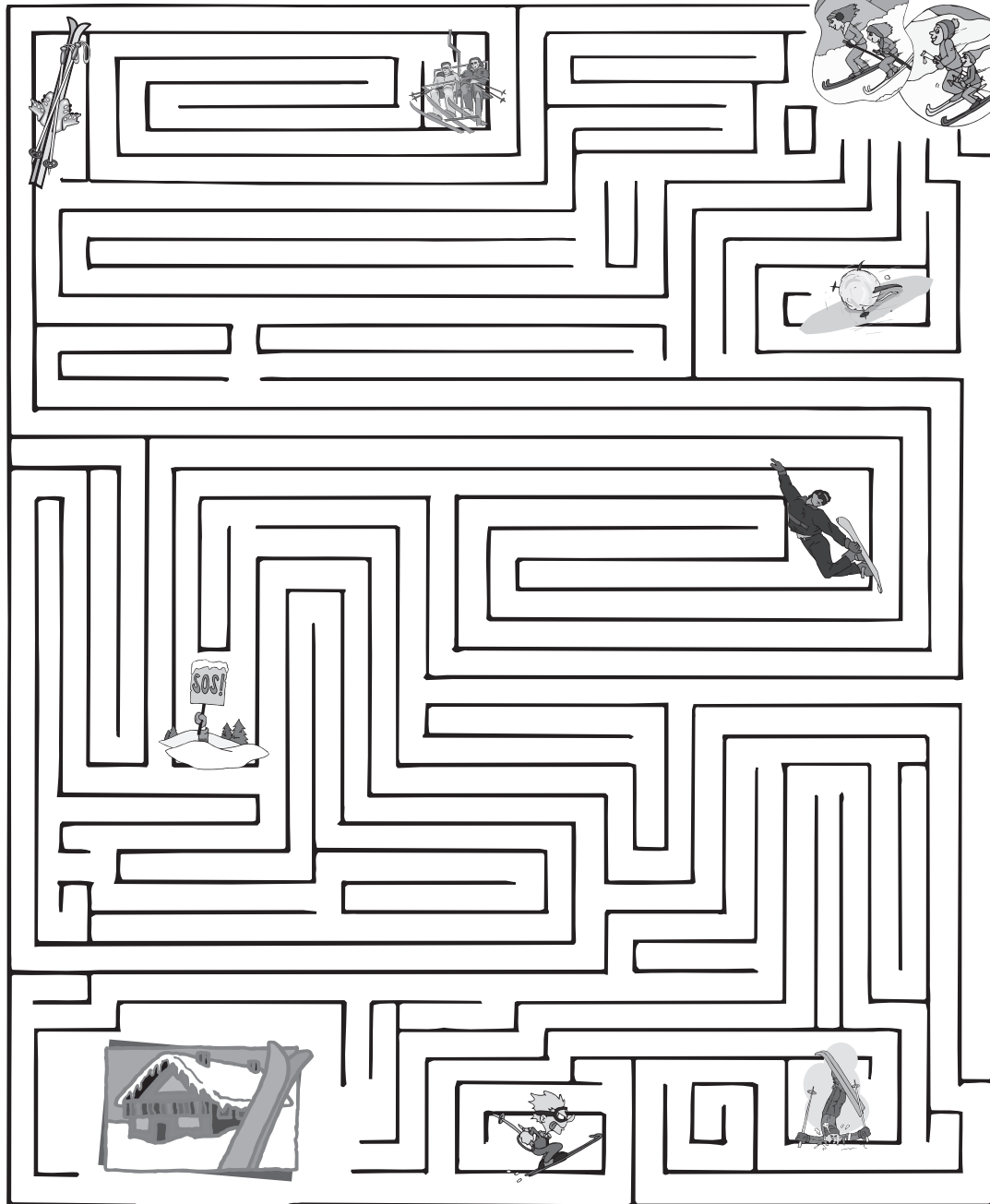
- 12 pieces of white bread with crusts removed*
- 1/4 cup brown sugar*
- 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate, grated*
- 3oz cream cheese, at room temperature*

1. Take 6 slices of bread and spread them with cream cheese.
2. Sprinkle brown sugar on top.
3. Sprinkle chocolate on next.
4. Cut into halves, quarters, thirds, or use a fun cookie cutter shape.
5. Eat up!

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Maze



Help Christina, Grant, Zander, and Dakota find their way back from the slopes to the hot chocolate at the Skihaus.



START

FINISH



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Pair Up



Match the words on the left with the correct words on the right!



PIKES

LEVEL

FLAP

PLOW

SNOW

PLANE

ROCKY

PEAK

RAIL

BOY

ESTES

ROAD

AIR

PARK

SKI

MOUNTAINS

TRENCH

LIFT

COW

JACK

SEA

MINT

GINGER

CASE

PEPPER

COAT

SUIT

BREAD



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains

Build Your Own Mountain



Use the information on this page to construct your own mountain.



Mountains . . . Uncovered!

The earth's plates consist of strata, or layers of rock. As the plates move, the strata is bent and folded. In mountains you can see how the layers have been bent into wavy layers.

Types of Mountains:

Block mountains are formed when the Earth's crust forms cracks called faults. In-between the faults the land is pushed up to become a mountain.

Dome mountains are created when molten rocks under the earth's crust push the earth's crust into a huge bulge.

Fold mountains are made when one plate pushes against another plate. Rock in-between is pressed into folds. (This is how the Andes Mountains were formed.)

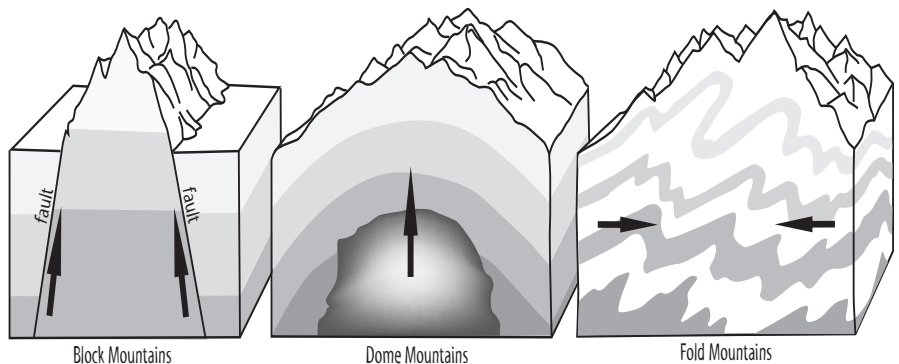
Mountain Vocabulary:

crag—a steep piece of rock
range—a series or group of mountains
strata—layers of rock

Materials

- Old paper bags or newspaper
- Newspaper torn into strips
- Cardboard
- Wallpaper paste
- Paint
- Bucket
- Paint brush

- 1** Make balls of crumpled paper bags or newspaper.
- 2** Create papier-mache by soaking pieces of newspaper strips in paste.
- 3** Place balled up paper on cardboard base and cover with soaked strips to form mountains and valleys.
- 4** Allow time to dry then paint your mountains, valleys, or even add a pond, lake, or stream.



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Clue Scramble



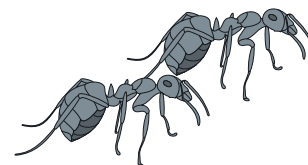
Unscramble the names of Colorado bugs and decode the word below!

1. BELTEE

3

2. NTSA

4



3. MSIUOTQO

1

4. HOTM

5



5. GSARPEPSOHR

2



HINT: *Give bugs the boot.*

RESULT: !
 1 2 3 4 5



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Word Search



Find the Colorado towns and places below.

S I L V E R T O N E L G A E J K L
 O O G N A R U D K C Z F B B J A A
 S G N I R P S O D A R O L O C E K
 P B R E C K E N R I D G E N R P E
 S N I L L O C T R O F J L A E S W
 Z Y L R U A S O N I D P B N V E O
 K B O U L D E R Q O A Z R Z N K O
 P U E B L O A R O R U A A A E I D
 H O L L Y M H B Q R W F M V D P H

AURORA

BONANZA

BOULDER

BRECKENRIDGE

DENVER

DINOSAUR

DURANGO

COLORADO SPRINGS

EAGLE

HOLLY

LAKESWOOD

FORT COLLINS

MARBLE

PIKES PEAK

PUEBLO

SILVERTON



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



Fill in the blanks to answer the questions.

1. State where this mystery takes place:

C _____

2. Type of vehicle the family drives while on vacation:

_____ U _____

3. Time of year for this trip:

_____ R

4. Nickname for the group of mountains in the Rocky Mountains:

_____ E _____

5. What does LoDo stand for?

_____ W _____

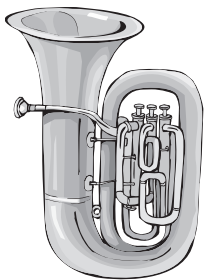
D _____

6. What instrument was played at the concert?

_____ A

7. People came to Colorado in search of this to get rich:

G _____ OR _____ V _____



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Matching Characters



Match these mystery characters with their descriptions!

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Molly Brown | A. Mystery Writer |
| 2. Grant | B. Christina's ski partner |
| 3. Zander | C. Jeff's pal |
| 4. Papa | D. Dinosaur fan |
| 5. Christina | E. Unsinkable |
| 6. Mimi | F. Has a red airplane |
| 7. Mutt | G. Wore white dress to the ball |
| 8. Dakota | H. Oldest kid |



The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Quiz



Use the clues to find the correct answer to each quiz question.



1. When snow suddenly falls down a mountain, burying everything in its path.

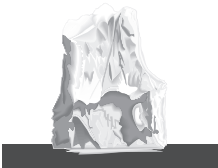


2. Maneuver that helps a skier to stop or slow down.

3. Nickname for a person who lives in an area that is mostly flat.

4. A prank that may cause someone harm or embarrassment.

5. Famous ship that sank after hitting an iceberg.



6. Colorado airport that looks like a miniature mountain range.

7. This type of winter storm limits visibility.



8. This was hidden underneath the rented SUV.

9. Mountain traveled in the story that had lots of hairpin turns.

10. Papa called this clothing his “penguin get-up.”

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains True or False



Mark each statement true or false.

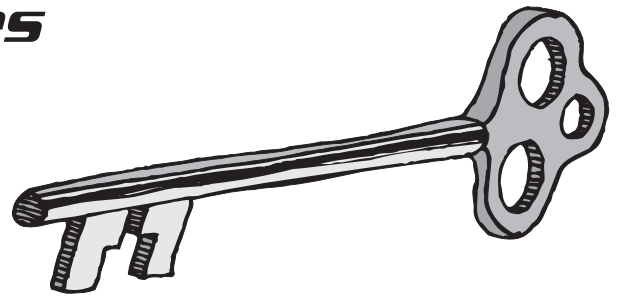
Can you replace the word (or words) that is false in each statement?

- _____ 1. Colorado Springs is the Mile High City.
- _____ 2. Three mysterious men keep following the kids.
- _____ 3. Christina bought lots of presents at the silent auction.
- _____ 4. Papa has a pilot's license.
- _____ 5. The kids and the adults went snowboarding.
- _____ 6. The police arrested the strange men.
- _____ 7. The family stayed in the White Palace Hotel.
- _____ 8. Grant danced with a partner at the Ski Ball.
- _____ 9. Mimi's and Papa's friends run the Allaire Timbers Inn.
- _____ 10. The Eisenhower Tunnel goes under the Continental Divide.



Answer Key...

to The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Activities



Geography: Find It!

2. 15; 3. 55

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Pair Up

PIKES PEAK; FLAP JACK; SNOWPLOW; ROCKY MOUNTAINS; RAILROAD; ESTES PARK; AIRPLANE; SKI LIFT; TRENCHCOAT; COWBOY; SEA LEVEL; GINGERBREAD; PEPPERMINT; SUITCASE

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Clue Scramble

BEETLE, ANTS, MOSQUITO, GRASSHOPPER, MOTH, SPLAT!

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Matching Facts

1. E; 2. D; 3. H; 4. F; 5. G; 6. A; 7. C; 8. B

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword

1. COLORADO; 2. SUV; 3. WINTER; 4. FOURTEENERS; 5. LOWER DOWNTOWN; 6. TUBA; 7. GOLD OR SILVER

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains Quiz

1. Avalanche; 2. The Snow Plow; 3. Flatlander; 4. Practical joke; 5. Titanic; 6. Denver International Airport; 7. Blizzard; 8. Tracking device; 9. Pikes Peak; 10. Tuxedo

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains True or False

1. F-Denver; 2. F-two; 3. F-Grant; 4. T; 5. F-Skiing; 6. T; 7. Brown; 8. F-Without; 9. T; 10. T

