

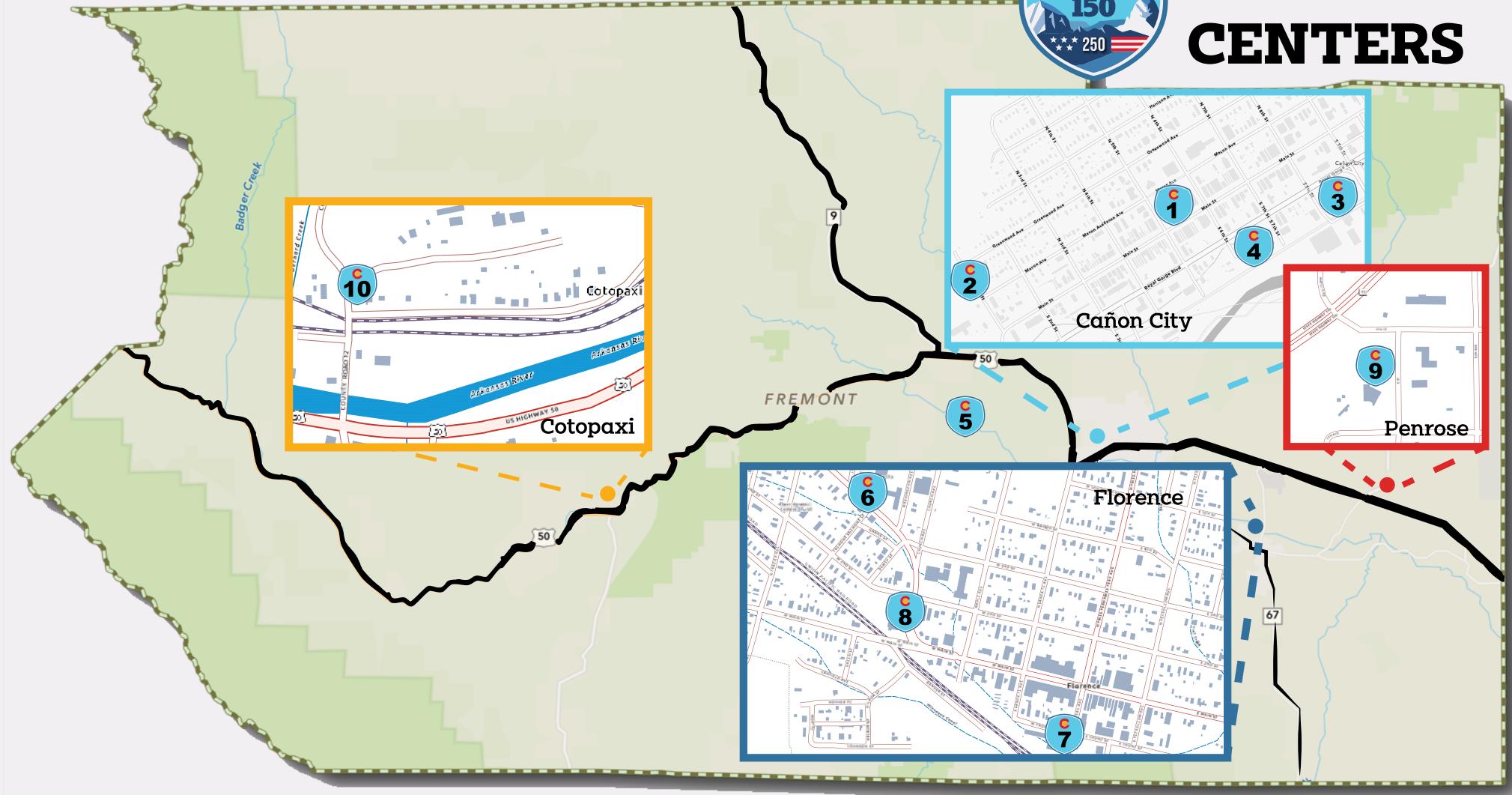
PASSPORT



**FREMONT COUNTY
COLORADO**



PASSPORT CENTERS



1 Cañon City Public Library
516 Macon Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212

2 Museum of Colorado Prisons
201 N. 1st St.
Cañon City, CO 81212

3 Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance
816 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, CO 81212

4 Royal Gorge Regional Museum
& History Center
612 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, CO 81212

5 Royal Gorge Bridge & Park
4218 Co Rd 3A,
Cañon City, CO 81212

6 Florence Chamber of Commerce /
Florence Archives Inc.
600 W. 3rd St.
Florence, CO 81226

7 Florence Pioneer Museum
100 E. Front St.
Florence, CO 81226

8 John C. Fremont Library
130 Church Ave.
Florence, CO 81226

9 Penrose Community Library
35 7th Ave.
Penrose, CO 81240

10 Western Fremont County
Historical Society
Mullins History Center
120 County Rd. 12
Cotopaxi, CO 81223

Fremont County Passport

Fremont County, the **City of Cañon City**, and the **City of Florence** along with many local organizations, museums, and libraries invite you and your family to join us in celebrating America's 250th and Colorado's 150th Anniversary!

This booklet is filled with fun activities and interesting facts for you and your family to enjoy. You will discover how Fremont County's history is part of a much bigger story and how you can help keep that story alive.

As you explore the pages and complete the activities, look for the "**Explore Fremont County**" box. Each activity you finish earns you a stamp in your passport. When you complete an activity, bring your booklet to any of the locations listed below to collect your stamp! Once you get a stamp in each box, go back to one of the locations and receive a special completion prize.

Cañon City Public Library

Florence Municipal Building/
Florence Chamber of Commerce

Florence Pioneer Museum

John C. Fremont Library

Museum of Colorado Prisons

Penrose Community Library

Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance

Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center

Western Fremont County Historical
Society/Mullins History Center



Fremont County Passport Identification:

This Book Belongs To:

I am _____ years old.

My favorite place in my town is: _____

The oldest thing I've seen around here is:

A place from the past I think is important is:

If I could meet anyone from history, it would be:

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FOSSILS



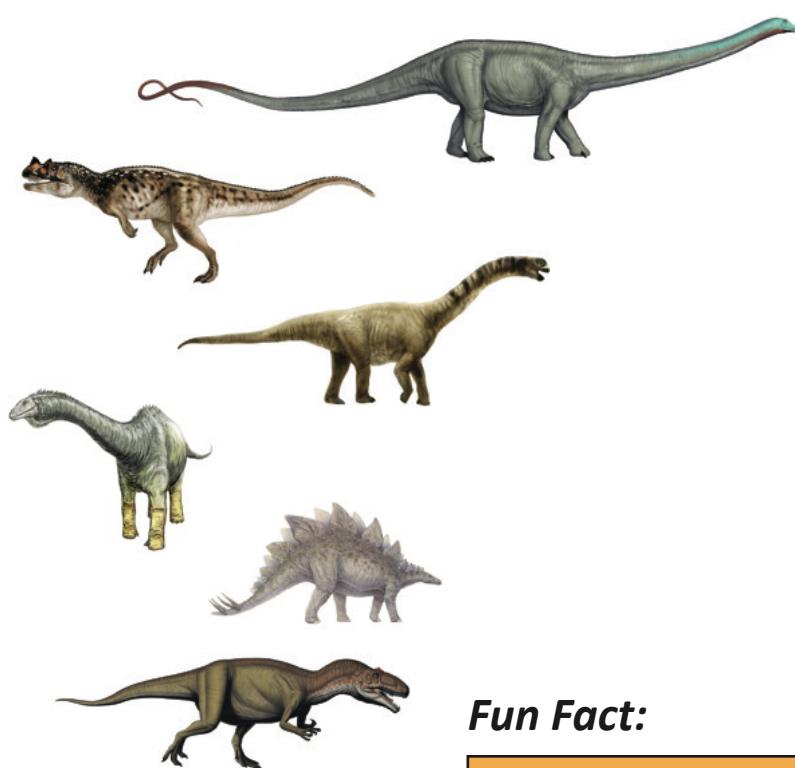
Sauropod tibia and fibula fossils found in the Royal Gorge region in 2022.

Fremont County is known worldwide for the prehistoric fossils discovered in this region as early as the 1870s! There are two National Natural Landmarks here; **Garden Park Fossil Area** and **Indian Springs Trace Fossil Site**.

The trace fossils of Indian Springs date to around 450 million years. The dinosaur fossils found in Garden Park date to 150 million years. Some of the fossils excavated from here are now at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. , the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Activity:

Look up the scientific names of these dinosaurs found in Fremont County and match them with their image.



Allosaurus fragilis

Camarasaurus supremus

Ceratosaurus nasicornis

Diplodocus longus

Haplocanthosaurus delfi

Stegosaurus stenops

Fun Fact:

The Colorado State Fossil, the **Stegosaurus stenops** was found in the Garden Park area by a Cañon City High School teacher and his students in 1936.

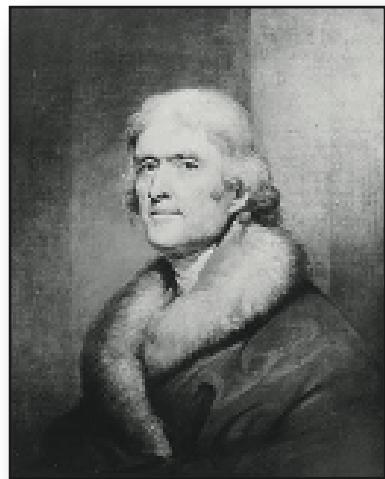
Explore Fremont County:

Take a trip up Skyline Drive to look at nearly 70 dinosaur tracks along the hog backs. Read the panels and learn about the herd of Nodosaur walking along the shoreline of the Western Interior Seaway. Take a selfie with the fossils in the background.

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Thomas Jefferson

From writing the Declaration of Independence to commissioning the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson is one of the most influential figures in our presidential history. Driven by a desire to understand and expand the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, he authorized several expeditions, including those of Zebulon Pike. Pike's expeditions, roughly contemporary with Lewis and Clark's, aimed to map the region, foster relations with Native American tribes, and assess its resources. Pike's explorations led to the discovery of Pikes Peak, though he initially failed to reach its summit.



Thomas Jefferson, ca. 1803.



Thomas Jefferson Monticello Coin or Jefferson Nickel

Activity:

Thomas Jefferson enjoyed eating "hot wheat" for breakfast. Wheat berries are the whole, unprocessed kernels of wheat. They are a nutritious whole grain, rich in fiber, protein, and various vitamins and minerals. Wheat berries can be cooked and added to salads, soups, or used in baked goods, providing a chewy texture and nutty flavor.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup wheat berries or cracked wheat
3-4 cups water or milk (dairy or non-dairy)

Pinch of salt

Sweetener of choice (honey, sugar, or maple syrup) Toppings (nuts, fresh or dried fruit)

1. Combine wheat berries or cracked wheat with water or milk and salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until the grains are tender and the liquid is absorbed. This can take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour for cracked wheat and longer for whole wheat berries, depending on whether they were soaked.
2. Stir in your preferred sweetener to taste. Serve hot, topped with nuts and/or fruit.

Recipe tips:

Adjust the liquid amount to achieve your desired consistency – a thicker porridge or a thinner gruel. Experiment with different sweeteners and toppings to taste.

Challenge Activity: For an extra touch, toast the wheat berries or cracked wheat in a dry skillet before cooking to enhance their flavor.



Fun Fact:

As secretary of state, Jefferson organized a contest to design the White House. Historians think he secretly entered—and lost.

Explore Fremont County:

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Come see a Chautauqua program on April 18th, 2026 at the Steeple Events Center and experience a living history portrayal of Thomas Jefferson. Learn how Thomas Jefferson and early explorers are connected.

Explorers & Trading Posts

American explorer Lieutenant Zebulon Pike led a group of men to find the source of the Arkansas River. His men faced harsh winter storms and lack of food on their journey. In early November 1806, Pike and his men first saw the mountain that now bears his name, Pikes Peak. The men made camp along the river at the entrance to the “Grand Canyon of the Arkansas” (now known as the Royal Gorge) on December 8, 1806.



Left: Zebulon Pike.



Left: John C. Fremont.



Right: Historic Marker for the Pike Expedition.

The county's namesake, John C. Fremont guided three expeditions through the region in the 1840s. On two of his trips, Fremont and his men stopped at Hardscrabble, a small farming settlement built to trade goods with the Native people. This American trading post sat about 6 miles southwest of the present town of Florence.

Another trading post was established in this area a couple years earlier by French-Canadian fur-trapper Maurice Le Duc. Fort Le Duc was built just north of Wetmore at the mouth of the Adobe River.



A diorama of Fort Le Duc.

Fun Fact:

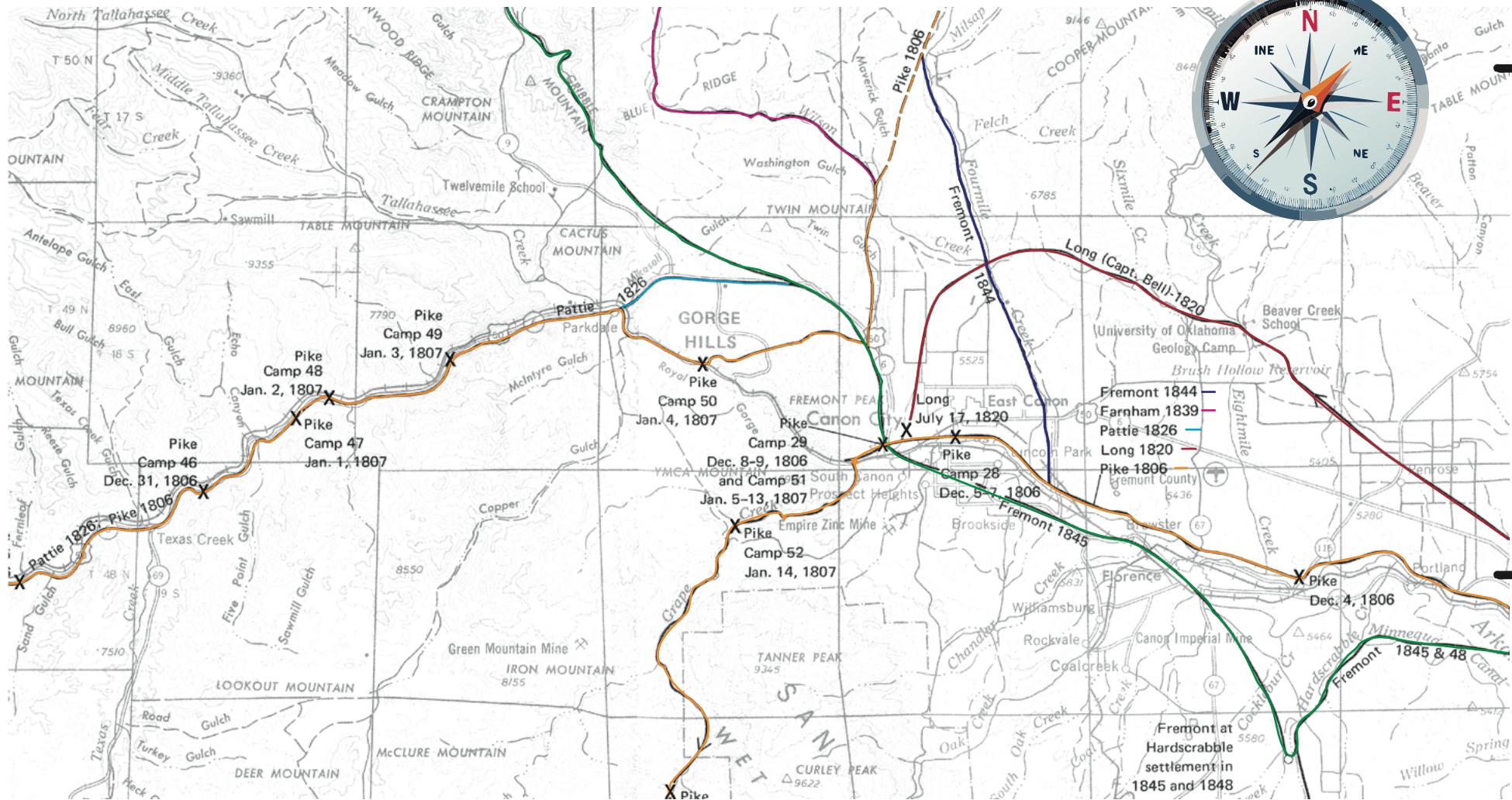
*Between 1540 and 1845 **five** different countries (Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the United States of America) claimed parts of Fremont County as theirs. The Arkansas River was the border.*

Explore Fremont County:

Take a trip out to Tunnel Drive and find the historical marker about Pike's journey to this area near the trailhead. The General Marion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had the marker made in 1922. Don't forget to get a picture!

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Explorers' Map Activity



Activity:

Read the map to find the answers to these questions.

Name the early settlement Fremont passed through in 1845 & 1848. _____

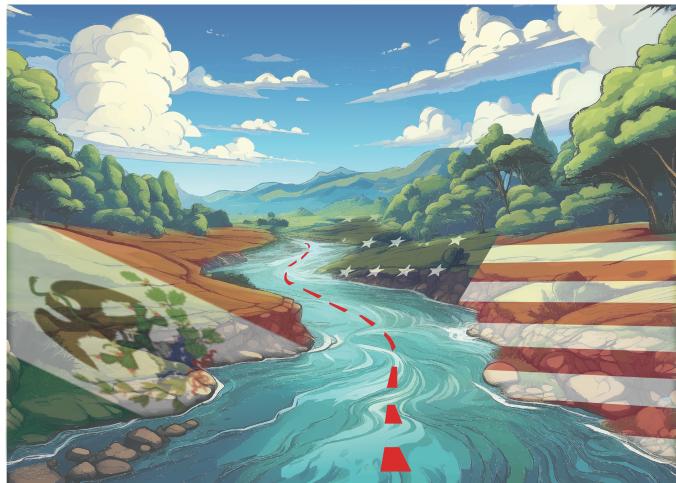
"X" marks each campsite during Pike's Expedition. How many places did he set up camp? _____

Which explorer was the first to travel north of the Gorge Hills? _____

What year did John C. Fremont travel along Fourmile Creek? _____

What is the name of the captain who traveled with Major Long in 1820? _____

Border Between Nations



Fun Fact:

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo added 525,000 square miles of land to the United States territory. The land included all or part of present-day Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Did you know that Fremont County was once a part of 5 different countries?

Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the United States all claimed a piece of Fremont County at one point in history. The Arkansas River, which runs through this region, became the border between nations. On February 2, 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, this whole area was given to the U.S. and the border with Mexico was moved to where we know it today along the Rio Grande River.

Activity:

Can you decode these Colorado towns with Spanish names?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q	T	Z	Y	J	M	L	V	B	P	F	W	A	X	K	R	U	N	H	S	G	E	O	C	D	I

Hint: GM HVBM = La Veta

The treaty ended the Mexican - American War, changed the U.S. border, and helped to shape the state of Colorado. Mexican citizens living in the area that eventually became Colorado were allowed to keep their Mexican citizenship or become U.S. citizens. Today, there are many places in Colorado that have Spanish names.

X M R W R X Z B D
(Means – canyon)

J Q V I G W
(Means – town)

T M G Z Y M
(Means – exit)

G M E Q R B M
(Means – joining)

I Q V R M H Z T B M
(Means – good view)

Explore Fremont County:

Take a walk or ride your bike along the trails of the Arkansas River. Take a selfie along the bank of the river. 200 years ago, you would have been standing between two countries!

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CANON CITY
HIGH SCHOOL

This page contributed by Ashlee Sack's CCHS class.

Native Americans

The **Uncompahgre (un-come-PAH-gray)** Ute lived in this area long before any European settlers came. They stayed in this area during the winter because it was warmer than the mountains. The Ute moved from place to place to find food and shelter.

The Ute were **hunters and gatherers**. They respected nature and only took what they really needed from the land - food, shelter, and clothing. They believed the natural spring waters that are all along the Arkansas River Valley had special healing powers.

Activity:



Write down four facts about the Utes that you learn from visiting the Ute Indian Museum's website at utetribe.com. You can also visit the museum in person in Montrose, Colorado.

Other Native American tribes were also part of Fremont County's history, like the Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, Cheyenne, and the ancestral Pueblo. In the 1880s, many Native Americans were forced to leave their lands and move to reservations in western Colorado and Utah.

Fun Fact:

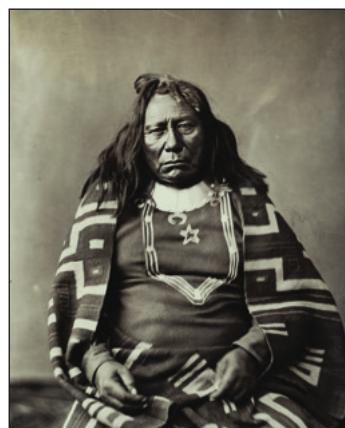
Chief Ouray and his wife Chipeta, ca. 1875.

Archaeologists have found many Native American artifact near Cañon City, like skin tents, wooden tools, campfires, pottery pieces, and stone tools.

Chief Ouray and his wife **Chipeta** were important leaders of the Ute tribe who spent time in this area. They worked hard to bring peace between the Native Americans, the settlers, and the government.

Chief Ouray even met with **President Abraham Lincoln**!

Chipeta's name means "White Singing Bird." She is honored in the **Colorado Women's Hall of Fame** for her courage.



Chief Colorow; ca. 1875.

Another leader who lived in the area was **Chief Colorow**. He was a great horse rider and warrior who traveled all over Colorado. He helped both his people and local settlers.

All of three leaders were important in the history of the Colorado Territory.

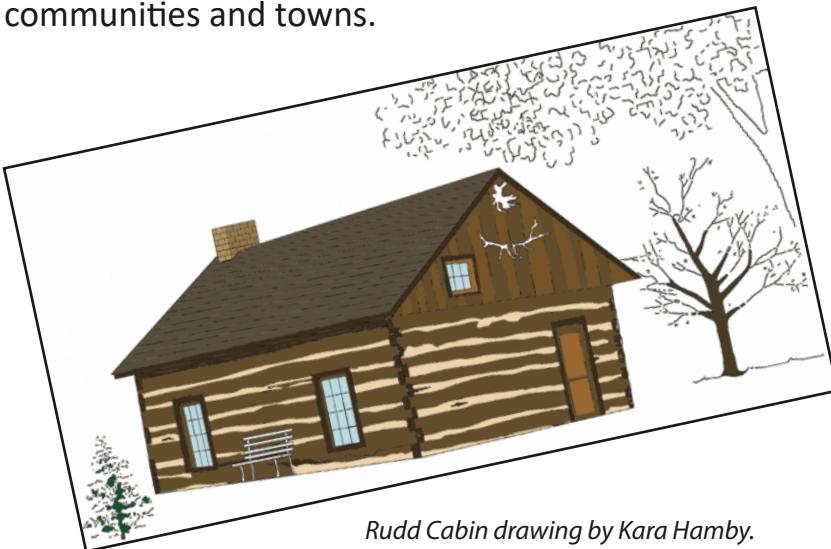
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Explore Fremont County:

Visit Red Canyon Park and hike the trail "Chipeta's Way." Find the rock formation named "Ouray Heights." Take a selfie with the red rock formations.

Early Pioneers

Pioneers began moving into Fremont County, Colorado as early as 1859. Anson Rudd and his wife Harriet along with Jesse Frazer were among the first pioneers to build log cabins along the Arkansas River in this area. Many more pioneers settled here after the Civil War. The early settlers made their own houses to live in, using wooden logs and hand tools. These families helped to build our communities and towns.



Anson Rudd, ca. 1870.

Activity:

Before electric mixers, butter was made by hand – shaking cream in jars, skin bags, or wooden containers. In colonial America or pioneer days, this was a routine household task, often done by children. Making butter at home is quick and enjoyable. All you need is heavy cream and a bit of salt!

INGREDIENTS FOR MAKING BUTTER

1 pint real heavy cream

1 pinch of salt

1. Combine the very cold cream and salt in a zip-top plastic bag or glass jar.
2. Seal bag or tighten lid on jar.
3. Shake vigorously for 15 minutes and chunks will begin to form.
4. Keep shaking until the butter reaches desired texture.
5. Drain off any liquid from the bag or jar.
6. Add more salt as needed.
7. Spread on toast, bread, biscuits, or crackers.
8. Keep any leftover butter chilled in the refrigerator.



Fun Fact:

Anson Rudd's Cabin was the first structure built in Cañon City that had a wooden floor. Can you guess what type of floor earlier buildings had?

Explore Fremont County:

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Visit the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and check out the 1860 Anson Rudd Cabin behind the museum. Take a picture of yourself at the cabin. If you are visiting during the museum's open hours, ask staff for a special cabin tour so you can look inside.



Pioneer Women

Life as a pioneer woman was nothing like today. Women like Harriet Rudd of Cañon City and Malessia Stout of Howard traveled west with their families looking for a better life. Both women cared for their families by cooking meals, milking cows, washing clothes, teaching children, and sewing.

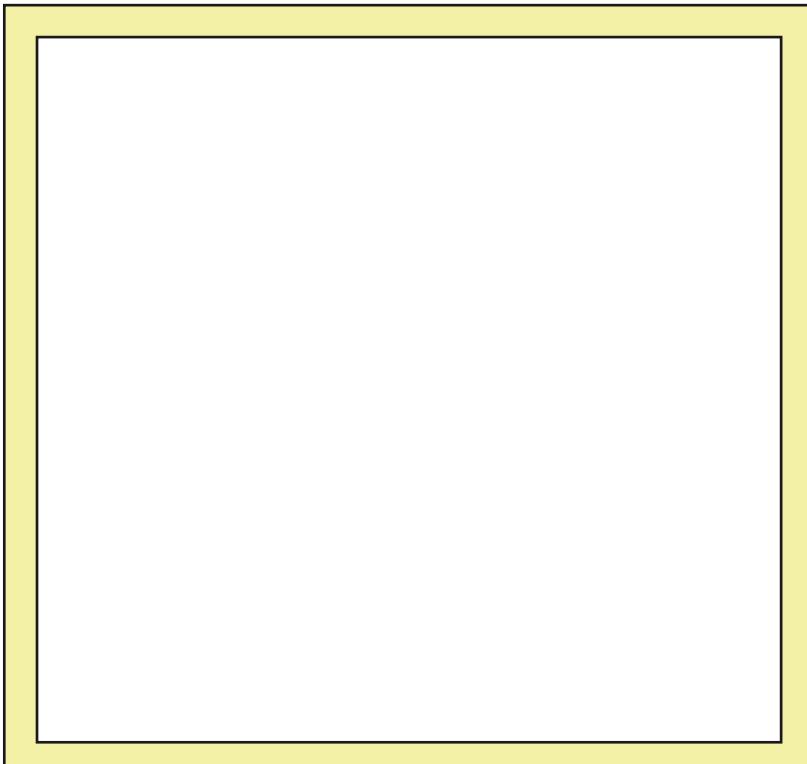
Nights in the mountains were cold, so pioneer women used scraps of old clothes to make quilts to cover their beds, windows, and even their doors. Quilts gave them comfort, by being a connection to family back east and to their faith.

Several quilt designs became popular and some of these patterns are still used today.



Activity:

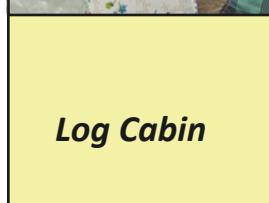
Design your own quilt pattern to the left!



Here are some examples of popular quilt patterns.



Crazy Quilt



Log Cabin



Bowtie

Fun Fact:

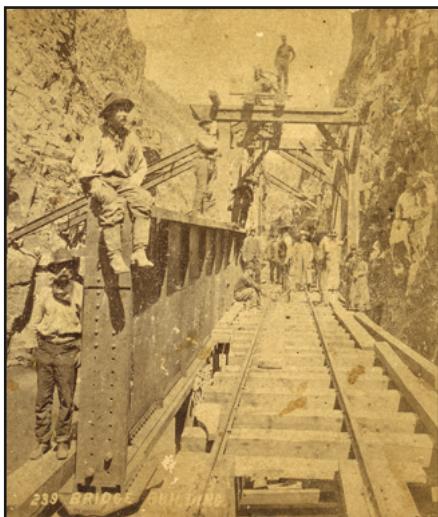
Territorial Daughters of Colorado was established in 1910. This organization is open to women 18 years and older who can trace their ancestors to being a resident of Colorado before August 1, 1876. This organization preserves the pioneer history of Colorado.

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Explore Fremont County:

While visiting the Rudd Cabin at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum, can you name the musical instrument in the cabin? _____ What is sitting in the corner on the right that pioneer women used to make clothes? _____

Railroads



Building the railroad Hanging Bridge in the Royal Gorge; 1879.

Activity:

Railroads always run on exact time schedules. Knowing when the train arrives is important. No one wants to miss the train. Can you read this 1896 Denver & Rio Grande Railway Time Chart and answer the questions below?

What times do the No. 7 Pacific Express, the No. 3 Leadville Express, and the No. 25 Way Freight Train arrive in Cotopaxi?

No. 7 arrives at _____; No. 3 arrives at _____ and No. 25 arrives at _____.

If you had to be in Parkdale (Park Dale) before 3 o'clock which train, would you have to take?

How many trains stops are between the Beaver Station (east side of Fremont County) and the Swissvale Station (at the west side of the county)? _____

What time would you have to be at the Texas Creek Station to meet the No. 25 Way Freight train? _____

Fremont County has a lot of rocky land and a deep canyon, which made it hard for early settlers to travel and move goods across the area. But when a railroad was built from 1873 to 1880, it became much easier to send local goods—like fruits, vegetables, cattle, and coal—to other parts of the country. Railroads helped many towns grow, including those in Fremont County. Two big railroad companies; the Denver and Rio Grande Western, the Atchinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe, had railroad tracks in the area.

Note times were written without using a colon (:).

Denver & Rio Grande Railway.					
Trains Between Denver and Leadville.					
STATIONS.		FROM DENVER.			
	Miles	No. 7. Pacific Express D.	No. 3. Leadville Express D.	No. 25. Way Freight S. E.	No. 23. Way Freight S. E.
Denver .....	.....	7.40	8.20	*	*
Pueblo	N 119.6	12.15	1.10	*	*
		12.35	1.25	8.20	.....
Goodnight	124.3	12.45	1.37	8.43	.....
Meadows	129.5	12.56	1.48	9.10	.....
Swallows	D 135.0	1.10	2.03	9.45	.....
Carlile	140.0	1.21	2.15	10.10	.....
Beaver	N 143.0	1.28	2.22	10.30	.....
Thompson	143.9	1.30	2.24	10.35	.....
Florence	D 152.5	1.50	2.45	11.20	.....
Reno	156.5	1.58	2.54	12.05	11.45
Canon City	N 160.6	2.07	3.05	12.25	.....
Canon Junction	162.4	2.10	3.08	1.00	.....
Gorge	165.4	2.23	3.12	1.10	1.27
Park Dale	D 170.7	2.38	3.37	2.00	2.38
Spike Buck	176.4	2.52	3.52	3.15	.....
Echo	181.0	3.03	4.04	3.37	.....
Texas Creek	N 185.6	3.15	4.16	4.00	.....
Cotopaxi	D 192.7	3.33	4.37	4.40	.....
Vallie	199.2	3.50	4.53	5.08	.....
Howards	D 204.5	4.03	5.08	5.35	.....
Badger	206.8	4.08	5.13	5.45	.....
Swissvale	210.0	*	*	*	.....
Cleora	214.4	4.27	5.35	6.20	.....
Salida	N 216.5	4.32	5.40	6.30	*



Fun Fact:

Edwin Lobach of Florence is in this famous photo of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at the "Golden Spike" Ceremony in 1869.

Explore Fremont County:

Fremont County still has some of its old trains stations, including the old Denver & Rio Grande stations in Cañon City and Florence (now the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance Office and the Florence Senior Community Center). Visit and take a selfie in front each one!

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Transportation

Early settlers to Fremont County arrived here by horse drawn wagons. Over time the means of traveling to our region has changed from wagons and stagecoaches to steam powered trains and automobiles. Eventually people used gas powered cars, buses, and even planes to get here.

Each local community at one point had livery stables and blacksmith shops to take care of their horses and wagons. Later train stations, bus depots, airports, and automobile garages and gas stations replaced them.

What new type of transportation do we have available now that does not need gas but still needs charging?



Chandler, Rockvale & Coal Creek Stage Bus; ca. 1925

Activity:

Can you date these types of transportation? Which one was taken in 1880, 1917, 1946, and 1989?

1) _____



2) _____



3) _____



4) _____



Fun Fact:

Did you know that in 1899, an electric streetcar line between Florence and Cañon City was being planned? Unfortunately, the line never got built because there was no easy route and no money to construct it.

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Explore Fremont County:

Can you complete this digital scavenger hunt and find these old local auto repair shops using Google Maps? Take a screen shot of what is at those locations now.

Standard Oil Garage - 701 Main St., Cañon City
Vendetti's Auto Repair - 208 W. Main St., Florence
Fremont Townsite Co. - 209 Broadway St., Penrose
Cotopaxi Garage - 20180 US Hwy 50, Cotopaxi

COAL Mining



Miners at the Canfield Coal Mine; ca. 1890.

Fremont County had many coal mines in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Coal mining was a dangerous job. Miners worked 12 to 14 hours a day for only \$2.00 or \$2.50 a day. Many of the miners were immigrants from other countries like Ireland, England, Slovenia, and Italy. Coal companies set up company towns around the coal mine and provided workers and their families with housing, grocery stores, cafes, and schools.

Activity:

Can you find all 10 county mines in this word search?



The towns of Chandler, Rockvale, Williamsburg, and Coal Creek were all originally company built towns.

Fun Fact:

Some mines in Fremont County had funny names like Drunken Monkey Mine, Peacock Mine, and Cuckoo Mine. The Corley Mine had 60 - 65 men working around the clock and averaged 300 tons of coal a day.

Words to Find:

Bear Gulch	Nu-Shaft
Caldirola	Rockvale
Coal Creek	Twin Pines
Corley	Vento
Double Dick	Williamsburg

Explore Fremont County:

Visit the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center and check out their lighted coal mine map and do the "Build Your Own Mine" activity. The museum is located at 100 E. Front Street in Florence and is open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

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OIL: BLACK GOLD

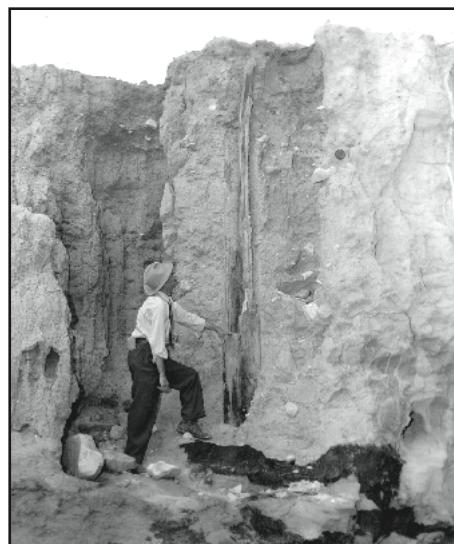
In 1860, early settler Gabriel Bowen discovered an oil seep along 4-Mile Creek north of Cañon City. Only one year earlier the first oil well in the country was drilled in Pennsylvania.

Bowen's well was the first oil well to be drilled west of the Mississippi River!

Oil was used for lamp oil, heating oil, and for oiling machines and wagon axles.

Oil was discovered in Florence a couple of years later. The Florence Oil Fields produced more oil than Bowen's on 4-Mile Creek.

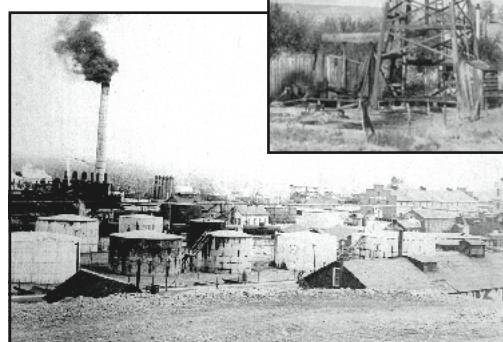
In 1889, well number 42 in Florence was drilled and is the **oldest continuous commercial oil well in the world!** It has produced more than 1,000,000 barrels of oil.



Prof. Kessler standing at site of oil seep along Four Mile Creek; ca. 1950.



Right: Florence Oil Well No. 16; ca. 1920.



Above: Florence Oil Refinery; 1920.

Activity:

Circle which items are made from oil/petroleum.

Crayons

Trash Bags

Peanut butter

Paper Envelopes

Roller Skates

Toilet Seats

Tires

Footballs

Asphalt

Shampoo

Popcorn

Toothbrushes

Fun Fact:

Native Americans knew about the oil seeps in the region before. They used the oil as body paint and as a healing ointment.

Explore Fremont County:

Visit the historical marker for the "Oldest Oil Field in the West," and take your own picture of it! The marker is located in front of the Florence City Hall Building at 600 West 3rd Street (Colorado Route 115) just to the right of the front entrance by the old St. Joseph's Hospital wing of the building.

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Ranching

What is the difference between ranching and farming?

Ranching is the raising of animals like cows, sheep, and horses. Farming is the growing of crops like corn, wheat, and vegetables. Both are part of agriculture, which is working with plants and animals to produce food.

In Fremont County, ranching became popular after the Civil War in 1865. Ranchers had thousands of cows that roamed the land, called the “Open Range.”



How did they know whose cows were whose?

They used brands—special marks burned onto the cow’s skin. Each rancher had their own brand, like a logo, that they filed with the state. Brands were put on the cow’s hip, side, or shoulder. Horses and even sheep could be marked too. Sheep were marked with paint!

Activity:

Draw Your Brand In The Space Below

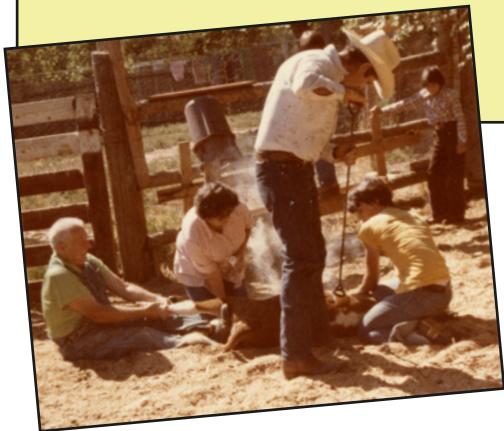
Bonus Activity:

Make your own brand potato stamp

What you will need:

An adult helper with a small knife
A potato
Paper towel
Paint & Paper

Ask an adult to help you cut the potato in half and to carve your design on the flat cut side. Dry the carved design with a paper towel. Dip the carved side into some paint and press the paint side onto a piece of paper.



Cattle branding in Lincoln Park; ca. 1979.

Fun Fact:

Did you know Fremont County has several Centennial Ranch's? These are ranches that the same family has lived on for 100 years or more! These include: Griffin Ranch, Green Ranch, Chess-Shoemaker Ranch, Ross Ranch, and Bunten Orchard. To learn more visit: www.historycolorado.org/centennial-farms-ranches

Explore Fremont County:

Above are some examples of local cattle brands from the Brand Board at the corner of 5th and Main Streets in Cañon City. Visit the Brand Board and count the number of brands listed. _____

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Agriculture

When people think of agriculture, they often picture animals like cows and horses or crops like wheat and corn.

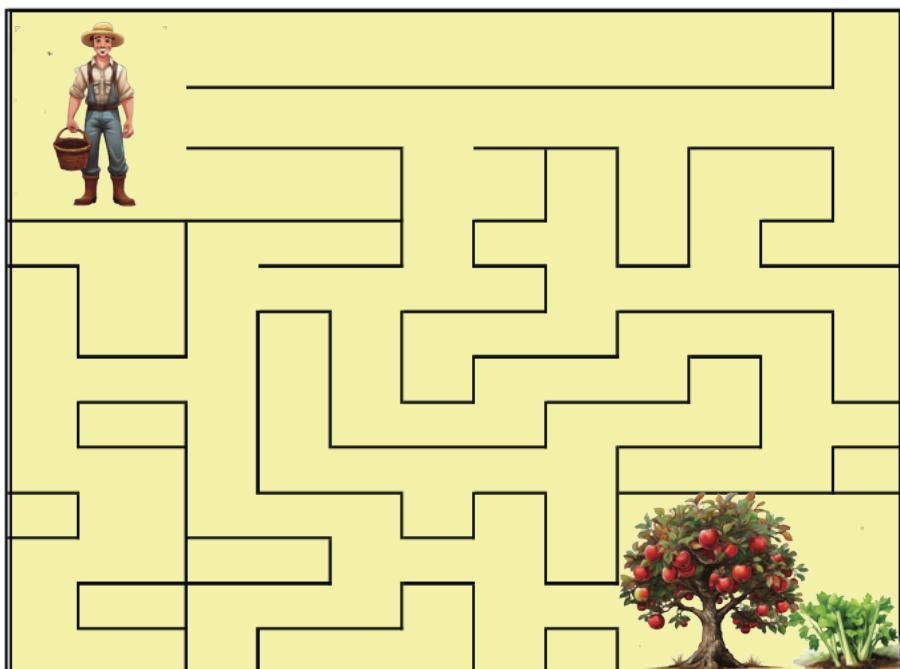
In the early 1860s, agriculture in Fremont County was much more than that!

In 1862, the first orchard was planted between Cañon City and Florence. Farmers like Jesse Frazier, W. C. Catlin, Anson Rudd, and W. A. Helm began growing apple trees in the Cañon City, Florence and Penrose.

Farmers also grew cherries, pears, plums, grapes, and berries. They sent their fruit to mining camps all over the Colorado Territory—and later, on the railroad, to other parts of the country.

Activity:

Can you help this farmer find his apples & celery?



Fun Fact:

Explore Fremont County:

Fremont County has many small family farms that still grow locally grown fruits and vegetables, like Happy Apple Farm in Penrose, Colon Orchards, Our Backyard, and Stately Farms in Cañon City just to name a few. Visit one or grow your own vegetable garden and take a selfie with some locally grown produce.



Left: Apple Tree planted in Beaver Park; ca. 1910.

Below: Local grown celery; ca. 1940.



Vegetables were important, too! Celery was a big deal and grew well in Cañon City. Lettuce, potatoes, green beans, and other cool-weather veggies grew well in the higher parts of western Fremont County. Some farmers even raised flowers like carnations and peonies to sell!

Bonus Activity:

Bobbing for Apples!



Fill a large bowl with water and add a few apples. The apples will float to the top. Take turns trying to grab an apple using only your teeth - no hands allowed!

For another variation hang the apples from string and see who can bite one first!

In 1920, Fremont County had over 165,000 apple trees and over 67,000 cherry trees! That same year 90 varieties of apples were grown here including the Colorado Orange Apple.

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Prison Industries



Inmates working in the Tag Plant; 1934.

The first prison in Colorado, known as the Colorado Territorial Prison, opened in 1871 in Cañon City. The penitentiary has been home to many prison industries. Opened in the early 1920's, all of Colorado's license plates, known as tags, are made by inmates. Other states have license plates made here including Wyoming and South Dakota. Prisoners even make custom license plates.



Birdseye View of State Prison; ca. 1898.



Design your own Colorado License Plate!



Explore Fremont County:

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Visit the Museum of Colorado Prisons and learn more about the Prison Industries, past and present. Right by the front gates, you will see license plate racks from the old tag plant!

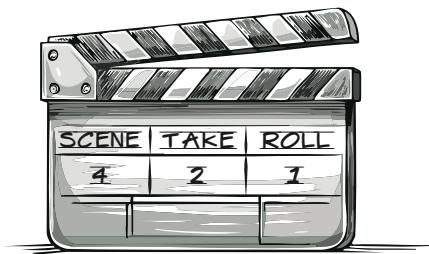
Movies

In the 1910s, Fremont County became a great place for filming silent western movies. Our mountains and mild sunny climate proved to be exactly what audiences wanted to see in western movies. In those days, films lasted only 13 - 15 minutes and were shown in theaters to the accompaniment of someone playing a piano or other instrument.

Many more movies or “talkies” (films with sound) had scenes filmed in this area including *Cat Ballou* (1965), *The Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox* (1976) and *Our Souls at Night* (2017).



The Colorado Motion Picture Company cast and crew in Cañon City; 1914.



A scene from the silent movie Pirates of the Plains filmed in Fremont County in 1914, starring Josephine West, Joe Ryan, and Bud Chase.



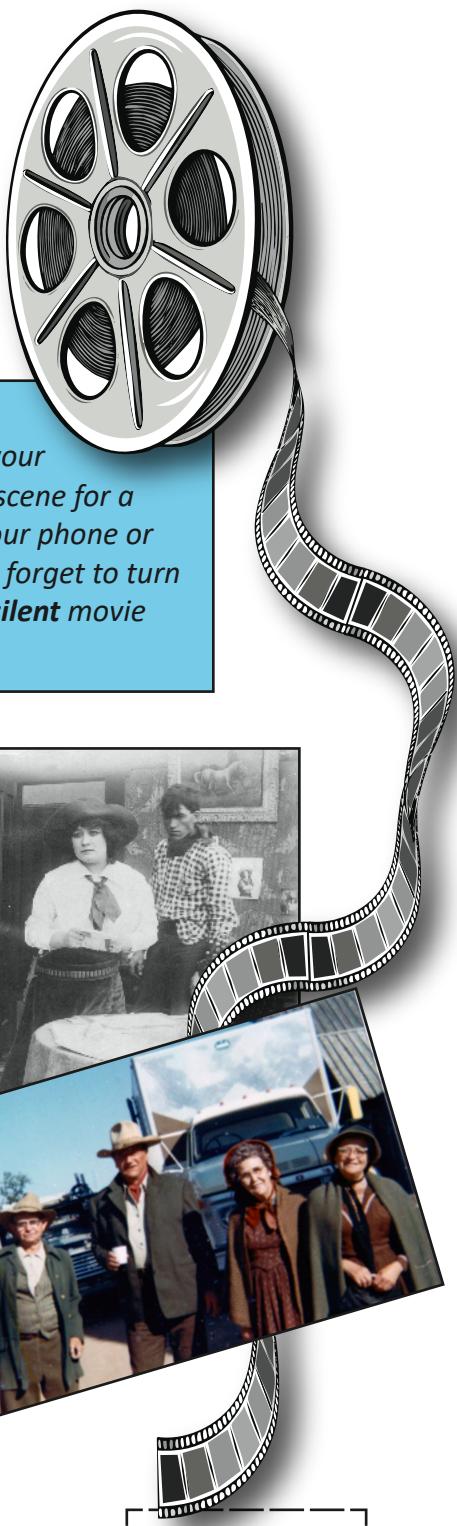
Actor John Wayne with movie extras on location at Buckskin Joe for the movie, The Cowboys.

Fun Fact:

In 1958, an old western town named Buckskin Joe, was built near the Royal Gorge as a movie set and a tourist attraction. It was a film location for the movie The Cowboys, Mr. Majestyk, and The Brothers O'Toole.

Explore Fremont County Movie History:

Go to your local library and check out a DVD of a movie filmed in Fremont County like “Vengeance Valley” or “The Cowboys” starring John Wayne. Can you tell which scenes were filmed in Fremont County?



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The Royal Gorge

Just west of Cañon City, the Arkansas River passes through the world-famous Royal Gorge! It was once known as the “Grand Canyon of the Arkansas.” The walls are made of ancient igneous rocks like Precambrian gneiss, schist, and granite.

It was formed by a combination of geologic uplift and erosion. The Royal Gorge is over 1,000 feet deep!



Activity:

Build your own suspension bridge!



MATERIALS NEEDED:

String or yarn
Popsicle sticks or straws
Tape
Coins

Use string for the “cables” and attach them to something sturdy, like the backs of two chairs. Then, tape the popsicle sticks or straws across the strings to make the bridge deck.

Once your bridge is built, carefully add coins to see how much weight it can hold—just like real engineers test their bridges!

Wonder View at the Gorge, 1918.

Royal Gorge Park was established in 1906 and was a popular place for people to go and picnic.

In 1929 the Royal Gorge Bridge was constructed. It took about 80 men, and seven months to complete. It was, at the time, the world’s highest suspension bridge! It held that record from 1929 until 2001!



Royal Gorge Bridge Construction; 1929

Fun Fact:

Every minute of every day the Royal Gorge continues to get a little deeper because the rushing water of the river slowly wears away the rocks, carving the land like nature's giant sculptor.

It is still the highest bridge in America! The bridge is 1,260 feet long, 18 feet wide, is 956 feet above the Arkansas River and is made of 1,257 wooden planks. It can even withstand winds up to 125 miles per hour and is designed to hold over 2 million pounds!

Explore Fremont County:



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Visit the Royal Gorge Park and bring a picnic or hike Tunnel Drive to get a glimpse of the “Grand Canyon of the Arkansas”. Do not forget to take a selfie.

Grizzly Bears

In the late 1800s, ranchers in Fremont and Park County had a big problem. A huge grizzly bear was wandering onto their land and killing their animals. The ranchers tried everything to stop it - strong fences, traps, guns, and even poison—but the smart bear always got away.

One man named Jacob Radcliff was hurt badly by the bear and sadly passed away. Before he died, he warned his friends, “Boys, don’t hunt that bear!”

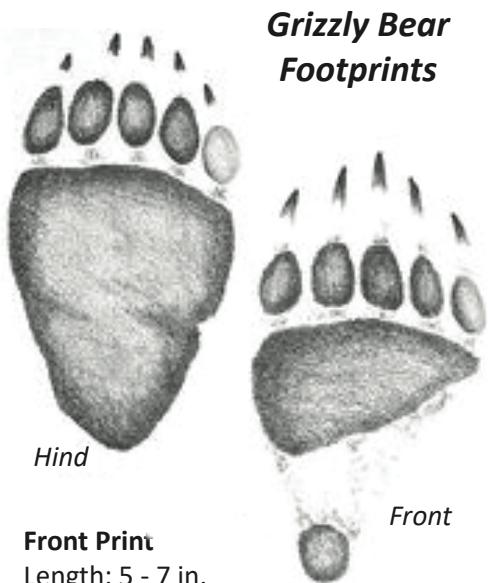
The story of this giant bear became famous, and many people were afraid. Then, in 1904, two hunters and their dogs finally found the bear and killed it.

People called her Old Mose, even though it sounded like a boy’s name. She was huge—about 9 feet long and weighed nearly 1,000 pounds!



John Anthony (right) & Wharton Pigg (left) with Old Mose; 1904.

Activity:



Grizzly Bear Footprints

Draw or paint your own bear paw on either a large piece of paper or a flat rock. Use the measurements shown to make it the right size. Then place your hand on top and trace it over the Grizzly Bear footprint. Wow! Make up a name for your bear.

Today, there are no more wild grizzly bears in Colorado. The only kind of bear that still lives here is the **black bear**. Even though they are called “black” bears, they can actually be black, brown, or even cinnamon colored! Black bears are smaller and not as aggressive as grizzly bears, but they are still wild animals and should be treated as such. In the spring they sometimes come out of hibernation and into town to find food.

Hind Print:

Length: 9 - 12 in.
Width: 13 - 18 in.

Explore Fremont County:

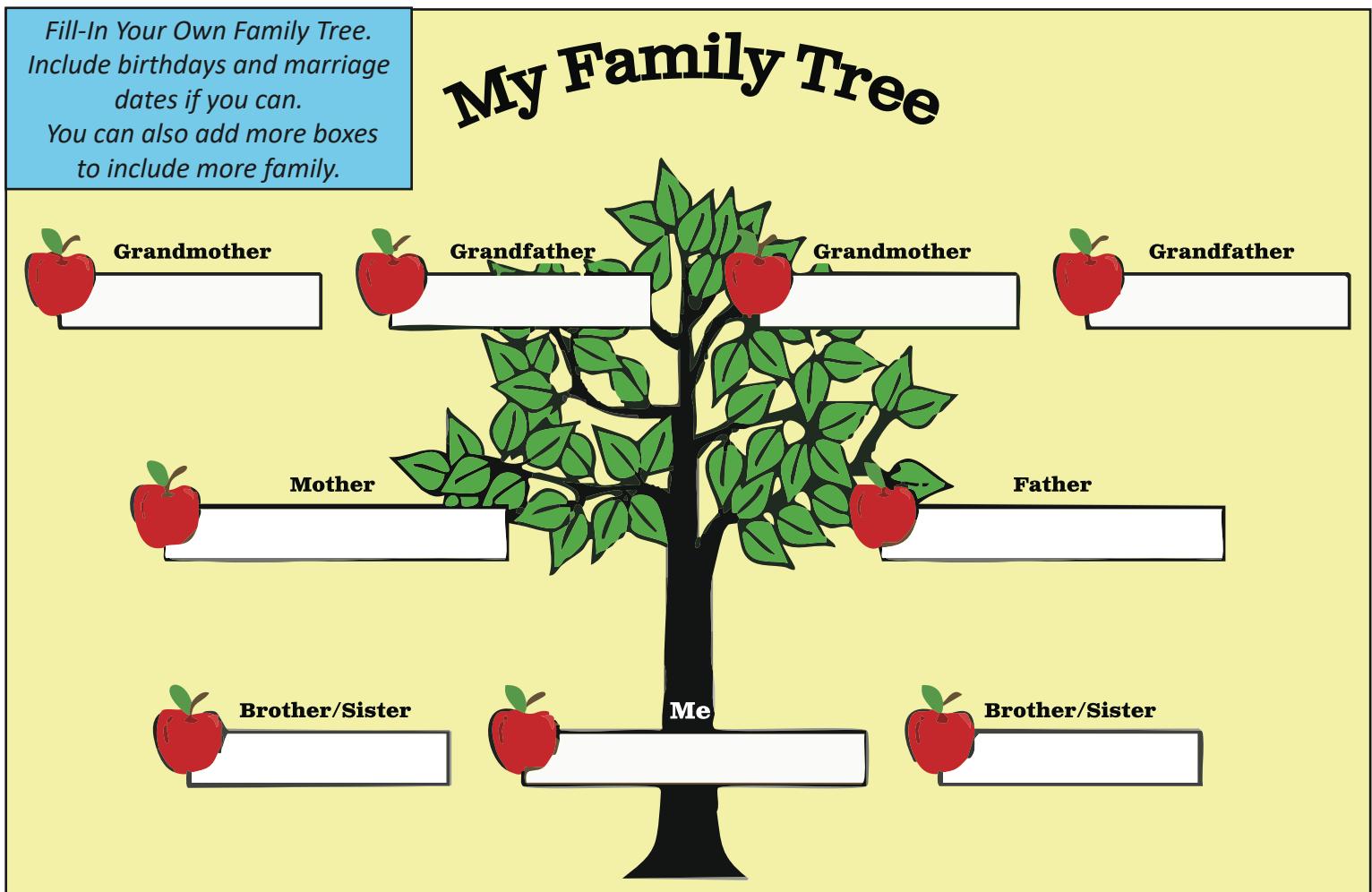
Take a road trip north on Highway 9, then turn onto Tallahassee Road (County Road 2). As you head west toward Salida, you’ll pass places like Black Mountain, the IM Ranch, and the Stirrup Ranch—these are the same places where the famous bear Old Mose once roamed! When you are back in Cañon City, don’t forget to stop at the corner of 3rd and Main Streets to see a mural of Old Mose on the side of the building and take a cool selfie!

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keeping Your Story

History is not just about what happened in our county, state, or country. All of us have a past that is a piece of your community's history. You can do your part in keeping your own family's story that can be passed down to the next generation. One thing you can do is take photos of your family or friends, your house, or any interesting event you go to. Save the photos in a family tree file on your device with names and dates. You can also keep a written diary or record or video someone in your family telling about what it was like when they were a kid.

Activity:



Fun Fact:

1 in 40 Americans can trace their family back to a veteran of the Revolutionary War. That is 7.2 million people in the United States with an ancestor who fought in the War for Independence!

Explore Fremont County:

There are no Revolutionary War veterans buried in Fremont County, however there is one War of 1812 veteran, Milby Smith buried in Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery at 1227 S. 1st St. (Co Rd 3) in Cañon City. Check out one of the local cemeteries. What is the oldest grave that you can find?

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Preserving Our History

History is all around us, from the historic buildings along our Main Street to the older homes in our neighborhoods. Some of the signs or monuments mark notable events or features of the past.



Fremont County National Bank at 532 Main St.

There are many ways to keep the history of Fremont County alive.



Historic Marker at Florence's City Hall.

Everyone can help to protect our community's history by visiting a local museum, checking out a library book about a historical person, or reading an historical marker or informational panel you find on a hike or a walk downtown. You can even take photos of your favorite historic building or house. You can find more information on these building by visiting the local museums & archives.

Activity:

Can you match these local historic buildings with their names?



St. Cloud Hotel



Holy Cross Abbey



Old Florence High School



Cañon City State Armory

Fun Fact:

There are over twenty-five historical markers, interpretative panels, and signs that mark historic events and people throughout Fremont County.

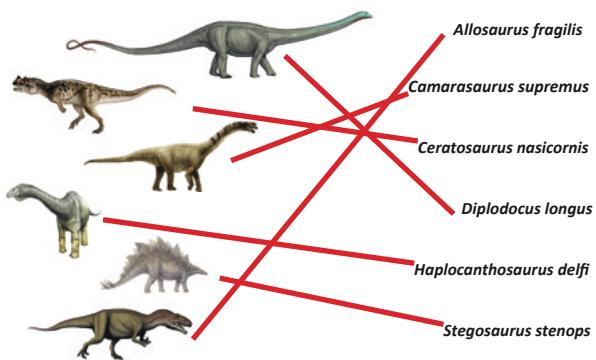
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Explore Fremont County:

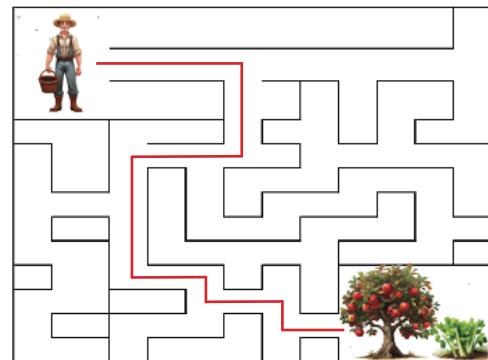
Stop by the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance Depot or the Florence Chamber of Commerce Office to get a list of all the named local historical sites in the county. Is your favorite building on the list? For an extra challenge, see if you can find three or more listed sites.

Answer key

Fossils - Page



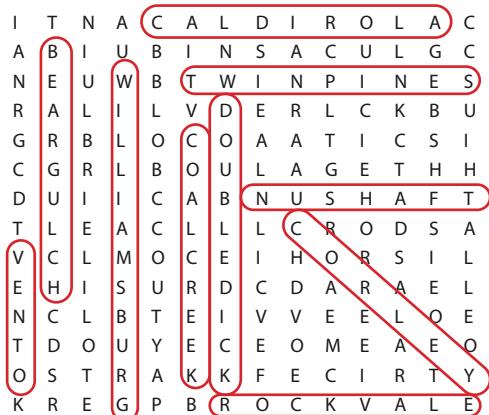
Agriculture - Page



Early Explorers - Page

- 1) Hardscrabble Settlement
- 2) 12 Camps
- 3) Pierre
- 4) 1844
- 5) Captain Bell

Coal Mining - Page



Border Between Nations - Page

C A N O N C I T Y
X M R W R X Z B D
(Means – canyon)

P U E B L O

J Q V I G W

(Means – town)

S A L I D A
— — — —
T M G Z Y M
(Means – exit)

L A J U N T A **G M E Q R B M** *(Means – joining)*

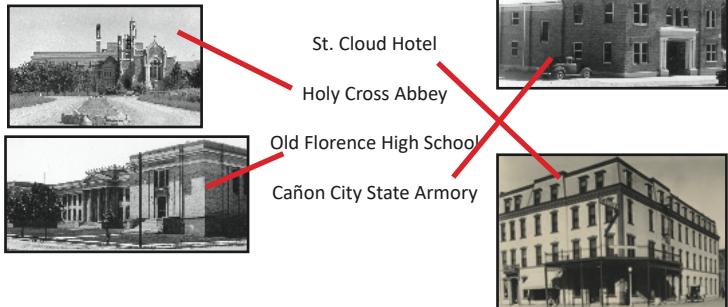
B U E N A V I S T A
— I Q V R M — H Z T B M
(Means – good view)

Photos Courtesy of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center

Railroads - Page

- 1) No. 7 - 3:33; No. 3 - 4:37 pm; and No. 25 - 4:40 pm.
- 2) No. 7 Pacific Express Train
- 3) 14 Train stops
- 4) Before 4:00 pm

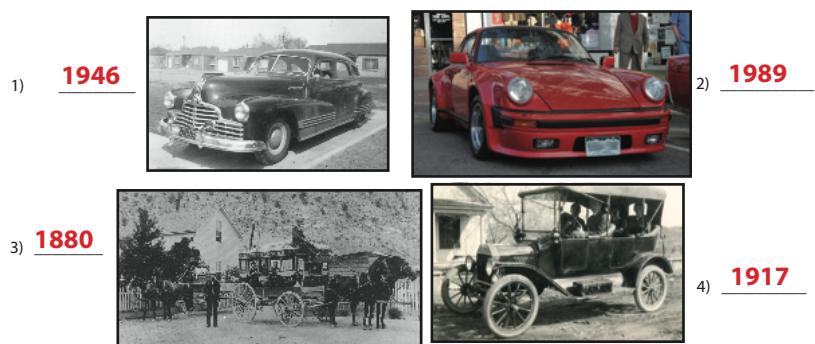
Preserving Our History - Page



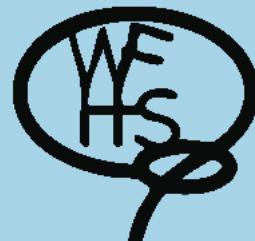
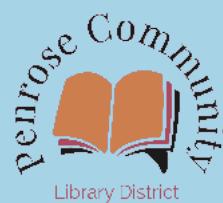
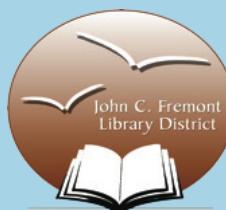
Oil: Black Gold - Page



Transportation - Page



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