

LOCATION KEY

CA	Calhan Library 600 Bank St., Calhan (719) 531-6333, x7013
CH	Cheyenne Mountain Library 1785 S. 8 th St. (719) 531-6333, x7001
EA	East Library 5550 N. Union Blvd. (719) 531-6333, x7014
	eLibrary ppld.org Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
FO	Fountain Library 230 S. Main St., Fountain (719) 531-6333, x7002
HI	High Prairie Library 7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton (719) 531-6333, x7003
LI	Library 21c 1175 Chapel Hills Dr. (719) 531-6333, x7012
MA	Manitou Springs Library 701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs (719) 531-6333, x7004
MLS	Mobile Library Services ppld.org/mobile-library-services (719) 531-6333, x7702
MO	Monument Library 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument (719) 531-6333, x7005
OL	Old Colorado City Library 2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave. (719) 531-6333, x7006
PA	Palmer Lake Library 66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake (719) 531-6333, x7007
PE	Penrose Library 20 N. Cascade Ave. (719) 531-6333, x7015
RU	Ruth Holley Library 685 N. Murray Blvd. (719) 531-6333, x7009
SA	Sand Creek Library 1821 S. Academy Blvd. (719) 531-6333, x7018
UT	Ute Pass Library 8010 Severy Rd., Cascade (719) 531-6333, x7011



HOMESCHOOL HUB | ppld.org/homeschool-hub

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to find Library events and sign up for eNewsletters. Click on the "Resources" tab for information on getting started, Colorado homeschool law, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, and more.

COLOR OUR WORLD: COLORFUL COLORADO

Have you ever noticed the "Welcome to Colorful Colorado" sign at the state border? What exactly makes Colorado so colorful?

Red:

Is it that the word Colorado comes from Spanish, meaning "colored red?" Striking red colored rock can be seen all over the state including Colorado Springs. That red comes from oxidized iron.

Purple:

Mountains are referred to as having "purple majesty" in the song, "America the Beautiful," originally a poem by Katherine Lee Bates. In fact, she wrote the first draft in 1893 as she sat atop Pikes Peak, which later became a National Historic Landmark. But are mountains really purple? We see the blue and violet tones more clearly on the horizon as we gaze through the atmosphere, so visually, especially at sunrise and sunset, the mountains in the distance are more vividly colored. Take a look at Pikes Peak at different times of day and maybe write your own poem describing what you see.

Gold:

The high plains of El Paso County often appear golden, shimmering in warm sunshine and steady breezes. Aspen trees are more concentrated in the foothills and mountains of Colorado than anywhere else in the country and provide the striking gold fall foliage that leaf peepers seek out in September and October. But year round, the quaking aspens' white bark is striking against the darker evergreen tones of the Rocky Mountains.

Blue:

The Colorado blue spruce is our state tree, and the Colorado blue columbine is the state flower. The columbine is not the only beautifully colored wildflower found speckling meadows and alpine slopes. Other blue and purple shades come from lupine, Rocky Mountain bee plant, fireweed, and common bluebells. Visit a wildflower festival or take a wildflower hike this summer!

Many Colors:

Have you visited the Paint Mines Interpretive Park near Calhan? View the colorful layers of clay, caused by oxidized iron compounds, that were once collected by Native American peoples and used to make paint!



THE BOOKSHELF



Orris and Timble: The Beginning

by Kate DiCamillo

Orris the rat's solitary existence in his cozy barn nest is interrupted when he hears cries for help. It's a young owl, caught in a trap. Should he do the "good and noble" thing and free this could-be predator? Orris makes a brave choice that results in an unexpected friendship – and a charming new beginning chapter book series. Written by a two-time Newbery Medalist and illustrated with endearing artwork, this book is perfect for those new to chapter books or sharing aloud.

Ages 5 - 8; Friendship; Animal Stories; Early Chapter Books

Still Life

by Alex London

As an artist elaborates upon the strict rules of a still life painting ("that is a painting of objects sitting still...nothing moves"), children viewing this book's artwork will quickly realize that the claims aren't exactly true. A story within the illustrations unfolds, as mice appear on the scene, then a dragon, a princess, and so much more! This funny book encourages visual literacy, imaginative storytelling, and giggles galore while introducing the basics of a familiar art form and how to view art.

Ages 4 - 8; Artwork; Paintings; Creativity; Humor

An Anthology of Exquisite Birds

by Ben Hoare

This lushly illustrated book introduces more than 90 bird species, arranged from big to small, and their way of life. Eye-catching spreads provide a full-color photo of each species (or a notable feature), a smaller illustration of the entire bird, and two paragraphs filled with fascinating facts. There are also sections about bird evolution, feathers, nests, beaks, eggs, wings, and feet. A great book for browsing or launching research projects.

Ages 4+; Ornithology; Bird Identification; Nature Appreciation

Gifts from Georgia's Garden: How Georgia O'Keeffe Nourished Her Art

by Lisa Robinson

You may know Georgia O'Keeffe for her paintings of flowers, bones, and desert landscapes, but this lovely picture book focuses on some of the artist's other passions – sustainable gardening, cooking, and sewing her own clothing. The illustrations provide detail and capture the backdrop of her New Mexico home. O'Keeffe's handwritten recipe cards were the inspiration for this book and an adaptation of her cookie recipe is included. Add Rachel Rodriguez's *Through Georgia's Eyes* for some art appreciation.

Ages 6 - 12; Artists; Art History; Sustainable Gardening; Cooking

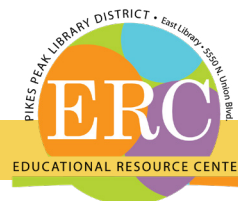
Golden Gate: Building the Mighty Bridge

by Elizabeth Partridge

Stirring text and spectacular artwork tell the "you-are-there" story of the construction of the world's longest suspension bridge (when opened in 1937), told from the perspective of a lighthouse keeper's family living nearby. Amazing details are sprinkled throughout and illustrations along the bottom show the gradual construction of the bridge from blueprint to finished feat of engineering.

Ages 5 - 10; Bridges; Feats of Engineering; Challenges

EXPLORING COLORFUL COLORADO IN THE ERC



Whether you are new to the Educational Resource Center (ERC) at East Library or looking for a different way to explore this family-friendly space, you will find engaging activities for all ages to spark interest in Colorado's natural wonders.

To learn more about this unique Library resource and reserve a time to visit, go to ppld.org/erc.

Explore Colorado's rich paleontological history by constructing a small-scale dinosaur replica using foam bones, or make some imaginary mayhem with our dinosaur figures, all while learning facts about these amazing creatures.

Prepare for your next hike by experiencing realistic Colorado animal scat replicas, then follow up with a game of Poop Tracks to check your knowledge. You can also become an expert tracker by

examining our sets of animal and bird tracks, along with Animal Tracks!, an exciting game of memory, matching, and learning.

For rockhounds, our Stacking and Balancing Rocks set invites you to build Colorado hoodoos and cairns, and a Rock & Mineral Game will engage you in identifying rock specimens and gemstones.

Get hands-on with scorpions (Yes, in Colorado!) and insects with our Bloco 3-D puzzles, or take the Squirrel Road Builder challenge, solving logic puzzles for squirrels delivering nuts. And for more fun, try your hand at Rattlesnake Jake, grabbing the gold before he strikes!

You can also dissect an owl pellet to uncover, sort, and identify the bones of prey and learn more about these predators.

Pikes Peak Culture Pass

Pikes Peak Culture Pass lets you explore museums and attractions in the Pikes Peak region at no cost – all you need is a library card! PPLD provides free admission passes for checkout, similar to how you check out an eBook or other electronic resource. If your library card starts with a 4, you can book a pass online up to 30 days in advance to places like the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, and the Space Foundation Discovery Center. *Get the details and book your pass by heading to ppld.org/culturepass.*

Junior Ranger Nature Packs

The Junior Ranger Nature Pack provides self-guided activities to encourage children and their families to get out, explore, observe, describe, and engage the senses any time during the year. Designed for ages 7 - 13, the packs include scientific activities, guides to wildlife and flora, trail maps, and more. Visit ppld.org/Jr-Ranger-Packs to find out more.

Colorado State Parks Backpacks

Reserve your no-cost State Parks Pass and Backpack today by visiting ppld.org/check-out-state-parks! Packs include an activity idea list, a Colorado trees and wildflower guide, a Colorado wildlife guide, a Leave No Trace card, and more!

Family Stargazing Backpacks

Provided by the Colorado Springs Space Foundation Discovery Center, these backpacks are designed to encourage Colorado Springs residents to enjoy and explore the night sky. Includes binoculars, maps, books, and more as well as a pass providing admission for four guests and any children under two years old. Visit ppld.org and search the catalog for “Stargazing Backpacks” to find available locations.

Seed Libraries and Gardens

Did you know Pikes Peak Library District is home to several gardens and Seed Libraries? For example, you can take a trip to the Dr. Loomis Memorial Iris Trial Gardens at East Library, or visit a Seed Library at High Prairie or Manitou Springs libraries to “borrow” seeds and find informative resources. Visit ppld.org/grow-with-library for more information or browse our Seed Library Subject Guide (tiny.ppld.org/seed-libraries) that includes helpful information about local seeds and native plants.

Summer Adventure Activities

Have an adventure with your Library during our 2025 PPLD Summer Adventure presented by the Friends of Pikes Peak Library District reading program, which runs from June 2 to July 31. Anyone of any age can participate and win prizes through reading, creating, and exploring. You can read, participate in one of our programs, or use one of our activity ideas! Visit ppld.org/summer for more information about the game, a roundup of programs, and additional activities to challenge the whole family.

Have you ever wondered why there are so many colors in the sky?

When sunlight enters the Earth’s atmosphere, it interacts with air molecules and particles. This causes the sunlight to scatter, or change direction, so depending on where you are, the sky can look vastly different to its observers.

During sunrise and sunset, sunlight must travel a longer path through the atmosphere to reach our eyes compared to when the sun is high overhead.

Sunset colors are typically more brilliant than sunrise colors because the evening air contains more particles than morning air.

When the sun is setting, its light must travel through the thickest part of the atmosphere. This causes more scattering to occur. As a result, longer wavelengths are reflected (red, orange, and yellow), creating beautiful colors in the sky.

Twilight is the time before sunrise and after sunset when the atmosphere is partially illuminated by the sun. Air molecules and air particles scatter sunlight as it passes through the atmosphere and when the path through the atmosphere is longer, the blue and green components are removed almost completely.

Other factors such as cloud reflection and human activities contribute to the more intense sundown coloration since at the end of the day the sunset sky is full of pollutants and wind-borne particles. Often during the night, the winds die down, smog-producing urban activities slow down, and the atmosphere cleanses itself. Thanks to this, dawn, or morning, is clearer than any other time of day.

FIND SOME LOCAL COLOR

Garden of the Gods gardenofgods.com

1805 N. 30th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Paint Mines Interpretive Park tinyurl.com/paint-mines-interpretive

29950 Paint Mines Road, Calhan, CO 80808

Red Rock Canyon Open Space coloradosprings.gov/redrockcanyon

3550 W High St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Ute Valley Park coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/ute-valley-park

1705 Vindicator Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Palmer Park coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/palmer-park

3650 Maizeland Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Art on the Streets downtowncs.com/arts-and-culture/aots/

Downtown Colorado Springs



Homeschool Curriculum Swap | Fri., June 20
tiny.ppld.org/homeschool-swap

Homeschool Game Day | Fri., Aug. 22
tiny.ppld.org/game-day

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-EASY

Climb, Soar, Swim, Explore by Kathryn Egly

Orange Is an Apricot, Green Is a Tree Frog: Explore the Natural World Through Color by Pascale Estellon

Summer Color by Diana Murray

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-FICTION

City of Gold by Will Hobbs

Jada Jones: Nature Lover by Kelly Starling Lyons

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-NONFICTION

National Park Explorers: Rocky Mountain
by Lori Dittmer

USA Travel Guides: Colorado by Ann Heinrichs

How To Make A Mountain in Just 9 Simple Steps and Only 100 Million Years! by Amy Huntington

Garden of the Gods: A to Z by Judith Kimbrell

The World Around Us: Mountains by Cecilia Minden

The Natural History of Colorado by Debbie Nevins

The Kid's Guide To Denver, Boulder and Colorado's Ski Country by Eileen Ogintz

Make Art with Nature by Pippa Pixley

Wildflowers by Libby Romero

Nature Spy Guide by Shelley Rotner

Butterfly, Fly, and I by D.J. Seddon

Colors In Nature by Jana Sedláčková

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-BIOGRAPHY

For Spacious Skies: Katherine Lee Bates and the Inspiration for "America the Beautiful"
by Nancy Churnin

SUMMER ADVENTURE IS COMING!

**Summer
ADVENTURE**
PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT

JUNE 2 - JULY 31
ppld.org/summer



BOOKS FOR TEENS: OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, FICTION

Trapped by Sigmund Brouwer

Near Misses & Cowboy Kisses by Katrina Emmel

Cut Off by Adrienne Finlay

The Speed of Falling Objects by Nancy Richardson Fischer

Disaster Trail by Katy Grant

Wild About You by Kaitlyn Hill

What the Other Three Don't Know by Spencer Hyde

Be Not Far from Me by Mindy McGinnis

The Edge by Roland Smith

BOOKS FOR TEENS: OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, NONFICTION

Hiking Colorado: A Guide to the State's Greatest Hiking Adventures
by Sandy Heise

Colorado Family Outdoor Adventure: An All-ages Guide to Hiking, Camping, and Getting Outside by Heather Mundt

Best Outdoor Adventures in the Colorado Front Range: A Guide to the Region's Greatest Hiking, Climbing, Cycling, and Paddling
by Chris Meehan

Hiking Waterfalls Colorado: A Guide to the State's Best Waterfall Hikes
by Susan Joy Paul

ACTIVITY: RECYCLED CRAYONS

Materials

- Old, broken crayons
- Oven
- Silicone muffin mold (or other type of non-stick mold)
- Baking sheet to stabilize your mold

Directions

- Have an adult help with baking and cooling.
- Preheat your oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Remove wrappers from crayons, break crayons into small pieces.
- Place your silicone mold on a baking sheet to make it easier to remove.
- Place broken crayon pieces in each section of the mold (combine colors if you would like to)! Make about an inch-thick layer.
- Bake for 15 - 20 minutes, or until you can see the crayons have melted completely. Please remove afterwards from the oven.
- Allow crayons to cool completely in the molds before removing them from the molds.
- Use your recycled crayons!



Do you have feedback or ideas for a Homeschool Connections issue? Please email Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org.