



## Governor's Residence Preservation Fund

### Extension Activities

There are many resources available on the web to extend students' learning about the Western Expansion. Some of the best are listed below with a brief explanation.

- ***The Cattle Industry on the Great Plains***

A power point presentation details some of the concerns that cattlemen faced in bringing the cattle industry to Colorado.

<http://americanhistory.mrdonn.org/westernexpansion.html>

1. At the bottom of the page, click on free American history presentation in power point format.
2. Find growth in the west in the list click on that and then choose cattle industry on the Great Plains.

- ***The Homestead Act of 1862***

For a discussion of the Homestead Act

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act>

1. Go to lesson by Era 1870-1900
2. Click on the Homestead Act of 1862

- ***The Transcontinental Railroad***

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/>

1. Activity 1 – parts 1 and 2 are suitable for 4<sup>th</sup> graders  
Through map work students will answer questions about the settlement of the west and why the Great Plains was one of the last areas settled.
2. Activity 4 – Team Projects  
Students will view the building of the railway from three different perspectives. Look at the instructions for groups 1, 2 and 4 only. Use any of the language arts prompts of a brochure, diary, or letter to Congress to have your student groups of American Indians, Miners, Settlers, Railway Owners, or Cattle Ranchers express their view about land use in Colorado during the period from 1860-1900.

- ***The Central Pacific Railway***

[http://cpr.org/Museum/Maps/cpr\\_map.html](http://cpr.org/Museum/Maps/cpr_map.html)

A map of the Central Pacific Railway details how Colorado's rail line connected to lines from Omaha to San Francisco.

- ***Obstacles to Western Expansion***

<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/13/>

1. Read the narrative and ask students to describe the obstacles the farmers faced in settling the Colorado Territory. What were some of the ways the U.S. Government assisted the farmers and provided incentives for settlement of the Colorado Territory?

- ***Mining in Colorado***

<http://hewit.unco.edu/dohist/teachers/mainmenu.htm>

1. Go to Teacher's Guide Front Matter
2. Provide students with a printed copy from the section titled a Mining in Colorado Teacher's Overview"
3. Using this material, the students will create a diary of life at a mining camp and the importance of the railway to the miners. The students should include descriptions of community life, town life, mining tools etc.

- ***Colorado's Continuing Issues***

<http://hewit.unco.edu/dohist/teachers/mainmenu.htm>

1. Click on Initiatives filed for 2011-2012.
2. With teacher assistance, discuss what issues for the state of Colorado are appearing on the legislative agenda. Do any of these issues involve items that were important to the Governor's Office in the past 50 years?

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CGA-LegislativeCouncil/CLC/1239108781475>

1. Under issues ordered by subject click on the titles: education, environment, natural resources, and transportation. Create a bulletin board titled then and now.
2. Students will list the aspects of those issues that were important to the governors of Colorado since 1960 and compare them to the aspects of the issues that are important to legislatures now.