



The Birth of a Rocky Mountain City and Railroad: Georgetown and the Loop Railroad

Author Andree Charlson
Grade Level 5
Duration 1 class period

ELL Adaptation by Gale Olp Ekiss

National Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Element 2: Places and Regions

4. The physical and human characteristics of places.

Element 4: Human Systems

9. The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on earth's surface.

12. The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement

Element 5: Environment And Society

14. How human actions modify the physical environment.

15. How physical systems affect human systems.

16. The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

Element 6: The Uses of Geography

17. How to apply geography to interpret the past

AZ Standards

ELA

Reading

Reading Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

5.RI.2 Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

Writing

Production and Distribution of Writing

5.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Arizona Social Science Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Examining human population and movement helps individuals understand past, present, and future conditions on Earth's surface.

5.G3.1 Use key historical events with geographic tools to analyze the causes and effects of environmental and technological events on human settlements and migration.

HISTORY

Cycles of conflict and cooperation have shaped relations among people, places, and environments.

5.H2.1 Use primary and secondary sources to summarize the causes and effects of conflicts, resolutions, and social movements throughout the historical timeframe.

Key conflicts can include but are not limited to cultural conflicts, political conflicts, economic conflicts, military conflicts, and conflicts related to resource use and availability

Patterns of social and political interactions have shaped people, places, and events throughout history and continue to shape the modern world.

5.H4.1 Use primary and secondary sources to describe how diverse groups (racial, ethnic, class, gender, regional, immigrant/migrant) shaped the United States' multicultural society within the historical timeframe.

SIOP Elements

Preparation

Adapting content

Scaffolding

Modeling

Grouping Option

Whole class

The Birth of a Rocky Mountain City and Railroad

Linking to background Linking to past learning Strategies used	Guided practice Independent practice Comprehensible input	Small groups Partners Independent
Integrating Processes Reading Writing Speaking Listening	Application Hands on Meaningful Linked to objectives Promotes engagement	Assessment Individual Group Written Oral

Arizona English Language Proficiency Standards

Grade 5

Basic

Listening and Reading

Standard 1 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can construct meaning from oral presentations and literary and informational text through grade appropriate listening, reading, and viewing.

B-1: determine the central idea (in informational text) and theme (in literary text) and explain how they are supported by key details.

B-2: recount a text including specific details and information.

B-4 utilize visual information to understand the text

Speaking and Writing

Standard 3 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can speak and write about grade appropriate complex literary and informational texts and topics.

B-3 compose informational text that includes details to develop a topic while using appropriate conventions.

B-5: use examples of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary within informative texts.

Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Standard 9 By the end of each language proficiency level, an English learner can create clear and coherent grade-appropriate speech and text.

B-1: apply understanding of how text types are organized in increasingly complex texts (e.g., how a story is organized when writing and speaking sequentially versus how an informative text is organized by topic and details versus how an opinion text is organized by opinion and supporting reasons).

B-2: apply understanding of how ideas, events, or reasons are linked throughout a text by using frequently occurring linking words and temporal words when writing and speaking.

Overview

This lesson demonstrates how and why a city evolves. It is the story of the historic city of Georgetown, Colorado, located on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

Purpose

In this lesson, students will learn how humans use, adapt to and modify natural elements that define regions in the United States.

Key Vocabulary

miner - person who works a mine in order to find valuable metals

boom - town grows

bust – town becomes smaller

wagon roads – roads used by wagons

pass – A way through the mountains where people and goods can go

loop – railroad tracks that circle higher and higher through the mountains

Materials

- The Birth of a City and Railroad in the Rocky Mountains (Reading A or B)

The Birth of a Rocky Mountain City and Railroad

- The United States Map (with state names)
<https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/US-NAMES.pdf>
- Star Stickers
- Writing Prompts (A, B, C, or D)
- Building of a Railroad PowerPoint
- Map of Georgetown Loop (optional)
<https://www.georgetownlooprr.com/about-the-loop/>
- Vocabulary Cards
- Computer, Projection Device, Internet

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Write informational text concerning a geographical and historical topic.
- Explain how man modifies his environment.
- Explain how the physical environment impacts man.

Procedures

Prior to the Lesson: This lesson comes with two readings and a variety of assessments. Choose the ones that best fit your students.

1. Brainstorm reasons why towns/cities grew in the places that they did. **(Preparation: Linking to past learning)**. Bisbee, Arizona is an excellent example of a town that was built because of rise and fall of the copper mining industry. Morenci and Jerome are other examples. Today's lesson looks at the rise and fall of Georgetown, Colorado, in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

2. Discuss the physical features of the Rocky Mountains by showing students pictures of the Rocky Mountains from Google Images (Rocky Mountains) and having them point out the different physical features that they see.

https://www.google.com/search?q=rocky+mountain&tbm=isch&chips=q:rocky+mountain,g_1:colorado:clLdcPGdE_U%3D&client=firefox-b-1-d&hl=en-GB&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi3hZ6j_LLtAhXEAzQIHShHCO0Q4IYoAXoECAEQGw&biw=1421&bih=960

(Scaffolding: Comprehensible input, Grouping Option: Whole class)

3. Distribute a United States map and a star sticker to students and project the same map. **(Application: Hands-on)**. Model for the students where to place the star to show the location of Georgetown, Colorado, and then draw in the Rocky Mountains.

4. Discuss the altitude and weather conditions including the short spring and summer seasons

(Scaffolding: Comprehensible input) by showing pictures of the area using Google Images (Rocky Mountains Seasons).

https://www.google.com/search?q=rocky+mountain+seasons&client=firefox-b-1-d&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwja6oD89bLtAhWXIDQIHtuXAEQQ_AUoA3oECBMBQ&biw=1436&bih=960

(Scaffolding: Comprehensible input, Grouping Option: Whole class)

5. Read the Story "Birth of a Rocky Mountain City and Railroad" **(Integrating Processes: Reading)**.

Every time the words "Rocky Mountains" are said, the students will point on their map where they are located. **(Application: Promotes engagement)**

6. In small groups, discuss what life must have been like for an early prospector, and list the events that took place in the development of the city and railroad **(Integrating Processes: Speaking, Grouping Option: Small groups)**.

7. Discuss how man changed the natural environment of Colorado when building the railroad by showing the Building of a Railroad PowerPoint. **(Scaffolding: Comprehensible input, Grouping Option: Whole class)**

8. Explain the letter writing assignment and how it will be graded.

Assessment

Geography, History, and ELA

The writing assignment can be used to assess knowledge of geography and history and writing skills. Mastery will be considered 4 out of 6 in area of Ideas and Content using the Six-Trait Writing Rubric. **(Assessment: Written, Individual or Group)**

Extensions

Locate other mining towns in the Rockies and research one of them.

Research an Arizona mining town and compare it to Georgetown.

Sources

Georgetown, Colorado History
<http://www.georgetowncolorado.com>