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 edenic 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 for 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.

Colorful Colorado: The Centennial State

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. Get out and enjoy your beautiful state!

historycolorado.org/educators/internet-resources

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email tlewis@ppld.org.

This is a fantastic book, based on a fanciful premise that a mouse was the first to travel to the moon, and mankind was not the first to step or turn the beeline. 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.

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Ages 2 - 4 for reading the book
Ages 8 - 18 for inspiration to complete a similar project

Follow Me! By Edie 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. Repetitive 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 repeated with.

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 not the first to step or turn the beeline. A useful 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.

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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


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

Preschool animal story • Ages 2 - 5

Books n' Bites (ages 12 - 18)

Discuss your favorite books and read together each week. April 7 and May 5 at 3:30-5:30 p.m. • High Prairie Library

Marvelous Mondays

Stop by the teen area every Monday to see what movie/activity craft we are doing. Snacks provided! Ages 12 - 18 only.

Mondays • 3:30 - 5 p.m. • Penrose Library Teen Space

Other Events & Programs

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 coding, circuits and robotics. Registration required. 2nd Wednesday of each month, 4:30-6:00p.m., MAKE@EA

Manitou Teen/Tween Advisory Board

Have a great idea for a club? Want to help plan awesome programs and events? Consider joining the Manitou Teen and Tween Advisory Board and 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.

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