

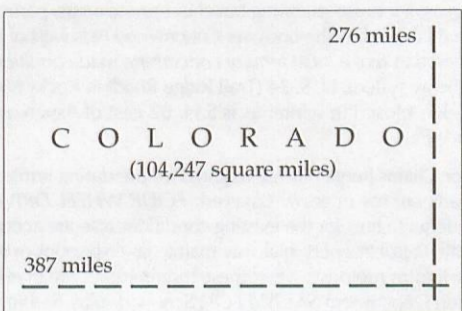
COLORADO FACTS

The Place

The Lay of the Land

If you could shrink Colorado down to the size of a school yard, you'd be able to play soccer on one half, but it would be too bumpy to play anything on the other. The state is mostly flat in the east and very mountainous in the west. Here are a few facts you might like to know:

- Of all the area in the United States that is over 10,000 feet high, 75 percent of it is within the boundaries of Colorado.
- Fifty-three peaks in Colorado are more than 14,000 feet high.
- There are over 1,000 peaks in Colorado that are more than two miles high.
- The mountainous area of Colorado is six times larger than that of Switzerland.
- Three of the country's highest highways are in Colorado. Yes, the roads up Pikes Peak and Mount Evans are more than 14,000 feet above sea level! **And Trail Ridge Road**, which cuts through Rocky Mountain National Park and over the Continental Divide, is 12,183 feet high. It is the nation's very highest continuous paved highway.



In case you were wondering, Colorado is the eighth largest state in the country. Which states are larger?

An interesting feature of the state is the **Continental Divide**, which roughly divides Colorado into the eastern and western slopes. Waters west of the Divide flow into the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Divide into the Atlantic.

Major Colorado Rivers include: the **Arkansas, South Platte, Rio Grande, and Colorado.**

Rain or Shine

Many people love Colorado's usually beautiful, sunny weather. Here are some facts about the climate and weather:

- Colorado enjoys an average of nearly 300 days of sunshine per year.
- Precipitation across the state averages 16.5 inches per year. (The average in the lower elevations is about eight inches, while the average in the mountains is about 23 inches.)
- The average humidity in Colorado is about 33 percent.

In the summer, temperatures reach the 80s and 90s, and since the humidity is low, this temperature is usually comfortable. Snow falls as early as September, but it soon disappears under the warm, bright sun. Fall is usually very pleasant in Colorado and sometimes lasts into December. By November or December, though, winter truly sets in. In the lower elevations, where most of the people live, snow rarely stays on the ground for more than a few days at a time.

The Capital City

Denver is the capital of Colorado. The city sits on the edge of the Great Plains, twelve miles from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It is the center of many activities in the Rocky Mountain West, including medicine, finance, distribution, and retail sales. It is also a transportation hub for the region. Some Denver facts:

- Denver is America's youngest major city.
- Next to Washington, D.C., Denver has more federal offices than any other city in the U.S.
- Denver International Airport** is the sixth busiest airport in the nation.
- Denver is home to the U.S. Mint, one of the country's three gold depositories.
- The Colorado State Capitol in Denver is one mile (5,280 feet) above sea level.
- The capitol dome is covered with 250 ounces of 24-carat gold. Really!

In the Backyard

Some of the country's most spectacular and varied terrain can be found in Colorado. And about 40 percent of the land is not privately owned, but belongs to the public. Just think, Colorado has:

- 23.5 million acres of protected state and federal land.
- 600,000 acres of national parks, monuments, historic sites, and recreation areas.
- 14.5 million acres of national forests and grasslands.
- Thirty-seven state parks and recreation areas.
- Over 8,000 miles of streams and 2,000 lakes open to public fishing.
- Two national fish hatcheries.
- 222 state wildlife areas.
- Four national wildlife refuges.
- 8.3 million acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.



Denver International Airport (artist's conception)

This symbol denotes something special to stop and explore further.

The People

Who We Are

Most of the people in Colorado live in the Front Range area, along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, from Fort Collins down to Pueblo. Since 1990, many people have moved into the state from other areas of the country, and most of these new residents have settled in suburban areas along the Front Range and in resort towns.

Population facts:

- Colorado's population in 1995 was estimated to be over 3.6 million people.
- Colorado is the 26th most populous state in the country.
- There are 32 people per square mile in Colorado.
- About 82 percent of Colorado's people live in a broad belt of cities and towns that follow the Front Range of the Rockies—a very high percentage of urban residents compared to other states in the nation.
- Colorado's population increased 10.2 percent from 1990 to 1995, and one fourth of this increase was made up of new residents who migrated to Colorado from other states.

To look up the populations of the following towns and cities in Colorado, find the population chart on the state map on the other side of this sheet:

Aspen	Denver
Montrose	Burlington
Durango	Ouray
Colorado Springs	Fort Collins
Pueblo	Cortez
Fort Morgan	Trinidad

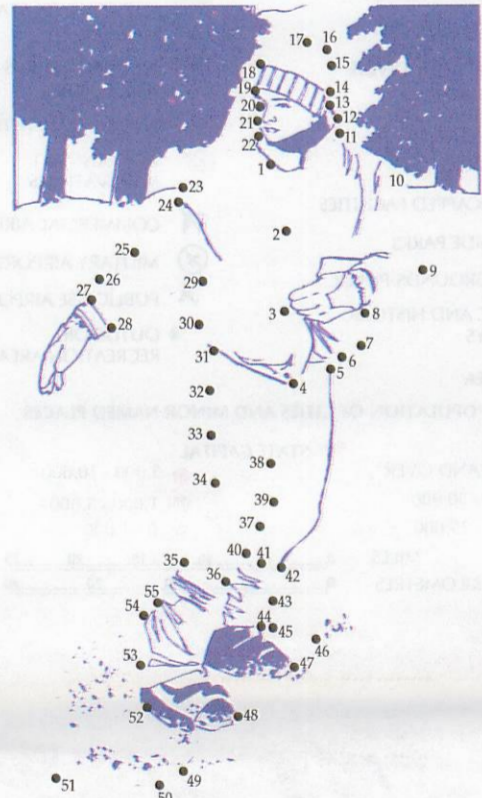
Earning a Living

Before American trappers, traders, and settlers came to the area, much of what we now know as Colorado was part of Mexico. The Hispanic people who settled in the lower half of the state raised sheep and other livestock and worked the land for a living. For centuries before that, Ute Indians and other Native American groups lived in this area, hunting game and gathering edible plants and berries. Only after gold was discovered in 1858 did Americans begin to enter the area in large numbers. For decades afterward, the state's economy was based on agriculture and mining.

World War II changed the economy once more. Since Colorado is near the center of the country, it was seen as a strategic area, and the federal government began to build defense, manufacturing, and technological research centers here to aid in the war effort. Today, several large military bases remain in Colorado, and 9 percent of the state's work force is involved in the defense industry. Another 9 percent of all the jobs in Colorado are in the tourism industry.

Manufacturing is also an important part of the present economy. **Thirteen percent** of the work force in Colorado is employed by manufacturing. Products include electronic instruments, computers, food products, and machinery.

Colorado is an important producer of **space-related** items, too. Many of the earth satellites used today are manufactured by Lockheed-Martin and Ball Aerospace. Two of the three companies producing booster rockets for commercial launches are located in Colorado, and large satellite communications facilities support the nation's defense, communications, and cable TV industries.



Take a Hike!

Skating is very popular in Colorado, as you probably know. There are twenty-seven ski areas in the state featuring powder snow, crystal blue skies, and spectacular scenery. Most of the ski areas open in late November and close in mid-April. But there have been even years when Coloradans enjoyed skiing in July!

Rafting is also very popular in Colorado, and there are more than 100 rivers in the state with a worldwide reputation as premier rafting waters. In addition, Colorado's golf courses are both challenging and beautiful; **horseback** rides are easy to arrange; and you can even take a leisurely hike while a llama carries your pack. When you are in Colorado, you can try your hand at **tennis, boating, windsurfing, or bicycling.** (Colorado is a mountain bike mecca.) Perhaps you would like to float over a high mountain valley in a **hot air balloon.** Or maybe you would prefer to climb a "fourteener" (14,000-foot mountain) for a breathtaking view from the top. There is so much to do and see in Colorado!

The History

Long, Long Ago

Perhaps 15,000 or 20,000 years ago, people moved from Asia into what is now the United States. They traveled and spread into many areas over thousands of years, and developed their own distinct traditions and cultures with tools and weapons that were unique to them. Almost always on the move, they followed the herds of game for food, clothing, and other items they needed.

Over time, they created villages along the rivers of the plains. These people belonged to what is known as the **Woodland Culture.** In the northwest corner of Colorado, the **Fremont** people lived in caves and learned to raise corn. Further south and to the west of the San Juan Mountains—and much later than either of these earlier groups—lived a people called the **Anasazi**, or "ancient ones."



Mesa Verde National Park

From about the time of Christ to A.D. 1300, the Anasazi developed a remarkably complex culture. Because they were especially skilled at weaving fine baskets, the earliest of these people are known as "Basket Makers." They grew beans and squash, but corn was their primary crop.

The Anasazi culture grew even more complex, and from A.D. 1050 to about 1300, these people lived in small villages on the mesa tops and in stone houses built right into the faces of the cliffs. The people of this period developed what is called the "Pueblo Culture." Imagine life at **Mesa Verde** (which means "green table" in Spanish).

- There were over 500 dwellings.
- Some of these dwellings were one-room houses, and others were large communal structures three or four stories high.
- The larger structures had more than 200 rooms.
- One large village, **Cliff Palace**, was the home of some 400 people—farmers and their families.

If you are curious about what was happening in other parts of the world at the same time the Anasazi culture was at its height, do a little detective work. Find out how people were living in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, or Africa around 1300 A.D.

The Anasazi were expert at weaving clothing and other items from yucca and cotton. They made distinctive black-on-gray pottery, and they enjoyed a rich ceremonial life. They even made snowshoes! But by the early 1300s, the Anasazi had abandoned their magnificent cliff dwellings. Why did they leave? Archaeologists believe that changes in the climate probably caused drought, famine, and disease, which forced the people out of the area.

Mesa Verde is now a national park, and thousands of people from all over the world visit it every year, imagining what life might have been like for the people who once made their home in this majestic setting.

The earliest people in present-day Colorado are called **prehistoric**, because they left no written records. The written history of this area began with the arrival of the Spaniards from Mexico in the 1500s, and this began the **historic** period of the West.

A Crossroads of People

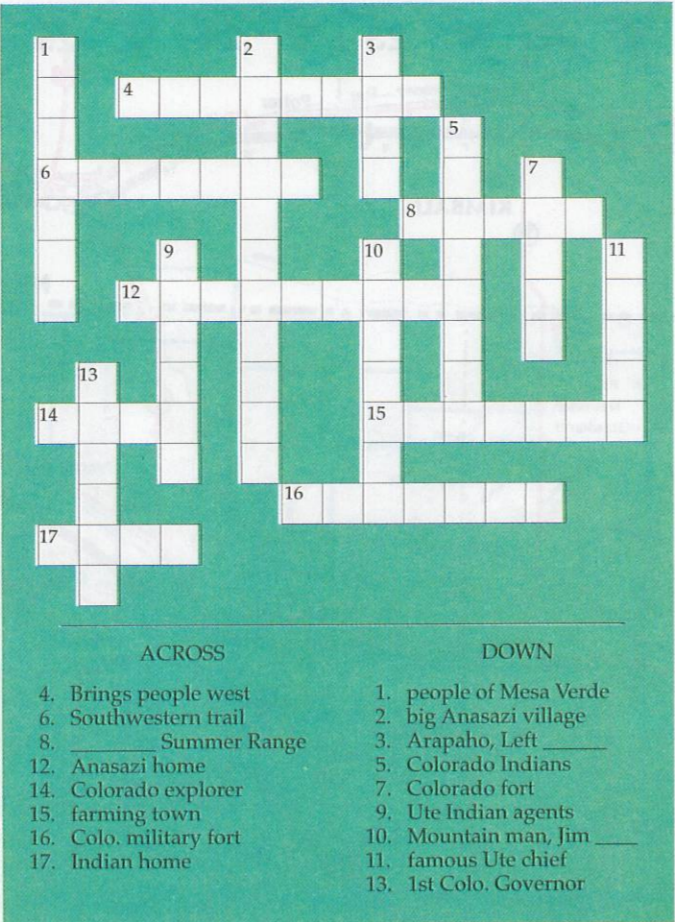
Within fifty years after Columbus first set foot in the New World, Spanish explorers seeking gold and spreading Christianity pushed north from Mexico into what is now known as the American Southwest. **Conrad**, a 16th-century knight in armor, led his men along to the present-day border of Colorado in the early 1540s. There was gold in Colorado's mountains, of course, but these early explorers never got that far. In fact, almost two centuries passed before other Spanish explorers ventured this far north.

By the late 1600s, though, **Spanish settlers** had moved into the Rio Grande Valley of northern New Spain (today's New Mexico), and over time they began to build on Colorado soil. Eventually, they dug a widespread system of irrigation ditches to help them farm and raise livestock. The first permanent Hispanic settlements were in the San Luis Valley. The town of **San Luis**, founded in 1851, is generally considered the oldest continually occupied town in the state. (Do you see San Luis on your map?)

Many other settlements in the region were established by pioneers from New Mexico, and their Spanish culture is still strong in several counties of southern Colorado. Just look at how many Spanish names grace Colorado's mountains, valleys, rivers, and towns, and even the name of the state itself. If you go to Trinidad, Colorado, look for the Colorado Historical Society's **Trinidad History Museum** which includes the **Baca House** and the **Bloom Mansion** as well as the **Santa Fe Trail Museum.**

When the Spanish came to Colorado, the state had long been home to many Indian tribes, but the **Utes, Cheyennes, and Arapahos** were probably the most important as far as the history of the state is concerned. All of the native peoples of Colorado were nomadic, and they followed buffalo and other large game, making clothes and tipi covers from the animal skins, eating what they needed, and gathering berries and roots to add to their diet.

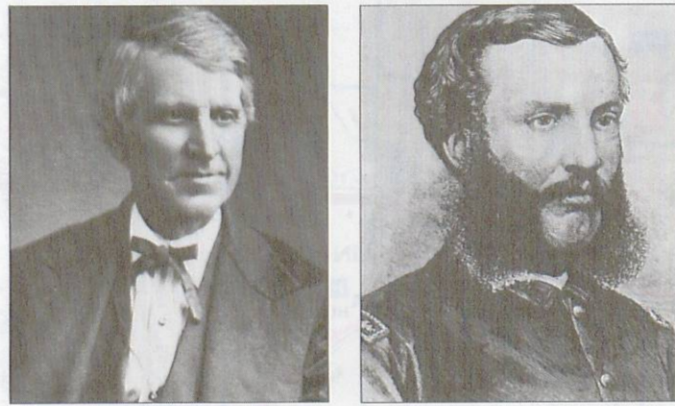
The **Utes** have been in Colorado for centuries, and their homeland was made up of the entire mountainous western half of the state—and beyond, farther west into Utah, and south into New Mexico. The mountains were their home, and other tribes mostly stayed out of the rugged Ute territory. But for the Utes, this was a breathtakingly



beautiful land...a land of spectacular scenery and abundant game, and the home of their ancestors.

The **Utes** were among the very first of the Indian tribes to acquire the horse from the Spaniards in the 1500s. Before this, they covered their territory only on foot, but with the horse, they could travel much farther. Now they could ride onto the plains in search of vast buffalo herds and onto Spanish-held lands to raid for horses. The Ute bands could also now come together more often.

The discovery of gold in Colorado in 1858, and the immediate rush of miners to the area spelled the end to the traditional Ute life. Just ten years earlier, this land was turned over by the Mexican government to the United States. Between the U.S. government and the Ute Indians, treaty after treaty was negotiated, and over the course of twenty years the Utes watched their territory drastically shrink in size. The Indians were confined to ever smaller tracts of land.



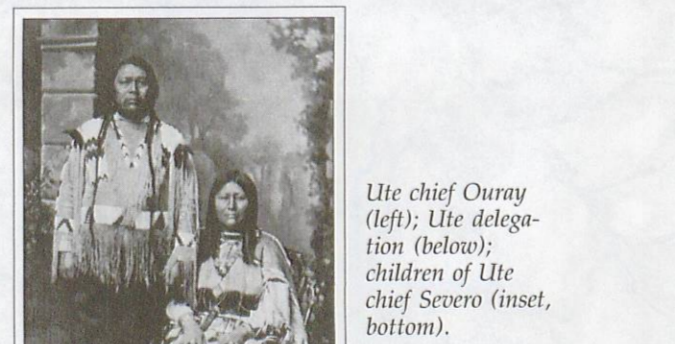
Nathan Meeker Maj. Thomas T. Thornburgh

The fact was, most of the new people in Colorado did not want the Utes here. Many were afraid of the Indians, and many believed that they stood in the way of progress. When a group of Utes at the **White River Agency** in Rio Blanco County rose up against Indian agent **Nathan Meeker** and killed a number of U.S. troops, including **Maj. Thomas T. Thornburgh**, that was the excuse many were looking for. The newspaper headlines read, "THE UTES MUST GO!" And, indeed, all but a few Ute bands were forced onto reservations in Utah.

The **Southern Utes** and the **Ute Mountain Utes** today live on reservations in the southwestern part of Colorado. (Look for **Ignacio** and **Towaoc**, both centers of present-day Ute culture, on your state map.) The Ute Indians remain an important people in the Colorado. The names of many of their past leaders, such as **Ouray, Ignacio, Severo, Shevavo, and Buckskin Charley** are well known, and the leader **Ouray** is one of sixteen historical Colorado figures whose portraits in stained-glass adorn the dome of the state Capitol in Denver.

To find out more about the Ute Indians, you can visit the Colorado Historical Society's **Ute Indian Museum** near Montrose at the **Chief Ouray State Historical Monument.**

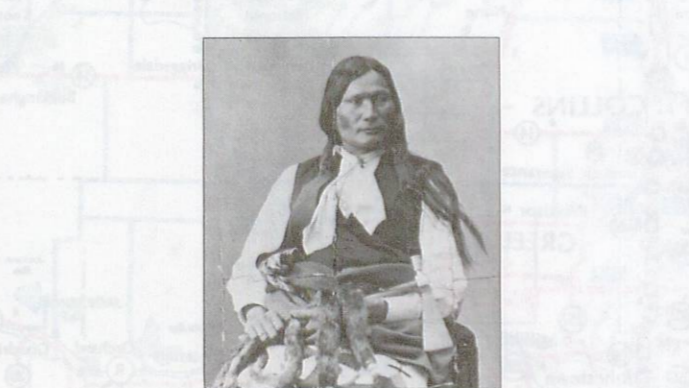
The **Cheyennes** and the **Arapahos** roamed the eastern plains of Colorado, trading in the fur-trapping days (1820-1840) at such outposts as **Ben's Fort**, and fighting to hold onto their Plains culture as new American settlements took over their land and hunting territory. On November 29, 1864, at a place called **Sand Creek** in today's Kiowa County, volunteer soldiers, commanded by **Col. John M. Chivington**, massacred Cheyenne Indians in a peaceful camp where the government had told the Indians they would be safe.



Ute chief Ouray (left), Ute delegation (below), children of Ute chief Severo (inset, bottom).

This betrayal and bloodbath led to major warfare on the plains of Colorado for the next five years. **Becher Island**, in the Arikerre fork of the Republican River in Yuma County, was the site of another encounter on September 17, 1868. Here, the Forsyth Scouts were besieged by Cheyenne Indians. And the following year, a fight near **Summit Springs** near Sterling ended the conflicts with the Plains Indians of Colorado.

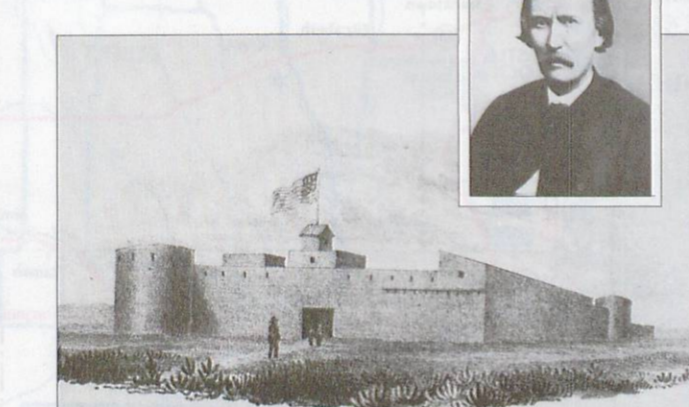
Arapaho territory included a strip of plains country along the Front Range of the Rockies between the Arkansas and the Cache la Poudre rivers. **Left Hand Canyon**, near Boulder, was named for an Arapaho chief. In 1913, when names were being selected for certain peaks in northwestern Colorado, Arapahos were asked what they called the mountains. One of the names they gave was that of the **Never Summer Range.**



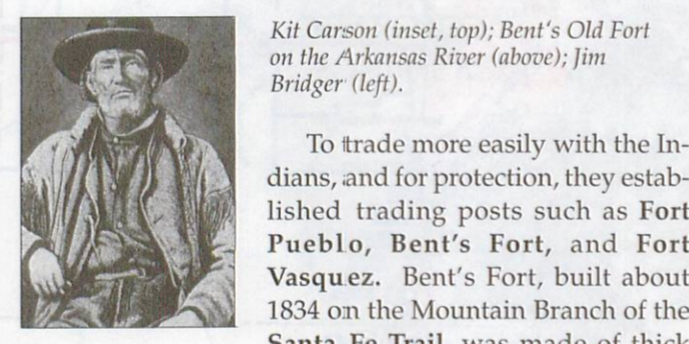
Chief Left Hand

The first Americans arrived in Colorado in the early 1800s. **Capt. Zebulon M. Pike** was the first official American explorer here, and he tried to reach the summit of the peak that now bears his name in late November of 1806. A fall snowstorm wreaked havoc on Pike, and some of his men suffered terribly. Near La Jara, Conejos County, the Colorado Historical Society has built a replica of the stockade Pike threw together to protect his men from Spaniards and Indians. Pike was followed by other explorers for the government, including **Maj. Stephen H. Long, Lieut. John C. Fremont, and Capt. John W. Gunnison**—and all of them lent their names to parts of the state.

But the real trailblazers of the Rocky Mountain West were the fur trappers and traders, such as the **Bent brothers, Ceran St. Vrain, Jim Bridger, Jim Baker, Kit Carson, and Louis Vasquez.** In search of beaver pelts, the trappers followed the streams and explored the secluded mountain valleys. When beaver furs declined in price in the 1830s, many mountain men turned to the buffalo robe trade.



Kit Carson (inset, top), Ben's Old Fort on the Arkansas River (above), Jim Bridger (left).



To trade more easily with the Indians, and for protection, they established trading posts such as **Fort Pueblo, Ben's Fort, and Fort Vasquez.** Ben's Fort, built about 1834 on the Mountain Branch of the **Santa Fe Trail**, was made of thick adobe. It was a major center of commerce in days of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. **Ben's Old Fort** is now a national Historic Site and has been reconstructed by the National Park Service.

Fort Pueblo, also made of adobe, was built about 1842 by fur traders where the city of **Pueblo** now stands. Today, you can watch archaeologists study the remains of the original fort in downtown Pueblo, only a few yards from the **El Pueblo Museum.** The museum explores the many cultures that occupied this important historical site on the Arkansas River.

Another exciting place to visit is the Colorado Historical Society's life-sized replica of **Fort Vasquez**, 35 miles north of Denver near Platteville. The original fort was built in 1835.

In addition to these trading posts, there was **Fort Garland**, a government military post in operation in the San Luis Valley from 1838 to 1883. The restored fort, near Alamosa, houses exhibits depicting the story of a military outpost and the people it was there to protect. During each summer, you can watch as the Colorado Historical Society excavates more of the old fort. The toys, buttons, dishes, combs, other items unearthed so far help us imagine what life might have been like at the fort.

Gold!

With news of the discovery of gold in Colorado, eastern America turned its attention to the West. In 1858, a party of gold-seekers under the leadership of **William Green Russell** found gold near the junction of the **South Platte River** and **Cherry Creek.** Thousands of fortune hunters hurried across the plains on foot, on horseback, in wagons—any way they could. "Pike's Peak or Bust!" was their rallying cry.

Most of these people failed to find any gold, and they trudged wearily back home with a new cry, "Pikes Peak, Humberg!" But some people stayed, and they founded several small clusters of houses known as **Montana City, St. Charles, Auraria, and Denver City** (named after **Gen. James W. Denver**, territorial governor of Kansas). Over time, these grew into the city of **Denver**, now the capital city of Colorado.

On May 6, 1859, **John H. Gregory** discovered a vein of gold-bearing quartz near present-day **Central City.** Mines quickly sprang up on the branches of **Clear Creek**, in South Park, and across the Continental Divide on the branches of the **Blue River.** Now mining really took hold in Colorado.

On February 28, 1861, a national law was signed creating the **Colorado Territory.** **William Gilpin**, appointed by President Abraham Lincoln, became the first territorial governor. The territory was named for the river that rises from Grand Lake and flows through rugged chasms and fertile valleys to the great depths of the Grand Canyon, and from there to the Pacific Ocean.

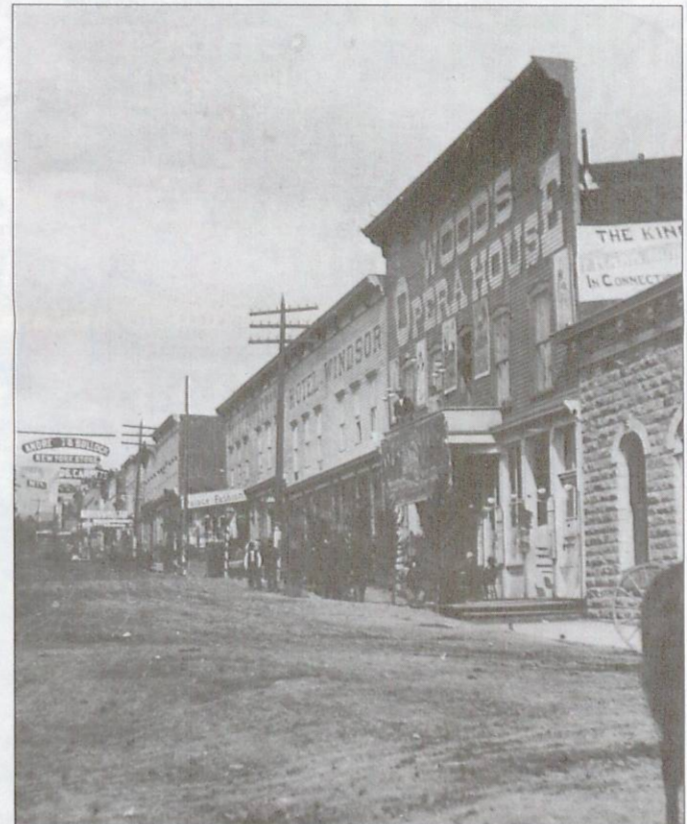
During the first decade after the Pikes Peak gold rush, Colorado got off to a slow start. Miners kept finding **refractory ore**—that is, ore that is difficult to remove from the surrounding rock. Also, the Civil War claimed many citizens for soldiers, and Indian raids following the Sand Creek Massacre made stage and wagon travel risky. But after the ordeals of the 1860s, Colorado exploded with people, industry, and commerce in its second decade as a territory.

The State Grows

The coming of the railroad ensured that Colorado would thrive. The **transcontinental railroad** spanned the country in 1869, and track was then laid from Denver to connect with it at Cheyenne, Wyoming. **Narrow-gauge** rail lines later snaked into the mountains from the cities along the Front Range, tapping the rich mining regions.

Eastern immigrants arrived on the railroads to found agricultural towns such as **Greeley**; and trains brought in cheap goods and building materials for the growing population. Finally, on **August 1, 1876,** Colorado entered the Union as the "Centennial State" in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

During the 1880s, the population continued to grow. With railroads reaching into the mountains, mining boomed more than ever. And silver was queen. The discoveries of silver in Leadville in the late 1870s caused miners to pour into the town. This was one of the largest silver booms in the nation. By 1880, with almost 15,000 people in the mountain town, Leadville was second in size only to Denver. The amount of silver found there was truly amazing. Over \$11 million worth of silver came out of the area in 1880. But other metals, such as gold and lead, were being mined there as well.



Leadville, 1880

At this time, a miner named **Horace Tabor** opened a store in Leadville. He had come to Colorado in 1859 and had lived and mined in many of the mountain towns, without luck. But that was about to change. In 1877, he grubstaked two prospectors, which means he gave them food and supplies in exchange for a share in the mines they found. As luck would have it, they found the **Little Pittsburgh Mine**, and Horace and his wife were soon millionaires. If you are in Leadville, look for the **Healy House** and the **Dexter Cabin.** These buildings are run by the Colorado Historical Society to preserve the story of social life in the days of the mining boom. Also look for the **Heritage Museum and Gallery** to learn more about mining.

Many other towns flourished, too, while in the larger cities of Denver, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs, colleges and opera houses were built, and mansions sprang up showing the state's wealth. At the same time, agriculture expanded as new irrigation systems were dug to divert water from the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers, and **dry farming** was introduced on the high plains. The **cattle industry** boomed; **wood production** flourished to keep up with all the new construction; and **huge smelters** were built to separate ore from rock.

By 1890, more than 413,000 determined people called Colorado home. The security of the state was rocked, though, with the **Panic of 1893**, following the devaluation of silver. Many people, such as **Horace Tabor**, lost their wealth. But the gold camp at **Cripple Creek** helped the state's revival, and farming continued to expand, with new crops such as sugar beets creating new wealth. Colorado would enter the twentieth century with confidence, intending to grow into the largest commercial center in the Rocky Mountain West.

Do you recognize the names of any of these famous people who once lived in Colorado?

- P. T. Barnum, circus man (1810-1891)**
- Christopher "Kit" Carson, mountain man (1809-1868)**
- Alonso "Lon" Chaney, movie actor (1883-1930)**
- William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, entertainer (1846-1917)**
- Judy Collins, singer and musician, born 1939**
- Adolph Coors, brewery founder (1847-1929)**
- William Harrison "Jack" Dempsey, the "Manassa Mauler," boxer (1895-1983)**
- Douglas Fairbanks, actor (1883-1939)**
- James A. Michener, novelist, born 1907**
- John Leonard Swigert, Jr., astronaut (1931-1982)**



"Buffalo Bill" Cody

Delightful Denver Facts

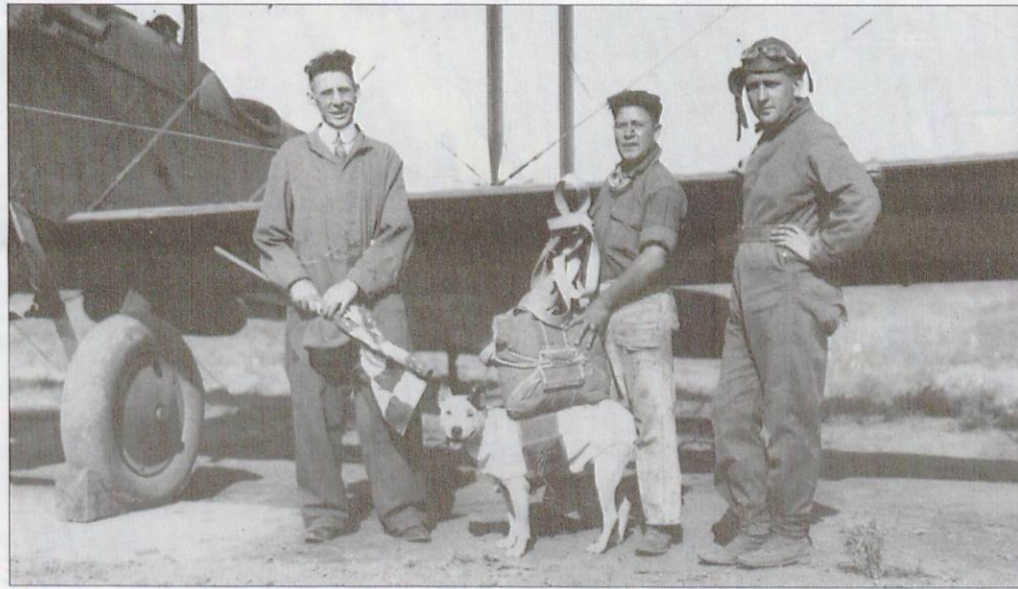
In 1886, a University of Denver professor named **Sidney Short** designed a streetcar line on Fifteenth Street, making it the second working electric streetcar in the world. Unfortunately, his streetcar was not a success. People and animals were shocked to find that when the ground was wet and they stepped on the electric cable that ran in a slot between the rails, they were in for a jolt!

The year 1913 is remembered as the year of the great snow in Denver. **Snowfall** equaled five billion gallons of water covered the city in just a few days. People found themselves trapped in their office buildings downtown since there was no way to pass through the city's snowpacked streets. Many of the children in the city found the snow great fun. Some who were lucky enough to live in three-story houses simply opened the windows on the upper floors and sledged down into their yards!

There was a streetcar in Englewood called the **Cherrylyn** which was pulled uphill by a very hard-working horse. His payoff came, though, when the car turned to travel back down the hill. With his blinders on, the horse was led onto a platform at the back of the streetcar, and he rode back down with the other passengers.

In 1909, the Denver Police Department bought its first motorized patrol wagon. By 1920, it had thirteen police motorcycles with side cars, and other vehicles. But the most interesting car, perhaps, was the "Auto Bandit Chaser." It had a Cadillac engine and body, a machine gun mounted on the dash, bullet-proof armor plate, a bullet-proof windshield, and a T-guard rail used to crowd cars into the ditch.

August 16, 1924, was an exciting day in Denver. It was the day of the big air circus at **Lovley Field.** Thousands of people flocked to the show to see the airplanes, but one of the highlights of the show was **Jeff, the bull terrier**, known as the world's only sky-diving dog. Jeff had already made 100 jumps up to this day. Just before his 101st, Jeff posed to have his photograph taken with the show's flagman, his owner, Army sergeant **J. C. Ziegler** and the pilot of the Curtiss "Flying Jennie." The plane took to the air, and seventy-five hundred people watched as Jeff jumped for the last time. His parachute cord had failed. When the plane landed, his owner ran to take Jeff in his arms, and cried out loud, "Poor old Jeff. One time too many, one time too many."



From left with Jeff, just before his last jump are Jack Payment; Sgt. James C. Ziegler, Jeff's owner; and pilot Daniel F. Kearns.

For more information on Denver's exciting history, stop at the Colorado Historical Society's **Denver History Museum** at the **Byers-Evans House** on Thirteenth Avenue and Bannock Street in Denver.

Into the Twentieth Century

Justina Ford was the first African-American doctor in Denver. She arrived in 1902 but was not allowed to work in Denver hospitals because of her race. Not even African-American patients were allowed in most hospitals at that time. So, she opened a practice at her house, living upstairs, and seeing patients downstairs. In the next fifty years, Dr. Ford delivered 7,000 babies, and provided other types of medical care to hundreds of patients—always for a small fee. She helped anyone who needed her services, no matter what their color. After her death, her house was moved and is now the home of the **Black American West Museum** in Denver.

Mayor Robert W. Speer was known as "Boss" by friends and foes alike. He was a powerful figure who usually got his way, and he transformed the face of Denver. He put in sewers and sandstone sidewalks, paved the streets, and gave away over 116,000 shade trees to be planted throughout the city. He also created **Washington Park, City Park, and his beloved Civic Center Park** in front of the Capitol. He even set up a series of parkways that led from various Denver neighborhoods to Civic Center Park. One of his greatest feats was the creation of a system of mountain parks that belonged to Denver. Speer died in office in 1918, having helped to make Denver a beautiful city.

Thanks to early Coloradans, we have mountain parks that are protected from any kind of development. They are simply there as habitats to native animals and for the enjoyment of those who appreciate open spaces, forests, and the wilderness. **Enos Mills** played a major role in protecting our mountain lands. He left his home in Kansas for Colorado at the age of fourteen. He was so taken by the majesty of the area that he later wrote magazine articles and books about the Rockies. He pushed hard for the creation of a national park to protect this spectacular country, and his dream came true in 1915 with the creation of the **Rocky Mountain National Park.**



William F. Cody, known as "**Buffalo Bill**" captured the imagination of people throughout the world. His very name made people think of vast buffalo herds, cowboys and Indians, and the expanses of the Wild West. **Buffalo Bill's Wild West show**, featuring sharpshooter **Annie Oakley**, Sioux chief **Sitting Bull**, and a number of other stars and attractions, toured the United States and Europe to enthusiastic crowds. **Buffalo Bill** kept the romance of the West alive until his death in Denver in 1917, at the home of his sister. His final wish was to be buried on a hill above **Cody, Wyoming**, but his promoters in Denver had him buried on **Lookout Mountain**, just west of Denver. You can still visit his grave there today.

Colorado's first air flight took place in Denver's **Oversand Park** on a cold winter day in 1910. **Frenchman Louis Paulhan** took off and landed several times and proved that air flight was here to stay. It took twenty-five more years before the first mail-carrying flight would take off from Denver. By 1928, an airline called **Western Air Express** began carrying both letters and passengers, and soon there were several airlines in Denver competing for passengers.

Stapleton Airport opened in 1929 with two runways, a small terminal, and a gymnasium. The airport was named after Denver mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton. By 1995, Stapleton was the seventh busiest airport in the U.S., and in that year it was replaced with **Denver International Airport**, complete with a huge tent-roofed terminal and three separate concourses.

In 1929, New York's Stock Market crashed, sending the country into a