

# Teacher's Guide for FACES

APRIL 2011: U.S. Rockies

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## Getting Ready

Post a large map of the United States and ask a student volunteer to trace the length of the Rocky Mountains. Have students share what they know about the Rocky Mountains and that geographical region of the United States. Then discuss the High 5 facts. In what other ways is the region special?

At a Glance:

Map work:

Have students work in groups of three or four to frame and answer a question using the map. Some possible questions are what are the major rivers of the Rockies and what states do they serve? What types of industry/resources does a particular state have? Where are the highest mountains or how many different mountain ranges make up the Rockies? What types of geographical landforms are present in the Rockies?

Critter Corner: The Last Living Symbol of the American West

Reading for Meaning/Making Connections with Known Facts:

1. What does it mean to be "the last living symbol"? Are there other animals that students associate with the American West?
2. How does being a non-native species affect the way mustangs are treated?
3. What did the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act do?
4. How has it been successful or not successful? Support your ideas with facts from the article.
5. Can you think of animals in your geographical region that raise some of the same questions of conservation and overpopulation, land use, and economic priorities that the mustangs do in the West?

Purple Mountain Majesties

Reading for information:

Divide students into pairs and assign each pair one or more paragraphs in the article. They should write on separate index cards 2-4 specific questions that have short answers on an index card. Then play a trivia game with the whole class, using the questions.

Pioneer Trek

Creative Writing:

Imagine you went on the pioneer trek with Brendon. Create a postcard illustrating one situation he might have encountered as a "pioneer" and then write a message about the situation to a good friend.

Wild, Wild Weather in the Wild, Wild West

Science Connection:

1. Illustrate in a diagram why the weather can be so different on the eastern and western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.
2. Diagram the formation of a hailstone or list the steps in its formation.
3. Explain how air convective currents cause lightning storms.

4. Research: What tools does a meteorologist use to predict the weather?

Growing Up in the U. S. Rockies and Dear Tommy

Writing an introductory letter:

Imagine that you have the opportunity to visit and stay overnight with Gabriella, Tommy's email pal this month, or one of the students who write about their lives in this article. Choose one, introduce yourself in a letter, and offer a plan for your overnight stay based on what you would like to do with them.

Hop Aboard the Montana Dino

Computer Research Skills:

1. Locate one of the mentioned museum sites on the computer.
2. Identify three important things about the museum.
3. Write an advertisement for the museum.
4. Students might like to post their advertisements on a map of the Dinosaur Trail for all to enjoy.

The Best Summer Job You'll Ever Have

Writing a Paragraph:

Write a short paragraph explaining why you agree or disagree with the premise of the article, that Youth Conservation Corp is the best summer job for kids. You may want to describe your ideal summer job if you disagree.

Nothing to Hide

Thinking about Writing:

1. How do the title and the first paragraph of the article get you interested in the subject?
2. How do the interrogative sub-headings (Got Something to Prove? Is There Anybody out There?) work in the article?
3. What do you like or dislike about the final paragraph of the article?
4. What special techniques would you use to encourage someone to begin reading an article? To keep them reading?

Death of a Mining Town

Math Connection:

1. Figure out what percentage of local Leadville citizens lost their jobs when the Climax Molybdenum Company shut down.
2. Find out the current unemployment rate and compare the two numbers.
3. Find out the current unemployment rate for five different cities and chart or graph them.

Homework Connection: Many town and cities face economic downturns. Ask your parents and neighbors if they can remember a time when many people in the community lost their jobs. What was the cause? Did their community work together the way Leadville did?

The Making of Legends and Roping, Riding, and Making Friends

Art:

Read these two articles and think about what attracts kids to each sport. Then create a poster advertising the sport.

Wrap-up:

Read the creation myth of Tsenska and Taweskare and discuss how it explains the geography of the Eastern and Western United States. Ask students how they would feel about living in the U.S. Rockies after reading this issue: would they be happy or reluctant to move there? Why?