

Getting Started with MapCO: Using the *Colorado's Geography: Mapping Our Past* website

Our project is in an “advanced” draft phase. It can be accessed from a link on the Hewitt Institute website (<http://www.unco.edu/hewitt>) or directly at: <http://www.unco.edu/hss/geography-gis/mapco/>. The **Student Projects** link will take you to the internet mapping exercises. The **Teacher Resources** link will take you to a page with pictures (and links) of the main categories: Connections to Standards, Boundaries, Environment, Population, Transportation, and Economy.

Example. If you click the **Population** section under Teacher Resources, you should see this:

Colorado's Geography
POPULATION

Home Student Projects Teacher Resources ▾ Frequently Asked Questions About

UNC > College of Humanities and Social Sciences > Geography and GIS > Colorado's Geography - Mapping Our Past > Stud

Population

Population Growth Before 1900

Essential Concepts

A key concept throughout these Activities (and those of the "After 1900" set below) is that Colorado's population has gone through periods of rapid growth and periods of stagnation or decline because of its traditional boom-bust economy. In Activity PE-1, students look at the earliest town development in the state, after the Gold Rush. Activity PE-2 shows the explosive growth of the 1880s and contrasts it to the period of stagnation of the 1890s that followed the 1893 Silver Panic.

Download the "Population Growth Before 1900" Conceptual Overview (with answer key) for more information.

Student Worksheets

- Worksheet PE-1 Early Population Growth
- Worksheet PE-2 Late 19th Century Growth

Internet Mapping Activities

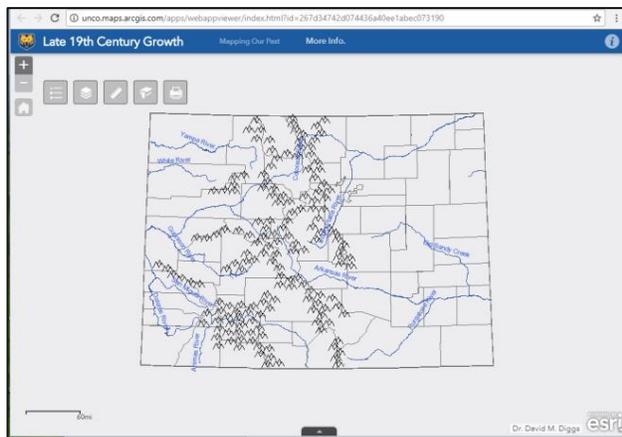
- Activity PE-1 Early Population Growth
- Activity PE-2 Late 19th Century Growth

“Population Growth Before 1900” is one of the 16 MapCO activities. Its *Conceptual Overview* includes both the exercise (with Keys) and an overview of the topic’s main learning outcomes.

Using the internet mapping interface

Under the *Student Worksheets* section, click *Worksheet PE2 Late 19th Century Growth*. Download the exercise sheet (or it may open in its own tab). For now, worksheets are in MS Word. Click (or CTRL click) on the **Late 19th Century Growth: Activity PE-2** link. You will get a “Splash” screen about UNC (we’re thinking about eliminating this). Click OK to dismiss the screen.

This activity starts with a pretty simple map of Colorado counties, major mountain ranges, and major rivers (left). For simplicity we’ve included only a small number of tools (called widgets).



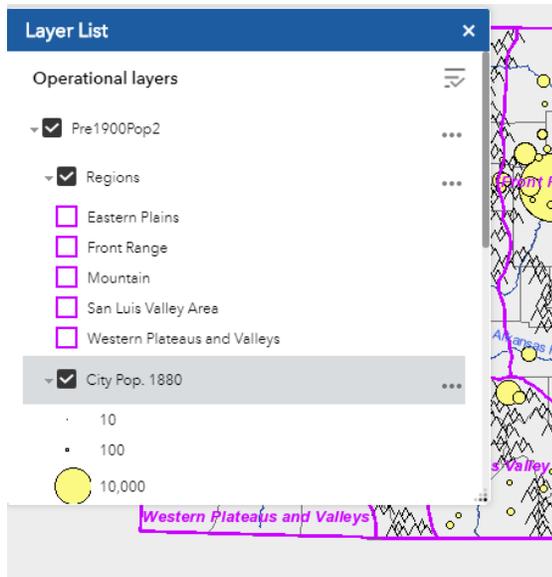
The **Legend** widget is self-explanatory. If a layer is Checked On in the layers section, then its symbol(s) will show up in the Legend.



The **Layer List** widget is where you turn map layers off and on. Note that this one FIRST looks like this when clicked:

However, if we **click the little expand arrow next to the Pre1900Pop2 layer** (and click the expand arrows on individual layers) then we can check on numerous other layers AND see the symbol for those layers.





The Layer List is the only widget that is just a bit less than intuitive. The widget can be used both for turning layers on and off, AND for showing the legend.

Other widgets are pretty obvious to the casual user: a  Measurement tool, a  Print tool and a bookmarks widget , which takes you to predetermined zoom in locations. At the bottom of the screen you'll see the Open Attribute Table tool . Click that and the table(s) for the various layers will become available (sample below).

OBJECTID	Shape	NAME	Shape_Length	Shape_Area
1		San Luis Valley Area	590679.8555439216	21041425158.047913
2		Front Range	796061.0497129383	26449492776.36264
3		Eastern Plains	1353607.0778064209	94263629653.04268
4		Western Plateaus and Valleys	1548865.9943511125	64079313362.35236

5 features 0 selected

Overall—we've deliberately made the interface as simple as possible, and with the minimum number of tools (widgets). Individual exercises go into more detail on using some of the tools. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the tools and explore the different activities. Each one starts with an opening map featuring the layers needed for the first step of each activity.