

The History of Colorado



Individual Project 1

AD

US History 1 (Section 1)

So... Where are we again? Geography.

Colorado is the most perfectly rectangular state in the United States. It's found at the top right of the "four corners" – the only place in the United States that someone could stand in 4 states at once.

Colorado is most well known for being home to the Rocky Mountains. Many skiers and winter sports enthusiasts come from all over the country, attracted by the beauty and weather found in the Rockies.



George A. Jackman is credited with discovering Gold in the Chicago River. Contradictory to its name, the Chicago river runs through Idaho Springs, CO.



Though it is commonly referred to as the “Pikes Peak” gold rush, the gold wasn’t actually on Pikes Peak, but rather about 85 miles north. It was only named after Pikes Peak because of how well known it was.



As is consistent with any other gold rush we know of, miners came from far and wide hoping to strike it rich. Because of the time when the rush climaxed, 1859, the “rushers” were referred to as “Fifty-Niners.” The motto of the miners was “Pikes Peak or bust.”

...And then someone said, “Gold”

Until the Pikes Peak Gold Rush... no

Americans really came to the land now called Colorado. During the rush, though, many towns were built to serve the miners. Some of these towns have been restored and maintained, and are still running today. These include Golden, Boulder, and even Denver— the current capital of Colorado. The rapid population increase between about 1859 and 1861 led to the formation of more and more towns, settlement, and eventually statehood in 1876.

The name **Colorado** comes from the Spanish word for “Red.” Most directly, Colorado means, “Color Rojo.”



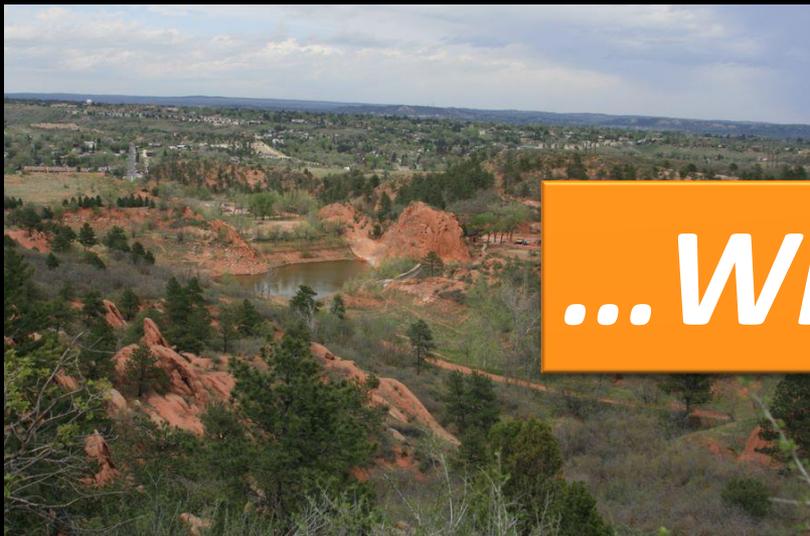
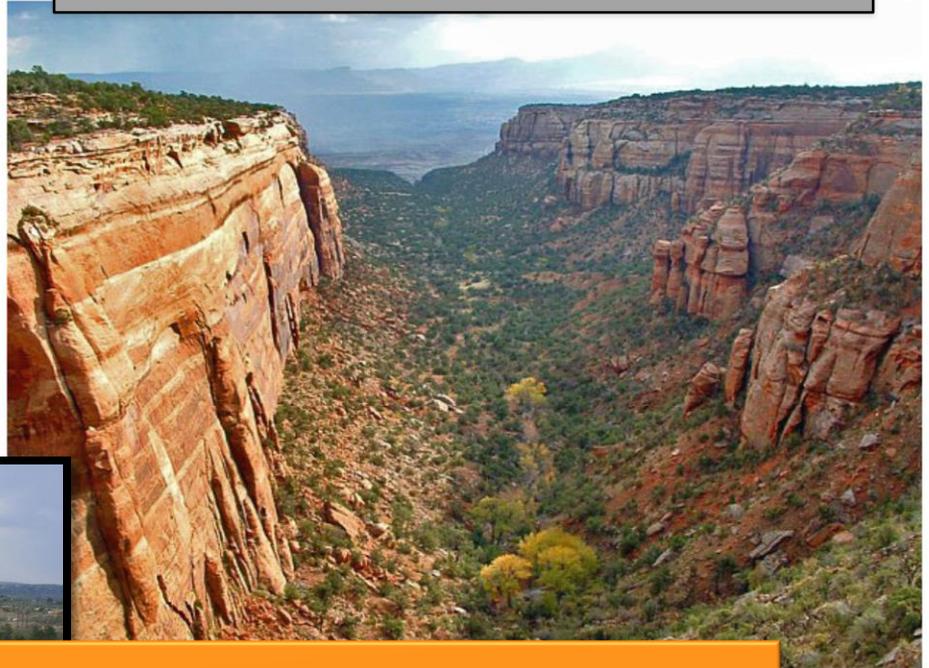
Modern Boulder, CO



Boulder, CO during/shortly after the gold rush.

Why Red?

Colorado is very red. Everything from the name of “Colorado” to the shopping centers, streets, amphitheaters, and more are named after “Red Rocks.”



...Why not Red?

The Colorado War

Was an armed conflict that took place from about 1863-1865. The Indian tribes Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Comanche, and Kiowa, were loosely allied against the United States.

There was one particularly memorable incident that occurred in the midst of this war. Commonly referred to as the Sand Creek Massacre, it was at first held as a success by the American Press, however it is now seen as a brutal act of genocide.

It was at first called the Battle of Sand Creek, but as more and more details of what really went on surfaced, it changed to the Massacre of Sand Creek. The massacre was an attack of approximately 700 American men on an Indian village. The attack appears to have led to around 130-160 Indian deaths, around 2/3 of which were women and children. To make matters worse, it seems that most of the killings were coupled with mutilations.



The Family of the Indian chief at the time of Sand Creek Massacre

The Colorado Territory was an organized, American Territory founded immediately after and as a result of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, in 1861, and lasted until 1876.

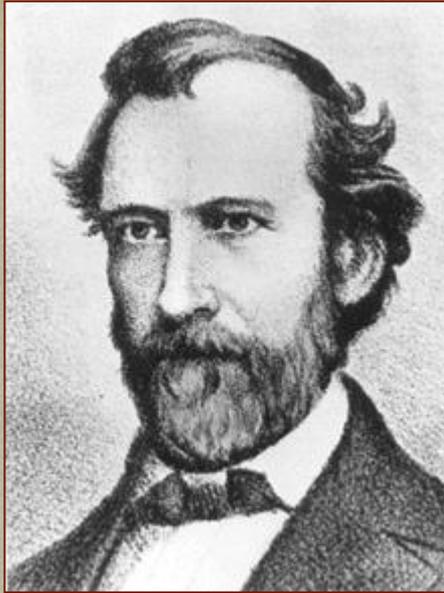


William Gilpin was the first governor of the Colorado Territory. He was a former Us Army Lieutenant Colonel, and was in office from 1861- 1862.

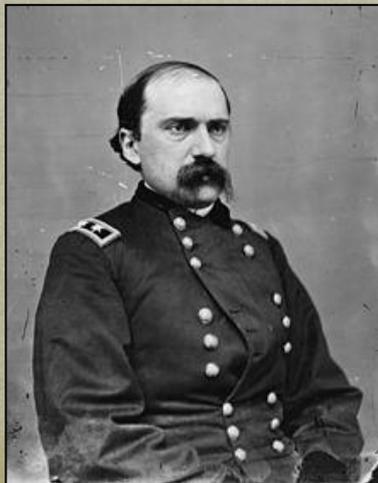
John Evans was in office as Colorado Governor from 1862-1865. He is most well known for being one of the founders of Northwestern University, and the main founder of University of Denver.



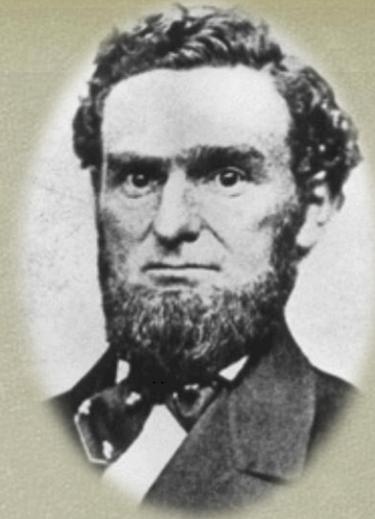
G
o
v
e
r
n
o
r
s



Alexander Cummings was the third governor of the Colorado Territory, serving from 1865-1867.



Edward McCook was in the Colorado Territory Governor's office from 1869-1873.



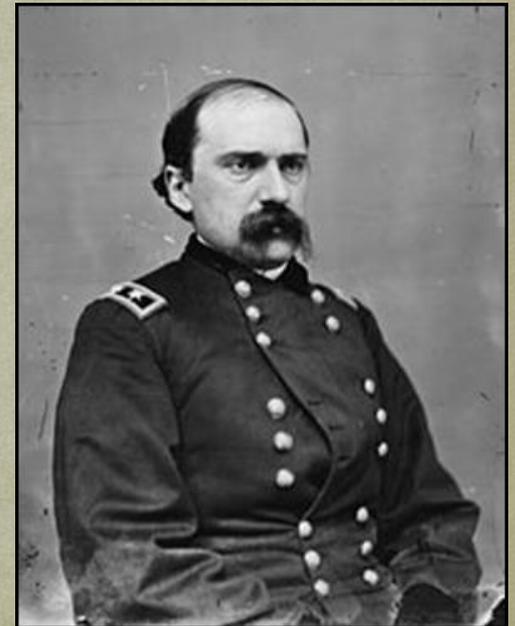
Alexander Hunt was the fourth governor of the Territory of Colorado, serving from 1867-1869. He is known to have taken part in both the California Gold Rush and the Pikes Peak Gold Rush.

G
o
v
e
r
n
o
r
s



Samuel Hitt Elbert's term as Colorado Territory Governor was from 1873-1874. The most interesting thing about him is that he was both preceded by and succeeded by Edward McCook.

Edward McCook served another term, this time lasting from 1874-1876. This was the last term ever to be served as Governor of the Colorado Territory, as Colorado gained statehood in 1876



Colorado was founded on August 1, 1876.



Colorado obviously wasn't one of the thirteen colonies, and therefore wasn't even a state until 100 years after the United States was a nation.

Thus the nickname, "Centennial State" is fitting.

Colorado's flag is red, white, blue, and yellow. While the symbolism is uncertain, it is commonly understood by Coloradans to represent the colors on our National flag, with the added yellow representing the sun that can be seen vividly from Colorado.



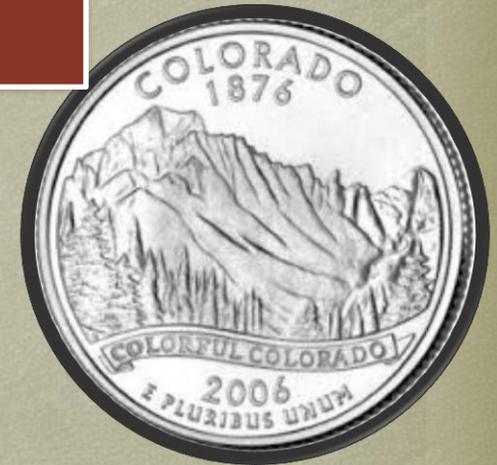
Fun Facts



State seal

The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep is Colorado's State Animal

Nil Sine Numine is Colorado's state motto, and means "Nothing without Providence," or, "Nothing without the deity."



Colorado's State Coin



Colorado's state flower is the Aquilegia Caerulea.

The History of Colorado



As shown by AD
Thanks for reading