

# COLORADO

## Colorado Fossil Locations

Millions of years ago, dinosaurs roamed the land that is now Colorado. Check out these places you can see ancient fossils.

**Picket wire Canyonlands:** Visit the largest known set of dinosaur tracks in North America at this primitive canyon south of La Junta. Over 1,300 footprints of Brontosaurus and Allosaurus are visible along a ¼ mile track site. The site is accessible by foot, non-motorized bike, or horseback and is 11.3 miles round trip. It involves crossing a shallow river. If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle, you can make advance reservations for a guided tour at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or call (877) 444-6777. [is.usda.gov/recreation/psicr/recrea/?recid=77620](http://is.usda.gov/recreation/psicr/recrea/?recid=77620)

**Dinosaur Ridge:** Explore ancient Colorado and learn about the creatures that used to roam its lands at this site. Over 300 dinosaur footprints are visible. See the patterns left by Colorado's oceans. The Dinosaur Ridge Trail is about 2 miles long and also features a bone quarry and points of geologic interest. This site is just west of Denver. [dinoridge.org](http://dinoridge.org)

**Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument:** Learn about a different Colorado encompassing one of the world's most diverse fossil beds at this site about 35 miles west of Colorado Springs. [nps.gov/flfo/index](http://nps.gov/flfo/index)

**Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience:** Experience fun, hands-on learning about Colorado's paleontological history at this Canon City museum. <http://dinoxp.com/about-us>

**Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center:** Woodland Park is home to this amazing dinosaur museum featuring dinosaurs, prehistoric marine reptiles, pterosaurs and fish. Visitors can observe paleontologists at work in the Paleo Lab. [rmdrc.com](http://rmdrc.com)

**Garden Park Fossil Area:** Fossils from this area are on display at places like the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Interpretive displays highlight the history of the area which is 6 miles north of Canon City. [https://www.blm.gov/wo/press/education\\_in\\_BLM/Learning\\_Landscapes/For\\_Travelers/go/geology/garden\\_park](https://www.blm.gov/wo/press/education_in_BLM/Learning_Landscapes/For_Travelers/go/geology/garden_park)

**Dinosaur Journey Museum:** Located in Fruita, this museum is right in the heart of dinosaur country. It tells the story of the history of life in Colorado using actual fossils, fossil casts, and reconstructions. [museumofwesternco.com/dinosaur-journey/](http://museumofwesternco.com/dinosaur-journey/)

**Dinosaur National Monument:** This National Monument in the northwest corner of the state, shows the remains of dinosaurs still embedded in the rocks. Over 1,500 fossils are visible in the cliff face. [nps.gov/dino/index.htm](http://nps.gov/dino/index.htm)

Denver Museum of Nature & Science – Travel through time at the museum's Prehistoric Journey. [dmns.org](http://dmns.org)

## Teen Activities

There are many free ways to enjoy and learn about the rich history of Colorado Springs. Check out one of these:

**Paint Mines Interpretive Park:** Learn more about Native American history and see some neat geological features like hoodoos or spires. [eipaso.com/CommunityServices/ParkOperations/Pages/PaintMinesInterpretivePark.aspx](http://eipaso.com/CommunityServices/ParkOperations/Pages/PaintMinesInterpretivePark.aspx)

Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum: Learn more about the pioneers who settled in El Paso County. [cspnm.org/visit/](http://cspnm.org/visit/)

Garden of the Gods Visitor Center: Learn more about the history and the geology of one of the prettiest parks in Colorado, and then go take a short (or long) hike in the park. <http://www.gardenofgods.com/>

**Dr. Lester L. Williams Fire Museum:** Have you ever wondered how fire fighting worked in the past? Check out this free museum with fire memorabilia from the days of yore. [williamsfiremuseum.com](http://williamsfiremuseum.com)  
Learn more about the space and aviation history of Colorado Springs at the **Edward J. Peterson Air and Space Museum.** \*Note – you will need a visitor's pass to get on base if you are not a military family, so please be sure to visit the website first. [petmuseum.org](http://petmuseum.org)  
Do you like cars or racing? Visit the **Penrose Heritage Center** to learn more about the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. [ppihrc.com/history/penrose-heritage-museum](http://ppihrc.com/history/penrose-heritage-museum)

Discover more about the Incline, Pikes Peak, and Manitou Springs at the **Manitou Springs Heritage Center.** As a bonus, walk through town and see if you can sample all of the mineral springs! [manitouspringsheritagecenter.org](http://manitouspringsheritagecenter.org)

## Colorado History Books for Teens

**Fiction** – Set in or about Colorado – All but the first are historical fiction

*Tesla's Attic*, by Neal Shusterman

*Katerina's Wish*, by Jeannie Mobley

*Horrors of history: massacre of the miners*, by Neill T. Anderson

*Red Berries, White Clouds, Blue Sky*, by Sandra Dallas

*Here's to you, Zeb Pike*, Johanna Parkhurst

**Nonfiction**

973.7 C5827

978.02082 MILL

373.1782 M342C

978.8 UBBE 2015

978.85603 MAY

*A Civil War Scrapbook: I Was There!* by History Colorado

*Women of the Frontier: 16 Tales of Trailblazing Homesteaders, Entrepreneurs, and Rabble-Rousers* by Brandon Marie Miller

*The Columbine High School Massacre: Murder in the Classroom* by Katie Mairsico

*A Colorado History of their Own: the Story of the Palmers of Glen Eyrie* by Natasha Fried

Did you know that you can access approximately half a million historical photographs from the Pikes Peak region from the comfort of your home? According to the website, the "PPLD Digital Collections" features historic photographs, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, audio oral histories, films and more that highlight the history of the Pikes Peak area. The materials come from Special Collections of the Pikes Peak Library District, housed in the 1905 Carnegie Library in downtown Colorado Springs. The Digital Collections are created to provide access to unique and valuable research materials that illuminate the history of the Pikes Peak region.

To find this useful resource, go to <http://tinyurl.com/PPLDDigitalCollections>. Or, try the following method: go to [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) and select the button for PPLD Kids on the right hand side. Once on the Kidsweb, select the big horn sheep at the top of the page to access the Colorado resources. Then click on the blue building to select Historical Photographs of Colorado and the West. Finally, choose Pikes Peak Library District's Digital Photograph Archives and begin your browsing or search for Colorado photographs.

## Colorado Reading Adventures for Kids

**JEasy** (picture books)

BARR Barron, T. A. *High as a Hawk: a Brave Girl's Historic Climb*

KELL Keller, Jeffrey *Ricky Camps in Rocky Mountain National Park*

*Ricky Rafts the Royal Gorge*

*Ricky Rock Climbs in Garden of the Gods*

**JFiction** (chapter books)

BEZE Bezek, Lyn. *Daisy, the Cripple Creek Donkey*

DANN Danneberg, Julie. *Family Reminders*

HENT Henty, G. A. *In the Heart of the Rockies: an Adventure on the Colorado River*

SHRI Shiride, C. S. *Rocky Mountain Beginnings*

WYSS Wyss, Theima Hatch. *Bear Dancer: the Story of a Ute Girl*

**JBiography**

287.632092 DYER *John Dyer: Snowshoe Preacher*

920.720978 E962 *Extraordinary Women of the Rocky Mountain West*

978.872092 SLAU *Kate Slaughterback: Legendary Rattlesnake Kate*

**JNonfiction**

567.90973 R263D *Discovering Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region*

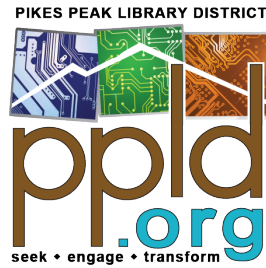
599.09788 Y740 *On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids*

796.510978 T884L *Lil MacDonald Likes to Hike!: a Rocky Mountain National Park Kids' Sing-along and Hiking Guide*

796.510978 YUKM *The Colorado Train, from a Child's Point of View*

978.8 BITS *Colorado Today: Influences from Many Cultures*

978.8 W619C *C is for Centennial: a Colorado Alphabet*



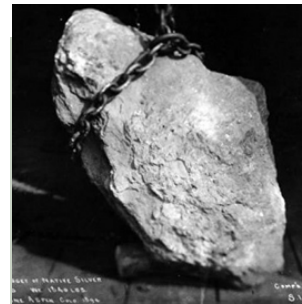
# HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

## An Educational Resource Tool

Spring 2017

## Colorful Colorado: The Centennial State

Colorado is a Rocky Mountain state of unusual natural beauty and unique historical details. Colorado is a beautiful state with clear air and blue skies all — year round, breathtaking mountains, expansive prairies, and magnificent vegetation. Because of the eclectic physical attributes of the Colorado region, settlers were drawn to the mountains for mining, hunting, and water, while ranchers and families desired the vast plains of Colorado for their cattle and sheep. Settlement began pre-history with Native Americans and grew as Spanish explorers found the area profitable for settling during the 1600s. It was the Spaniards who named Colorado after its canyons of red stone which means "colored red." Colorado's nickname is The Centennial State since "centennial" is 100 years. To be sure, the Colorado Gold Rush beginning in 1858 brought 50,000 new settlers to the area by 1859. Mountain men, miners, and families flooded the area by the 1860s and the Denver Pacific Railway was completed to Denver in 1870 and brought more people to the beautiful Colorado Territory. Then, Colorado became part of the union of the United States of America on August 1, 1876 - 100 years after the United States became a country. Denver is the Capital of Colorado and is located centrally along the Front Range.



## Several interesting facts about Colorado are:

- Colorado has the highest average altitude of any state in the United States—approximately 6,800 feet above sea level.
- Colorado boasts the largest silver nugget ever found in North America.
- Colorado ranks eighth in size among all the states. The State song is "Where the Columbines Grow," which leads us to the state flower, the blue columbine.

Colorado's state bird is the lark bunting and the state tree is the Colorado blue spruce.

- The Four Corners area in southwestern Colorado is the only place in the United States where you can be in four states at the same time.



## Time for you to discover some Colorful Colorado facts!

- What is the state fossil of Colorado?
- What city in Colorado is the highest city in the United States?
- What does Mesa Verde mean and what is it?
- How was the mail delivered to the West in the early days?
- Finally, you and your family simply MUST visit the History Colorado Center in Denver, for an entire day of interactive stations and events. You may also access the Center via the internet at [historycolorado.org](http://historycolorado.org) Get out and enjoy your beautiful state!

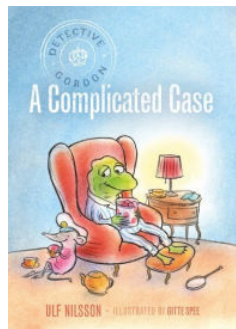
[historycolorado.org/educators/internet-resources](http://historycolorado.org/educators/internet-resources)



Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact [tlewis@ppld.org](mailto:tlewis@ppld.org).

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [tlewis@ppld.org](mailto:tlewis@ppld.org).

**The <sup>new</sup> BookShelf**  
great new books for homeschoolers



**Detective Gordon: A Complicated Case**  
by Ulf Nilsson (2016) [2015 Sweden]  
Short chapter book, with illustrations, 108 pages

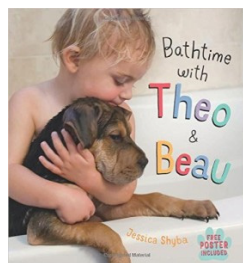
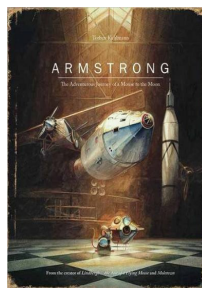
This is the second book in the series, about a detective who happens to be a toad, and his assistant, a little mouse. The stories are sweet, with a secondary message of being kind to one another, and doing good, not bad. In this story, Detective Gordon and Buffy struggle to figure out what is good and what is bad. One of their conclusions: Everyone should be allowed to play.

Fiction - first book: **Detective Gordon: The First Case** Ages 6 - 8

**Armstrong: An Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon**  
by Torben Kuhlmann (2016) [2016 Germany]

This is a fantastic book, based on a fanciful premise that a mouse was the first to travel to the moon, and mankind was a step or two behind the necessary discoveries. A visual treat, the illustrations are detailed and worth the time. At 128 pages, this will take a little time to read through. There is a great section on the history of space travel at the back of the book – the human version, of course.

Fiction, fantasy (mouse to the moon) and history (find those elements as you read) ♦ Ages 8+



**Bathtime with Theo & Beau**  
by Jessica Shyba (2016)

Picture book

Do you have a digital camera? Can you either take on a photo assignment, or give one to your kids? Read this book first, for some great ideas on composing a book with photographs.

Storytelling with a camera, writing assignment, family project

Ages 2 - 4 for reading the book

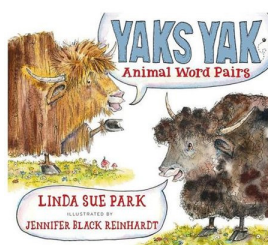
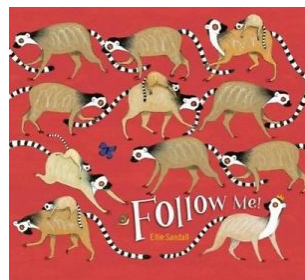
Ages 8 - 18 for inspiration to complete a similar project

**Follow Me!** By Ellie Sandal (2016)  
[2015 Great Britain]

Picture book

Simple text and lemur families on every page, this is a book for little people and lemur lovers alike. Repetitious line of 'follow me, follow me, follow me' carries the action from page to page. Expect toddlers and preschoolers to start playing lemur games, and to be repeating this line!

Preschool animal story ♦ Ages 2 - 5



**Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs**  
by Linda Sue Park (2016)

Picture book

Anyone old enough to play with words will enjoy this. Brief text, with word origins explained at the end of the book.

Language arts ♦ Ages 4 - 10

**Little-Known Secrets**

**Did you know** there are **FREE** online classes available through **ppld.org**?

**Did you know** that **Universal Class** offers over 500 different online classes?

Go to

1. **ppld.org**
2. Job Search & Career Tools – in green box on right side of webpage
3. Scroll to the bottom of this page, and locate **Universal Class**

The 500+ classes are loosely arranged by topics, there is a section labeled 'Homeschooling' which is rather limited. Keep looking!

**Helpful in a Homeschool are:**

**Mathematics** [Basic Math 101, Geometry 101, Pre-calculus 101, Algebra 101, Applied Statistics, etc.]

**Writing, Grammar, and Vocabulary** [Writing Basics, Journalism 101, Creative Writing 101, Vocabulary, etc.]

**Web Development** [Intro to Javascript, SQL, Photoshop, Microsoft Office programs, etc.]

**History** [assorted courses]

And keep going. Check out the topics of **Animal Training, Arts/Crafts/Hobbies, Entrepreneurship** and more. There is probably a class somewhere in this massive service that will be of interest.

Necessary requirements include a library card from within the Library District, good reading skills, the ability to follow written instructions and complete assignments, and the ability to interact in online chat with classmates. Each class offers, upon completion, a certificate and a set number of CEU [Continuing Education Units] based on class requirements. One CEU is roughly equal to ten hours of work. Each class will take 10 - 20 hours to complete.

Teens should be able to select an appropriate class, and complete the work, provided they have good internal motivation. Tweens, kids 9 - 12, might be able to tackle a class and complete it, too.

Classes are NOT equivalent to college classes, but will absolutely provide a change of pace for any traditional homeschool. And all classes are **FREE**. There are a few math classes that require a text of some sort, but most classes provide the information and links to websites with class related information.

Classes are self-paced, with real, live instructors that can answer questions and grade assignments. You have six months to complete a course after you have begun. Read the FAQ section, located at the bottom left of the **Universal Class** homepage.

**Two more library products that are both FREE and educational would be:**

**Learn On Demand /Custom Guide** — work on mastering Microsoft Office programs

**Lynda.com** — online video tutorials to help you learn software, creative skills and business skills.

Teens, and adults would benefit from these two sources, also located under Job Search & Career Tools.

**Homeschool Events**

**Homeschool Science @ East**

A special program is planned each month. Contact [kbrown@ppld.org](mailto:kbrown@ppld.org) for more information or visit [ppld.org/homeschool-hub](http://ppld.org/homeschool-hub).

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month ♦ 1 - 3 p.m.  
East Library Community Room

**Science Fair**

The Homeschool Science Fair will allow your student(s) to demonstrate a science project for other homeschool families! This event is noncompetitive and there are no strict rules or guidelines. Registration is required for each student wishing to present a project. You can register online at [tinyurl.com/PPLDScienceFair2017](http://tinyurl.com/PPLDScienceFair2017) or call Kristin at (719) 531-6333, x2402.

Fri., March 17 ♦ 10 a.m. - noon  
Venue at Library 21c

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual East Library Homeschool Art Show!**

Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. to the Children's Department at East Library from March 25 - 31, 2017. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April and we'll end with a reception for friends and family. Contact Joy at 531-6333, x1405 for more information.

**Teen Summer Reading Volunteers Needed!**  
Volunteer to help with the 2017 Children's and Teen's Summer Reading programs. This year's program will offer new volunteer opportunities so join in the fun! Applications will be available at all locations beginning the last week of March.

**Teen/Tween Programs**

**Manitou Teen/Tween Creative Writer's Group**

Looking for support and feedback from other writer's? Do you want to explore new structures and techniques in your writing? Would you like to try writing some poetry or give memoir writing a shot? Drop in and play with a fun writing prompt, or bring something you are already working on! This group offers 12 - 18 year old writers a chance to grow as writers and help others do the same.

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month ♦ 4 - 5:30 p.m.  
Manitou Springs Library

**East Coding Club**

Have you ever wondered what makes computer programs run? Ever wanted to make a fun program or learn how to make a game?

**Learn the basics of how to code!**

In this club, teens and tweens can learn to code at their own pace as we explore different programs and concepts. We will begin with a lesson series that teaches the basics of javascript. This club is self-guided, so everyone can learn at their own pace.

**Ages 9 - 18 only.**

Space is limited to the first 12 teens/tweens to show up, but registration is not required!

Snacks provided!

Second and fourth Friday of each month, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., East Learning Lab

**Books n' Bites (ages 12 - 18)**

Discuss your favorite books and get bites to eat.  
April 7 and May 5 ♦ 4:30-5:30 p.m. ♦ High Prairie Library

**Marvelous Mondays**

Stop by the teen area every Monday to see what movie/activity/craft we're doing. Snacks provided! Ages 12 - 18 only.  
Mondays ♦ 3:30 - 5 p.m. ♦ Penrose Library Teen Space

**Spring Break Fun!**

March 27 - 31 will be full of music, dancing, puppets, animals, magic and more! Check with your local library for locations and times.

**Family Fun**

Enjoy performers, animals, crafts and much more at monthly programs. Fun for the whole family! Check online at [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), or at your local library, to find out what's happening at that location.

**Make Art!**

Kids in grades 1 - 5 can create a unique work of art one Saturday afternoon a month at East Library! Call (719) 531-6333, x1403 or x1401 for dates and theme.

**Study Buddies**

Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice.

**Mondays ♦ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
High Prairie ♦ (719) 531-6333, x1884

**Tuesdays ♦ 6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
East Library ♦ (719) 531-6333, x1407 or x1403

**Thursdays ♦ 6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
Library 21c ♦ (719) 884-9800, x6310

**Tween Twist**

Cool crafts for Tweens, ages 9 - 12!  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

**AfterMath (all ages)**

Free math tutoring for All Ages and All Levels!

**Mondays ♦ 3:15 - 6:15 p.m. ♦ Manitou Springs Library**  
701 Manitou Ave.

**Mondays ♦ 3:30 - 7 p.m. ♦ Monument Library**  
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr.

**Mondays ♦ 5 - 7 p.m. ♦ High Prairie Library**  
7035 Old Meridian Rd. (Registration is required.)

**Wednesdays ♦ 3:30 - 6 p.m. ♦ Library 21c**  
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.

**Thursdays ♦ 4 - 6 p.m. ♦ East Library**  
5550 N. Union Blvd.

**Saturdays ♦ 10 a.m. - noon ♦ Sand Creek Library**  
1821 South Academy Blvd.

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual PPLD Teen Art Contest (Grades 6-12)**

Art is transformational. Paint, ink, and canvas turn into an image that touches lives through the years. We want to see your take on the theme Transformation this year. Show us how art impacts your life, or how it transforms the world around you. Open to residents of El Paso County in grades 6-12. Submit your entries Feb. 21 or 22nd. Rules, entry forms, and more information at [ppld.org/teens](http://ppld.org/teens).

**Wired Wednesday (ages 9-18)**

Each month, we'll play with either circuitry or robots so that teens and tweens can learn the basics of circuitry, robotics and coding. Registration required.  
2nd Wednesday of each month, 4:30-6:00pm, MAKE@EA

**Manitou Teen/Tween Advisory Board**

Have a great idea for a club? Want to help plan awesome programs and events? Come join the Manitou Teen Advisory Council and earn volunteer hours, meet other teens, gain leadership qualities and maybe even build your skills for applying for jobs, college applications and scholarships one day! All this, and snacks too!

4th Thursday of each month in downstairs children's section  
4 - 5 p.m.