

Colorado Cities Celebrate Special Holidays

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OVERVIEW

Students will investigate cities throughout Colorado to find the unique celebrations, festivals, and etc. celebrated in different cities throughout Colorado.

STANDARDS

- Geography Standard 4: Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict.
- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- History Standard 6: Students know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history.
- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will write letters to different cities throughout Colorado to determine what special celebrations and festivals are (or were) held in each city to celebrate the uniqueness of that particular city (i.e. Potato Day, Apple Blossom Day, etc.) Students will discover how that city celebrated that special day: When was the celebration? How long did it last? What activities were usually included? How did the celebration come about (what process shaped the event)? Is the celebration still an annual event? How has it changed over time?
- Students will compile the information in some form to share with others (i.e. newsletter, special map, book of Colorado celebrations)

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- When was the celebration?
- How long did the celebration usually last?
- What activities were usually included?
- How did the celebration come about (what process shaped the event)?

- Is the celebration still an annual event?
- How has the celebration changed over time?

MATERIALS

- Doing History CD-ROM disk or website, 20th Century Topic: Community Life
- Maps of Colorado
- Writing materials, stamps, envelopes, city addresses, etc.
- AAA information of Colorado celebrations throughout the year

PROCEDURE

1. Review with students letter writing techniques and forms.
2. Students will choose a city (or cities) to write to the local Chamber of Commerce and gather information about celebrations unique to their area.
3. Students will choose a way in which to display the city's celebration(s), and share the information with classmates.
4. Information from celebrations around the state will be collected and shared with others.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of this activity will need to be teacher chosen. It is important to note that some students may write to a particular city and not get any information (or the needed information) to complete his or her assignment. This must be taken into consideration and handled as needed.

It would be wonderful if the information gathered could be shared with others to help students in other classrooms understand the uniqueness of Colorado cities.