

Teacher's Guide

AG IN THE CLASSROOM—HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION UNDERSTAND THEIR CONNECTION TO AGRICULTURE

Resources

Out of The Rock books, videos, and music cds are a valuable source of information and activities for teachers on mining, geology, the environment and economics.

National Energy Foundation

Resources for Education

3676 California Ave, Suite Q117

Salt Lake City, Utah 8404

801-908-5800

<http://www.nef1.org/outoftherock/index.html>

Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA)

<http://www.msha.gov/KIDS/KIDSHP.HTM>

has lessons, maps, photos and games plus links to other mining information

State of Colorado, Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety

Find mining information about your county at:

<http://mining.state.co.us/>. Children can play games and find links to related websites at

<http://mining.state.co.us/kids/dmgkids.htm>.

Mineral Information Institute

501 Violet Street, Golden, CO 80401

303/277-9190

www.mii.org has free teaching materials, homework help, mineral photos and maps.

Women in Mining Education Foundation

P.O. Box 260246, Lakewood, Colorado

80226-0246 303-298-1535

Fun classroom activities at

<http://www.womeninmining.org/activity.htm>

Clear Creek Watershed Foundation

303.567.2699 — P.O. Box 1963,

Idaho Springs, Co 80452, www.clearcreekwater.org

ccwfoundation@clearcreekwireless.com

Learn more about this 575-square mile watershed that was home to the Colorado Gold Rush and that is now pioneering new approaches to sustainable watershed management. Available: full copies of "A Summer of Gold" Student Workbook.

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Comments, questions, suggestions and feedback about the *Colorado Reader* are welcome.

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Pages 1&2

More about History... Exploration for and the discovery of valuable minerals leads to the growth of civilization and settlement of frontier areas. During the 1500s through 1700s Spanish explorers crossed Colorado searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Gold. At that time, Native Americans were the only people living in Colorado. Later, in the early 1800s mountain men explored our mountains and fur-traders and trappers settled along trade routes and rivers. It wasn't until the discovery of gold in 1858 that Colorado really became populated to a large degree.

Mining stimulated the development of many other industries, one of which was agriculture. Everyone needs to eat, and fresh food was hard to come by in those days. One gold miner in the 1860s named David Wall seized on the opportunity and decided to raise vegetables. He succeeded in making \$2000 per acre—an enviable amount even by today's standards.

Since 1859 Colorado's mines have produced about 45 million ounces of gold. With the price of gold at around \$350/ounce today that gold would be worth \$15.75 billion. In the Cripple Creek area alone, 22 million ounces of gold were extracted.

Mining History Activity:

Select one of the many mining camps from Colorado history. Discuss the relationship between the mining operation and the growth of other businesses in that area. Did the mining camp become a ghost town or is it still a community today?

Create a map showing the mine and its effects on the region. Indicate roads, railroads, bridges, buildings, etc. An example of this would be Cripple Creek and it's relationship to Colorado Springs. Much of the money miners earned in Cripple Creek was used to build the beautiful Victorian houses (that can still be seen today) in Colorado Springs. In some Colorado mining towns, old brick buildings have been turned into gambling casinos.

Find out about the history of mining in your area. Are there
(continued on page 2)

FUN FACT Rhodochrosite (pronounced row-dough-crow-site) is the official Colorado state mineral. It is deep red or pink and is found in gold and silver veins. They are collected and used as mineral specimens, for sculpting and in jewelry.

(continued from page 1)

any abandoned mines? Interview someone who has worked in the industry.

Gather photographs, maps, and information related to local mining. Put your research findings into a presentation. Place your completed project in the library or online.

If there are some active mines, milling or fabrication operations in your area, plan a field trip. Observe the geology, mining, reclamation, and recycling. If you live in or near Leadville check out the Mining Hall of Fame or visit them online at http://www.leadville.com/mining_museum/. If you are in the Colorado Springs area visit the Western Museum of Mining and Industry.

More about The Importance of Mining... Hands-on Activity/Discussion:

Make a one-day journal in which each student lists all the items he/she used that day that contain minerals. In addition, have students search around home, a hardware store, or a pharmacy for more items to include in their journal.

Talk about the things the students used before coming to school that involved minerals or mineral products? Things like: drinking from a glass, eating cereal from a bowl with a spoon, showering with soap, using deodorant, turning on a light, listening to a radio, using a computer, cleaning the cat box, riding a bicycle or schoolbus to school, or using coins.

Have the students draw a picture of your classroom and label everything made from minerals. Find out which minerals are mined in Colorado.

Discuss how our lives would be different if we didn't use minerals.

Page 3 Answer for "Which things are not made with minerals?"

This question was a little tricky.

FUN FACT

Aquamarine is the state gemstone. They are found and mined on the mountain peaks of Mount Antero at over 14,000 feet high. These aquamarines range in color from light blue to pale and deep green and are primarily used in jewelry.

Everything in the picture was made from minerals, so the answer is none.

Page 4 Answers to Materials Mined in Colorado Questions:

1. Larimer
2. Natural gas and oil
3. Lake county
4. San Miguel
5. Gold, gemstones, peat, granite, quartz and silver
6. Boulder county
7. Gypsum, sandstone, coal, silica, dolomite, limestone, oil, clay, mica, granite, stone and quartz

Activity:

Find your county or region on the Colorado Mining map. Identify the different types of mining and/or extraction (in the case of oil and gas) that are taking place in your area. Don't forget the mining of rock and aggregates such as sand, gravel, and stone. They are important commodities that provide the basic infrastructure materials for Colorado's booming economy of the late 1990s and 2000s. Production of these commodities has increased steadily over the past decade.

Select a mineral and learn about how it is mined. Compare the mining techniques of your mineral with other minerals.

The overall value of mineral production in Colorado was almost \$800 million in the year 2000. Coal led all mineral sectors (with the exception of oil and gas) in revenues. The total value of oil and gas produced in Colorado during 2000 was \$2,830 million. Coal continues to meet nearly 85% of Colorado's electricity needs.

Page 6 Answer to Animal /Reclamation question:

fish, frog, snail, mouse, deer, duck and rabbit

More on Protecting the Environment:

The trend in product design is to use lighter weight materials, substitute plastics for metals, and recycling, all of which reduce the amount of raw materials required. To date, there are no good substitutes for many critical materials such as

Answer to Prospector's Kiss Math Game:

Why did the prospector kiss his mule?



Write the answers for these number problems. Match the letters to the answers on the lines below. Then you'll discover the answer to the question.

I

$$\begin{array}{r} 853 \\ -632 \\ \hline 221 \end{array}$$

Y

$$\begin{array}{r} 189 \\ +406 \\ \hline 595 \end{array}$$

H

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ \times 26 \\ \hline 286 \end{array}$$

C

$$\begin{array}{r} 276 \\ -93 \\ \hline 183 \end{array}$$

P

$$\begin{array}{r} 415 \\ +392 \\ \hline 807 \end{array}$$

A

$$\begin{array}{r} 26 \\ \times 31 \\ \hline 806 \end{array}$$

R

$$\begin{array}{r} 366 \\ -178 \\ \hline 188 \end{array}$$

T

$$\begin{array}{r} 482 \\ +308 \\ \hline 790 \end{array}$$

E

$$\begin{array}{r} 78 \\ \times 16 \\ \hline 1248 \end{array}$$

S

$$\begin{array}{r} 995 \\ -231 \\ \hline 764 \end{array}$$

D

$$\begin{array}{r} 590 \\ +471 \\ \hline 1061 \end{array}$$

M

$$\begin{array}{r} 64 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 320 \end{array}$$

 H E H I T P A Y D I R T !

286 1248 286 221 790 807 806 595 1061 221 188 790

gold which because it is malleable, highly conductive, and does not react with other common materials is used in medical devices, computers and other electronic circuitry.

More about...

STAY OUT--STAY ALIVE! is a national public awareness campaign aimed at warning children and adults about the dangers of exploring and playing on active and abandoned mine sites. Every year, dozens of people are injured or killed in recreational accidents on mine property. Each April, around Earth Day, "Stay Out-Stay Alive" partners visit schools, communities and youth organizations throughout the country to educate children about the importance of steering clear of active and abandoned mines. To become involved in "Stay Out-Stay Alive," and to download posters and stickers please visit : <http://www.msha.gov/places/placeshp.htm>.

Hands-on Activity/Discussion:

Discuss the various ways you can get hurt on an active or abandoned mining site. Have the children create their own brochures, stickers or

posters that address the various hazards with the STAY OUT - STAY ALIVE message.

**Hands-on Activity:
Make Crystal Rock Candy**

Materials:

- 6 cups of sugar
- 1 1/2 cups of water
- string
- pencils
- 3 heat-proof jars or glasses that will not break when hot water is added (pint size canning jars work well)
- saucepans
- spoons
- measuring cups
- food coloring or flavorings
- a stove
- scissors
- drawing paper and pens or pencils

1. Pour water into a saucepan and bring it to a boil.
2. Remove the water from the heat and add three cups of sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved.
3. Slowly add three more cups of sugar stirring
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

until all the sugar is dissolved. Reheat the water if necessary.

4. Pour mixture into the jars or glasses.
5. Add a few drops of food coloring and/or 1/2 teaspoon of flavoring to each jar if desired.
6. Tie a piece of string to the pencil. Lay the pencil across the top of the jar so that the string hangs down into the solution. The strings should be long enough so that they stop just above the bottom of the glass.
8. In a few hours examine the string in the glass. Crystals will begin to form in one hour, and continue to solidify for several days.
9. If a layer forms on the surface of the jar, break it. When the liquid completely evaporates, the candy is ready.
10. Look at the crystals and draw a picture of them.
11. Taste one. If you like it, you can eat it.

Hands-on Activity:

What's in the Cereal You Eat?

Materials:

- 1 cup iron fortified cold cereal (Total)
- 2 cups hot water
- 1 clear drinking glass

White magnet stirring bar or popsicle stick with magnet painted with white epoxy paint.

1. Put cereal in the glass.
2. Add hot water to make a slurry and stir with the stirring bar until the cereal is soggy. The longer the cereal is stirred the more complete the iron removal. Usually 30 minutes gives the maximum iron recovery.
3. After 10 to 20 minutes, remove the magnetic stir bar and note the dark slivers of iron on the ends. These are particles of metallic iron.

Conclusion:

Why does this work? Cold cereals are fortified with vitamins and minerals for health. Metallic iron is added to fortified cereal and this form of iron is magnetic. In this experiment the magnet collects the iron.

Find this and many more classroom activities at the Women in Mining Education Foundation website:
<http://www.womeninmining.org/activity.htm>

Page 8

More about “The Summer of Gold” by Christine M. Crouse

This is the story of Jack, a young boy who learns about the importance of Colorado’s mining history on his family heritage and his modern lifestyle. Through his adventures with his Grandma Rose in Idaho Springs, he learns about mining history, geology, mineral uses, and related environmental issues. Some of the basic concepts covered:

- Mining was important to Colorado becoming a state. Following the California Gold Rush, many miners came to the Colorado Territory to try their luck. Business people soon followed, the Colorado Gold Rush was on, and a state was born!
- Mining in the 1800s was done with hand tools and was very dangerous. Mining technology has evolved and improved over the years, and now most mining is done on a very large scale with complex machinery and is much safer and faster.
- Gold mining led to the discovery of many other minerals in our state. Minerals are valuable natural resources. They are extracted through a process called mining, and are used to make things we use everyday— oftentimes without even realizing it! (Where do bricks come from? Steel beams? Cell phones? Computers? Tennis shoes? Roads? Cars? Fuel? Electricity? We all benefit from mining and life would be very different without it.)
- In the early days of mining, the effects of mining practices to the environment were not of much concern. Today, however, protecting our environment is very important and is a major industry in itself. Many environmental laws have been passed to protect the air, water and land from mining. The concept of environmental remediation is introduced.
- Colorado’s economy still depends on mining—for direct jobs, energy production, etc.