

NEW! We hope you'll file this issue for future use!

Colorado

Tour PPLD's Special Collections

Interested in local history? Why not visit the 1905 Carnegie Library (access through the Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave.) and take a look at our Special Collections. Discover resources you may not have even known the library owned, housed in our beautifully restored 1905 library building. Many of the books, maps, and pamphlets in this area cannot be found at any of the other libraries, but they are a valuable part of recording our rich local history. You can schedule a tour of the Special Collections area by contacting Tim Blevins, at 531-6333, x2258 or Dennis Daily at 531-6333, x2250. Get together with another homeschool family and make it a summer fieldtrip!

Teen Books on Colorado History!

Nonfiction
 978.839 B218A *Alfred Packer's Wilderness Cookbook* by James E. Banks
 917.913044 M453W *The Wild Colorado: The True Adventures of Fred Dellenbaugh*
 Age 17, on the Second Powell Expedition into the Grand Canyon by Richard Maurer
 978.8 E47C *Colorado: A History in Photographs* by Richard N. Ellis
 978.V318G *Ghost Towns of the Mountain West: Your Guide to the Hidden History and Old West Haunts of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Nevada* by Phillip Varney
 920.720978 E962 *Extraordinary Women of the Rocky Mountain West* by Tim Blevins

Colorado Adventures for kids

J-Nonfiction
 J 582.13 Y75C *Colorado West: Land of Geology and Wildflowers*
 J 599.09788 Y74O *On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids*
 J 978.8 H528C *Colorado: Past and Present*
 J 978.8 N769C *Colorado: the Highest State*
J-Fiction
Rocky Mountain Mysteries series by Emily Burns
In the Heart of the Rockies by G. A. Henty
The Dragon of Cripple Creek by Troy Howell
The Leanin' Dog by K. A. Nuzum
Nothing Here But Stories by Nancy Oswald
J-Easy (picture books)
High as a Hawk by T. A. Barron
Prunes and Rupe by Lydia Griffin
Purple Mountain Majesty by Lynn Christian Hefley
 Ricky books by Jeffrey Keller

Rock Ledge Ranch Events

Annual Sheep Shearing: Sat., June 2 ♦ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Multi-National Pow Wow: Sat., Sept. 22 ♦ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Family Fourth: Wed., July 4 ♦ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Harvest Festival: Sat., Oct. 6 ♦ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (free admission)
Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino IV: Sun., July 29 ♦ 2 - 8 p.m. (cost \$40)
Putting Food By (Hog Processing) Sat., Nov. 3 ♦ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Labor Day and Vintage Baseball Game: Mon., Sept. 3 ♦ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Holiday Evening: Sat., Dec. 15 ♦ 4 - 8 p.m.
Holly Berry House Folk Art Festival: Sept. 14 - 16 (various times)

Database Focus/Web Picks ♦ Focus on Colorado
 Whether you've recently moved to Colorado, or have lived here all your life, this is an ideal time to learn something new about your home state. The PPLD website is chock-full of links and databases pertaining to Colorado! On the left-hand side of the PPLD website (ppld.org), under "Research," click on "By Subject" and check out the databases and librarian-selected websites under "Colorado" and "Colorado Springs/El Paso County." You'll find a wealth of information there. Be sure to look at the "Regional History" tab to see what is available in our Regional History Collection downtown at the 1905 Carnegie (part of Penrose Library).

For a more child-friendly approach, start again with ppld.org and click on the KidsWeb button on the right side of the webpage. Once on KidsWeb, click on the picture of the bighorn sheep. In the upper left corner of the Colorado page, there's a link to a fun learning game, Colorado History Arcade. Geared toward fourth graders (the year schools normally teach Colorado history) this game, developed by PPLD and the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, will help bring our state's colorful history to life for your kids. Back on the Colorado page, click on any of the colorized pictures in the center photograph to find great research tools: databases and newspaper articles, brief biographies of prominent Pikes Peak region historical figures, great web links chosen by our librarians, and historical photographs in PPLD's archived collection. Remember, just because we've found these resources on KidsWeb doesn't mean they are only for kids. We hope your whole family will have fun becoming more acquainted with our beautiful State of Colorado!

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact gsohns@ppld.org.



HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

An Educational Resource Tool

Summer 2012

Field Trips through History



Looking for something to do this summer? Hoping to do a little site-seeing in the sunshine? Try some of these field trips and experience the rich history and heritage of the Pikes Peak region. There are many opportunities for educational historical experiences right in our own backyard. This summer, you can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for your home region and have fun with the family doing it!

The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

215 S. Tejon St.
 is housed in the restored 1903 County Courthouse

and is a great afternoon trip — free of charge! You can check to see which exhibits are currently being displayed or even request a special tour at cspm.org.



Learn about Colorado Springs founder, General William Palmer, at his home,

Glen Eyrie. The mansion is open for tours and Victorian teas — although these events are not free, there is a special rate for educational tours with over 10 people, so getting together with another family or two would make the event more affordable.

Experience Colorado's western heritage at the **Ghost Town Wild West Museum** (ghosttownmuseum.com), learn about Native American history at the **Cliff Dwellings** near Manitou



(cliffdwellingsmuseum.com), admire Colorado's natural history at the **Cave of the Winds** (caveofthewinds.com), the list goes on and on! Get out of the house and learn a little more about the beautiful area we live in by taking a field trip through history.



To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.



new
The BookShelf

Even an Octopus Needs a Home

by Irene Kelly (2011)

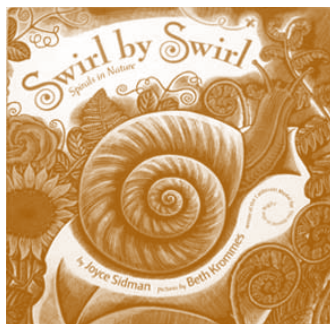
Animal homes/habitats is the topic of this interesting book. Good solid science, easily read and enjoyed in a picture book format, the animal homes are grouped by types: tree houses, towers, lodges, caves, burrows, floating homes, bubbles, and mobile homes. Science – ages 5 - 9



Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature

by Joyce Sidman (2011)

The art is wonderful! Beth Krommes illustrated this book, and she recently won the Caldecott Medal for her book *The House in the Night*. The science information is less apparent in the main text, but fully explained in the end notes. The language is simple but strong, perfectly matched by the illustrations. Enjoy this book over and over. Art, Science, Literature – ages 5 - 9



Over and Under the Snow

by Kate Messner (2011)

More science! This picture book presents the story of animals that live in the subnivean zone, the small spaces under the snow, and just above the ground, as a child and parent cross-country ski above. The end notes explain the subnivean zone, and further notes give information on each animal presented in the story. Science – ages 5 - 9



Georgia in Hawaii: When Georgia O'Keeffe Painted What She Pleas

by Amy Novesky (2012)

This lovely, brief book tells the reader about a time in 1939 when Georgia O'Keeffe took a boat to Hawaii, and then spent three months touring the islands. She was invited by the Hawaiian Pineapple Company; they wanted her to paint two pictures about the delights of pineapple juice. But they would not let her stay near the pineapple

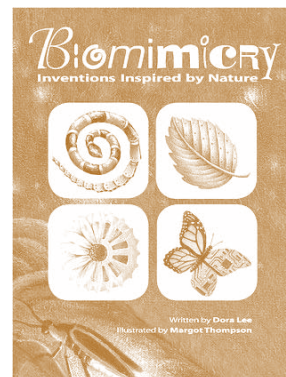


fields, and Georgia did not like being told what to do. Georgia painted 20 paintings about Hawaii – and in the end, she did paint the two pictures. If you do a Google image search for “Georgia O'Keeffe and Hawaii” you will see some of the paintings. The endnotes by the author and illustrator give even more information. Art, biography, history – ages 6 - 12

Biomimicry: Inventions Inspired by Nature

by Dora Lee (2011)

Wow! This is far more science than you will find in any science textbook in elementary school, and it is interesting to read, is well illustrated, and may even lead to more reading on different subjects covered in the book. The glossary is helpful in defining extra long words. The index can be easily used to find topics for more research/reading. Science – ages 9 - 12



Little Known Secrets on Prepping for Those College Papers

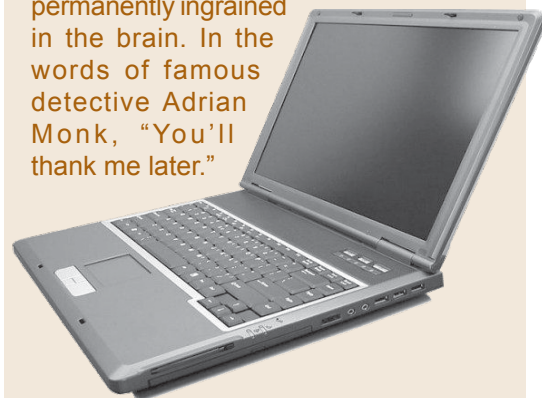
by Carissa Horton

If I'm indicative of an average homeschool student, then it is likely that most homeschoolers struggle with college paper prep work, at least in the beginning. MLA or APA formatting for college papers was never utilized during my high school years. Needless to say, having to learn the format in college was a nightmare and made me wish that I had learned it before a professor would be grading my papers.

Thankfully, there is a wonderful website that became something of a godsend during my college English classes. First, go to ppld.org and from there click on PPLD Teens (link located on the right side of the page). From there you'll click on Homework (left side of page) and then into the Writing/Research Tools link. Purdue Online Writing Lab (or OWL as it is affectionately called) should be link #10.

I know, it might not sound like fun to hop around on a writing website. Trust me. Purdue OWL will become a godsend. The Research & Citation link is where students spend most of their time, particularly when it comes to creating works cited pages and making certain the in-text citation is correct. The formatting needs to be precise for the entire paper, such as spacing, font size and which font is required by your professor. Purdue OWL can and does answer all these questions, and best of all, it's updated regularly so students aren't constantly buying revised MLA citation handbooks.

For every homeschool student planning for years of academia, Purdue OWL needs to be in the bookmark list on the computer and the web address permanently ingrained in the brain. In the words of famous detective Adrian Monk, “You'll thank me later.”



Homeschool

Lunch Bunch

There's a different family learning experience every time. Enjoy your sack lunch while socializing with other homeschooling families after the program.

Fountain Library

1st Wed. of each month

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(contact Jessica at jfreeland@ppld.org for more information)

High Prairie Library

4th Wed. of each month

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(contact Becky at bcampbell@ppld.org for more information, or call 260-3650 to register)

Resource Fair

Mon., Aug. 13

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Come visit with local organizations and learn how they can help you educate your children. We'll have enrichment programs, scouting, lessons, field trip destinations, support groups, and other resources represented.

Tools

Mon., Sept. 10

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars! This is an excellent opportunity to discover the many resources the library has to enrich your homeschooling. More information to follow.

Novel Ideas

Penrose Library

4th Wed. of each month ♦ 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Join other homeschooled teens for a snack and discussion on a great book!

(contact Molly at mpace@ppld.org, or 531-6333, x2338, for the month's book title.)

Science Lab
returning in September
to East Library

FREE!

Curriculum Swap

Thu., June 28 ♦ 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Revitalize your family's learning resources! Join us to exchange curriculum with other homeschooling families. This is a completely free event. No money will be exchanged. Please call 531-6333, x1409 if you plan to bring curriculum to swap so we can reserve a table for you. Hope to see you there!

Pikes Peak Library District Summer Reading Programs

Children: *Dream Big!* Ages infant and up

Teen: *Own the Night* Grades 5 to 12

Registration begins on June 1 and can be done online at ppld.org or in person at your nearest library. Keep track of your reading and earn prizes! Check with your local library for fun events happening all summer long.

Teen Knitting Club

1st and 3rd Thu. of every Month

4 - 5 p.m.

Join the Knitting Kninjas in the East Teen Center! Yarn and needles are available for practice, but please bring your own projects, too! Ages 12 - 18 Only.

Featured Homeschool Family: The Porter Family

How old are your children?

I have one son. His name is Owen and he is 8 years old.

Why did you decide to homeschool?

My son has high-functioning autism. The “free and appropriate” education public schools are mandated to provide children with special needs is not good enough for me. I want my son to have the best education possible. He gets that through homeschooling.

What curriculum do you use?

While we use some traditional curriculum, our favorite way to learn is through hands-on projects and life experience. From attending political events to hatching and raising backyard chickens, the world is our classroom.

What does your homeschool day look like?

Homeschooling is a misnomer because we don't spend the day simulating public school at home. We're out in the community. We go on lots of field trips, do volunteer activities, and participate in enrichment classes. But there's still a place for learning at home too. School starts from the time we wake up until the moment we fall asleep.

Does your husband support/help you in a specific way in your homeschooling efforts?

The most significant way my husband supports us is through being our household provider. He looks for practical ways to help too. For example, he sometimes surprises us with new school supplies and likes to teach building projects that require hand tools.

What are your children's interests and future goals?

Owen's favorite subjects are art and science. He wants to own his own restaurant someday. He also wants to be an inventor.



Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Deborah at dworthey@ppld.org.