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| Title of Unit | Colorado Population Growth Before 1900 | | Grade Level | Upper Elementary (4th-6th) |
| Curriculum Area | technology, geography, history, economics, population | | Time Frame | 2-3 days |
| Developed By | Melody Parker for the University of Northern Colorado | |  | |
| Identify Desired Results (Stage 1) | | | | |
| Content Standards | | | | |
| **Social Studies Academic Standards**  Students know how to use and construct maps and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.  Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict.  Students apply knowledge of people, places, and environments to understand the past and present and to plan for the future.  **4th grade Social Studies Standard 1: History**  Explain the cause-and-effect relationships in the interactions among people and cultures that have lived in or migrated to Colorado (DOK 1-2)  Identify and describe how major political and cultural groups have affected the development of the region (DOK 1-2)  Analyze various eras in Colorado history and the relationship between these eras and eras in the United States history, and the changes in Colorado over time (DOK 1-3)  Describe interactions among people and cultures that have lived in Colorado (DOK 1-2)  **4th grade Social Studies Standard 2: Geography**  Answer questions about Colorado regions using maps and other geographic tools (DOK 1-2)  Use geographic grids to locate places on maps and images to answer questions (DOK 1-2) | | | | |
| Understandings | | | Essential Questions | |
| * Proportional symbols on maps can be used to identify population growth and decline * Colorado’s population has gone through periods of rapid grown and periods of stagnation or decline because of its traditional boom-bust economy * Colorado was founded on an economy based on mining and agriculture * Population data after 1870 for Colorado became increasingly dependable due to the beginning of a U.S. census | | | * What economic decisions caused people to locate in various regions of Colorado? * Why did people of various cultures migrate to and settle in Colorado? * In what ways have economic changes influenced Colorado’s population growth? * Which geographic tools are best to locate information about a place? * Why did settlements and large cities develop where they did in Colorado? * Why is it important to know the sequence of events in Colorado history? | |
| Knowledge  Students will know…… | | | Skills  Students will be able to…… | |
| * Native Americans were widespread in Colorado between 1800 and 1850 * The largest amount of growth in Colorado between 1880 and 1900 was in the Mountains, Front Range, and San Luis Valley regions. There was some growth in the Eastern Plains * Mining was a major source of economic growth and activity across Colorado * Denver was the largest town in Colorado from 1870 onward | | | * Identify population growth and decline by interpreting proportional symbol maps * Identify the role that the Front Range region played in the interactions of various Native American nations before 1900 * Describe how the U.S. census impacts reliable population data * Locate early settlements on a map of Colorado * Name the main economic factors that impacted population growth from 1860 to 1870 (mining) * Identify Denver and Leadville on a map, and name the populations of these towns * Describe changes in population between 1880 and 1890, and 1890 and 1900 in Colorado * Add layers to GIS maps * Analyze GIS map symbols * Write sentences to describe changes in population growth observed on GIS maps * Analyze patterns and themes across time periods | |
| Assessment Evidence (Stage 2) | | | | |
| Performance Tasks: T | | | Other Evidence: OE | |
| Lesson 1: MapCO Early Population Growth activity 1800-1870  Lesson 2: MapCO Early Population Growth activity 1870-1880  Lesson 3: MapCO Late 19th Century Growth activity 1880-1900 | | |  | |
| Activities | | | | |
| Lesson 1: MapCO Early Population Growth activity 1800-1870 | | Students will look at the earliest town development in Colorado, after the Gold Rush. ~30 minutes *(Can be combined with Lesson 2, but students may need time to get used to the mapping tool if this is their first experience with it. It may also be helpful to have the map displayed on a SmartBoard or projector for students to follow along with the steps).*  Materials:   * One computer for each student * One *Early Population Growth: 1870-1880* packet printed per student * Answer key for *Early Population Growth: 1870-1880* printed for teacher referral | | |
| Lesson 2: MapCO Early Population Growth activity 1870-1880 | | Students will continue to look at the earliest town development in Colorado, after the Gold Rush ~30 minutes  Materials:   * One computer for each student * One *Early Population Growth: 1880-1890* packet printed per student * Answer key for *Early Population Growth: 1880-1890* printed for teacher referral | | |
| Lesson 3: MapCO Late 19th Century Growth activity 1880-1900 | | Students will examine the explosive growth of the 1880s and contrast it to the period of stagnation of the 1890s that followed the 1893 Silver Panic. ~1 hour  Materials:   * One computer for each student * One *Early Population Growth: 1880-1890* packet printed per student * Answer key for *Early Population Growth: 1880-1890* printed for teacher referral | | |
| Possible Extensions: | | * Economics: Colorado’s boom-bust pattern is further explored in the *Population Growth After 1900* activities * Writing: Write a story about a person moving to Colorado between 1880 and 1900. Describe why they moved to Colorado, what kind of home or shelter they built, and what the land looked like when they arrived. What challenges might they have faced? * Math: Find the population of three different towns in 1880, 1890, and 1900. Describe how the population changed in each of the towns between those decades (i.e. increased, decreased, remained the same). Calculate the change in population for each town between the decades. Challenge: calculate the percent change for each town between the decades (1880-1890 and 1890 to 1900). | | |
| Possible Accommodations: | | * Students work with a partner or one-on-one with a teacher to follow directions during the lesson | | |

From: Wiggins, Grant and J. McTighe. (1998). *Understanding by Design,* Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

**Answer Key: Early Population Growth Activity: 1800-1870**

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| **Step 1** | **Your Task** |

Open [***Early Population Growth***](http://unco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=63511ebc459d4df3b251f11b7e71b9ee) Activity PE-1. Right now, the Mountains, Rivers, and Current Counties layers are visible. Most of Colorado’s counties did *not* have these boundaries before 1900. (The current county lines are shown to make it easier for you to locate places).

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| After making your prediction, use the *Layer List* button to check on (make visible) the **Native Americans 1800-1850** and **Regions** layers.  Check off other layers. | **Population Before the Gold Rush**  Before checking on any layers, name the part(s) of the state where you think most of Colorado’s Native American population lived between 1800 and 1850:  Guide/help students to review the locations of major Native American nations in Colorado.  The Native Americans map shows the approximate range of each group from about 1800 to 1850. For each Native American group, list all of the Colorado Regions in which they lived:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Native American Groups** | **Colorado Regions** | | Shoshone | Northwestern corner of the Mountains and Western Plateaus and Valleys regions (also widespread in Wyoming) | | Ute | Mountains, Western Plateaus and Valleys, San Luis Valley regions (extensive), with reach into Front Range | | Arapaho and S. Cheyenne | Eastern Plains, Front Range, and small area in Mountains | | Kiowa & Comanche | Southeastern corner of Eastern Plains, with reach into parts of the southern Front Range and eastern San Luis Valley regions | |

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| **Step 2** | **Your Task** |
|  | Which Colorado region may have been a meeting ground for the Native American groups that spent most of their times in the Plains and Mountains?  \_\_\_\_\_\_Front Range\_\_\_ region  (a meeting ground for at least 3 nations)  Exact population numbers for the early 1800s for these Native American groups are not known. What might be some reasons to explain this?  Allow speculation, guiding students to understanding that the U.S. census was unable to accurately count the numbers in this territory at the time |
| **Step 3** | **Your Task** |
| Check OFF the **Native Americans 1800-1850** layer | **Population from the Gold Rush to 1870**  Before adding new layers, take a moment to predict where most of the Colorado Territory’s first towns were created after the Gold Rush began in 1858.  Name the Colorado region you think these were towns were in, and explain your choice:  \_\_\_\_\_Mountain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ region, because…  Students may identify the Mountains because of mining activities there. This could be a review of previous knowledge, or the Western Colorado Region activity |
| **Step 4** | **Your Task** |
| Now, Check ON the **City Pop. 1870** layer | Notice where most of the towns were in 1870. Does this match your prediction above? Circle one:  Yes No  Discuss responses  For each of the regions below, tell one reason that might explain why there were some towns established there very early in the Colorado Territory’s history:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Region | Reasons for Towns in 1870s | | Front Range | Lead students to an understanding that these towns were established as service and supply centers for the mining areas | | Mountain | Students should see the significance of mining towns in this area | | San Luis Valley Area | Students may or may not be aware of the presence of New Mexican communities in this area before Colorado Territory was split from New Mexico. See the Southern Colorado Region activity to learn more |   Why do you think no towns were established in the **Western Plateaus and Valleys** and **Eastern Plains** regions by 1870?  Allow speculation, guiding students to an understanding the mining activities pre-dated the establishment of farming and ranching communities in these areas. |

**Answer Key: Early Population Growth Activity: 1870 to 1880**

Open [***Early Population Growth***](http://unco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=63511ebc459d4df3b251f11b7e71b9ee) Activity PE-2. Right now, the **Mountains,** **Rivers**, and **Current Counties** layers are visible. Most of Colorado’s counties did *not* have these boundaries before 1900. (The current county lines are shown to make it easier for you to locate places).

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| **Step 1** | **Your Task** |
| Check OFF all layers then check ON **Current County Boundaries** and **City Pop. 1870 layers**  Check ON the **City Pop. 1880** layer  Turn the **City Pop. 1880** layer OFF and ON several times to get a feel for the changes that occured in this 10-year time span  Notice where the largest yellow circle is located. Zoom into that area until the symbols start to separate out    *Make sure you click precisely in the center of the circle to get the popup box and table.* | **Population from 1870 to 1880**  The goal of the following questions is to get students to recognize the differences in proportional symbol signs. On the surface, this may seem simple, but for some students the ability to recognize proportional symbol size differences may take practice  What was the largest town’s name? (Use the *Identify* tool to find its name if you’re not sure)  Denver  What was the population of the largest town in 1870?  \_\_\_\_4,760\_\_\_\_\_ people  What was the population of the largest town in 1880?  \_\_\_\_\_\_35,630\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people  About how many people moved to this town between 1870 and 1880?  \_\_\_\_~30,000\_\_\_ people  In 1880, one other town in Colorado had a population over 10,000 (the largest circle size). What was its name?  Leadville |
| **Step 2** | **Your Task** |
| Click on the *Measure* tool, then select the distance tool, and measure the distance in miles between the two large settlements by clicking once on each town  When you are finished measuring, use the *Clear Selection* tool to remove the measurement | Approximately how far apart were the two largest towns in 1880?  \_\_\_\_\_~80\_\_\_\_\_ miles apart  This measurement will depend on where the student places the cursor on each dot (try for the center). It should be about 80 miles between Leadville and Denver. |
| **Step 3** | **Your Task** |
| Find the town that you live in currently. *You may need to zoom out if you are currently zoomed in* | Did your town have a population in 1880? In 1870? If so, list these below:  Answers will vary |
| **Step 4** | **Your Task** |
| Zoom out to the State and check ON the **Regions** layer | List the regions in which there was a large amount of population growth between 1870 and 1880:  The largest amount of growth was in the Mountains, Front Range, and San Luis Valley regions. There was some growth in the Eastern Plains.  How do the map symbols show you which towns grew in population between 1870 and 1880?  Answers will vary. Essentially, students should see that most towns grew somewhat in size AND that there were quite a few new towns. In one area, the population actually decreased in one area (Central City) after the 1880 boom was over and prospectors had moved on to other areas |
| **Step 5** | **Your Task** |
| Make sure the **City Pop. 1880** layer is checked ON. Go to your Bookmarks and select the *Southwestern Colorado* bookmark. See the four small towns grouped together in the far southwestern corner of the Mountains region. Click on these towns to get their names. | Write the names of the four small towns in the southwestern corner of the Mountains region:  Rico, Ophir, Silverton, Ouray  For what purpose do you think these towns might have been established?  These towns were all major mining centers |
| **Step 6** | **Your Task** |
| Check ON the **Mineral Belt** layer. | How does the addition of this layer help you understand the population growth in Colorado between 1870 and 1880?  Answers will vary. Adding this layer can help students see that mining towns were established in this decade further along the southwest portion of the mineral belt. The goal is for students to see how mining was reinforced during this decade as a major source of economic growth and activity across Colorado. |

**Answer Key: Early Population Growth Activity: 1880 to 1900**

Open[***Late 19th Century Growth***](http://unco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappbuilder/index.html?id=267d34742d074436a40ee1abec073190) Activity PE-3. The **Major Mountain Ranges**, **Major Rivers,** and **Current County Boundaries** layers are visible. Most of Colorado’s counties did not have these boundaries before 1900. (The current county lines are shown to make it easier for you to locate places.)

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| **Step 1** | **Your Task** |
| Check ON the Regions layer         Check ON the **City Pop. 1880** layer | **Population from 1880 to 1890**  What economic activity was important in the Colorado’s Mountains region between 1880 and 1890?  Mining  Other than the Mountains region, in which other region were most of the larger towns in Colorado at this time?  Front Range and San Luis Valley area |
| **Step 2** | **Your Task** |
| Check OFF the **Major Mountain Ranges** and **Major Rivers** layers. Only the **Current County Boundaries**, **Regions**, and **City Pop. 1880** layers should be showing now    Check ON the **City Pop. 1890** layer    Turn the **City Pop. 1890** off and on several times to get a feel for the changes that occurred in Colorado’s population from 1880 to 1890 | Compare the pattern and size of towns in 1880 (yellow) and 1890 (blue). From the map symbols, how can you tell which towns grew in population between 1880 and 1890?  Answers will vary. Students should describe how the symbols show growth in city size. Additionally, many MORE towns (even if small) will show up in 1890.  What was the state’s largest community in 1890?  Denver  What was its population? \_\_106,714\_\_\_\_ people |
| **Step 3** | **Your Task** |
| Find the town that you live in currently. *You may need to zoom out if you are currently zoomed in* | Did your town have a population in 1890? If so, list it below:  Answers will vary |
| **Step 4** | **Your Task** |
|  | For each region, write one or two sentences to describe how the population changed between 1880 and 1890. An example is given to get you started:  Answers will vary, but should be close to the following:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Region** | **Population Growth between 1880 and 1890** | | Western Plateaus & Valleys | *About 10 new towns were established in this region. Most of these towns had a population of less than 2,500.* | | Mountains | About three new towns with a population between 2,501 and 10,000 were established. Most of the other towns had little change in population. | | San Luis Valley Area | One town grew to between 2,501 and 10,000 population. Nearly all the other towns had very little change in population. | | Front Range | Most of the larger existing towns grew in population to the next largest category. Denver now has over 100,000 people and two others are between 10,000 and 50,000. Many new towns were established that had a population of under 2,500. | | Eastern Plains | Over 15 new towns, all with under 2,500 population, were established in this region. | |
| **Step 5** | **Your Task** |
| *Zoom out to see the whole state of Colorado* | Which map layer would you add to see if there was more growth in the mining areas during this decade (1880 to 1890)?  Mineral Belt  Check ON this layer and describe what you notice:  Answers will vary. The goal is for students to have learned how to add map layers to obtain further information. Adding the Mineral Belt layer shows that most of the Mountain towns that experienced population growth between 1880 and 1890 were in the mining areas. |
| **Step 6** | **Your Task** |
| Check OFF all the layers except **Current County Boundaries** and **City Pop. 1890** layers  Check ON the **City Pop. 1900** layer. Turn this layer off and on several times to get a feel for the city/town population changes from 1890 to 1900  Find Denver. Click in the exact center of the city and read the table to see how its population grew from 1890 to 1900 | **Population from 1890 to 1900**  Which statement best describes the population changes between 1890 and 1900?  \_\_ Population decreased dramatically in most towns/cities  \_\_ Population increased dramatically in most towns/cities  \_X\_Population grew at a modest level in most places, with a few areas of the Front Range growing dramatically  Denver’s population in 1900 was \_\_\_\_133,859\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Step 7** | **Your Task** |
| Check ON the **Regions** layer  *Zoom in to towns and click on them to see their names. Scroll along the table to find exact population figures for 1890 and 1900 for at least one town in each region that changed a lot* | For each Colorado region, describe whether it had a lot of growth or very little growth between 1890 and 1900. Be as specific as possible:  Answers will vary, but should be close to the following:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Region** | **Population Growth between 1890 and 1900** | | Western Plateaus & Valleys | *There was little change in most of the towns. About five towns grew a lot. Grand Junction grew the most, from 2,030 in 1890 to 3,503 in 1900.* | | Mountains | Very few towns grew. Most either stayed about the same or declined somewhat in population. | | San Luis Valley Area | There was very little growth. Most towns stayed about the same. | | Front Range | Besides Cripple Creek/Victor, there was some growth in Fort Collins and Greeley. For the most part, there was little change in population. | | Eastern Plains | La Junta grew. A few new towns were established along the Arkansas River valley. Otherwise, there was little change across this region. |   In general, how was Colorado’s population change between 1890 and 1900 different from the previous decade (1880 to 1890)?  Answers will vary. The goal is for students to recognize that this decade, unlike the previous one, did **not** have rapid growth statewide. It was mostly a time of relatively little change in the state’s overall population. (This foreshadows the bust periods that recurred in the 20th century. See **Population Growth After 1900** activities for more information) |