

# Educator Overview

Mining in Colorado (1860s -1930s)



<b>Audience</b>	Grade levels 3-5 ▾	Subject Social Studies ▾	Topic Geography U.S. History
<b>Guiding Questions</b>	1. How did miners adapt to address the challenges of Colorado's geography?	2. What were the effects of mining in Colorado?	3. How did mining impact Indigenous nations in Colorado?
<b>Background Knowledge</b>	<p>The following can be helpful;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding of maps, general idea of Colorado geography</li><li>• Information about life in America in the late 1800s</li><li>• Basic understanding of the indigenous peoples who lived in Colorado before westward expansion and an idea of how this had a negative impact on these groups (Ute as well as Cheyenne &amp; Arapaho)</li></ul> <p><b>Activity #1</b> K-W-L; have students write down or draw about what they already know and want to know more about in connection to these topics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado history</li><li>• Colorado geography</li><li>• Mining</li></ul> <p>You can also do this activity with the whole class.</p>		
<b>Guiding Question #1 Activities</b>	<p>Activity #2 <b>Narrative</b> about the discovery of gold, geography of Colorado.</p> <p>Activity #3 <b>Annotation</b> "Mines were in the _____ of Colorado which would have been challenging because..."</p> <p>Activity #4 <b>Slides</b> showing adaptations to overcome challenges, students guess for each image and answers are given at the end (could add an answer guide to Educator resources)</p>		

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	<p>Activity #5 <b>Annotation</b> where students pick one adaptation and explain their thinking.</p>
<b>Guiding Question #2 Activities</b>	<p>Activity #6 <b>Slides</b> of an article from Pike's Peak about developments of mining in Colorado, includes introduction to silver mining.</p> <p>Activity #7 <b>Narrative</b> about types of mining in Colorado Placer Mining and Hard-Rock Mining.</p> <p>Activity #8 <b>Annotation</b> where students pick one aspect of mining in Colorado and write about why this would change the territory in some way.</p>
<b>Guiding Question #3 Activities</b>	<p>Activity #9 <b>Timeline</b> of indigenous land in the mining era showing the loss of Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho land over time.</p> <p>Activity #10 <b>Hotspot</b> showing quotes from the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapahoe to highlight the indigenous perspective.</p> <p>Activity #11 <b>Annotation</b> where students write or draw about the miners story, indigenous story and how they would retell the story.</p>
<b>Reflection</b>	<p>Activity #11 <b>Apples to Oranges</b> Reflection to answer; Did mining have a positive or negative impact on the state of Colorado and that nation?</p>
<b>Other Notes</b> (Supplies needed, independent vs. whole class engagement)	<p><b>Vocabulary:</b> territory, adaptations, region, prospector, placer mining, hard-rock mining, lode, smelting, aspect, treaty, reservation, indigenous, perspective</p> <p><a href="#">Mining in Colorado: Educator Answer Guide</a> is also available on the MDL website, it gives an activity by activity guide to the questions presented and possible answers.</p>