



November 2016

zoom in on america

A Monthly Publication of the U.S. Consulate Krakow

Volume XII. Issue 143

COLORADO - THE CENTENNIAL STATE



(AP Photo/Lindsey Tanner)

In this issue: The State of Colorado

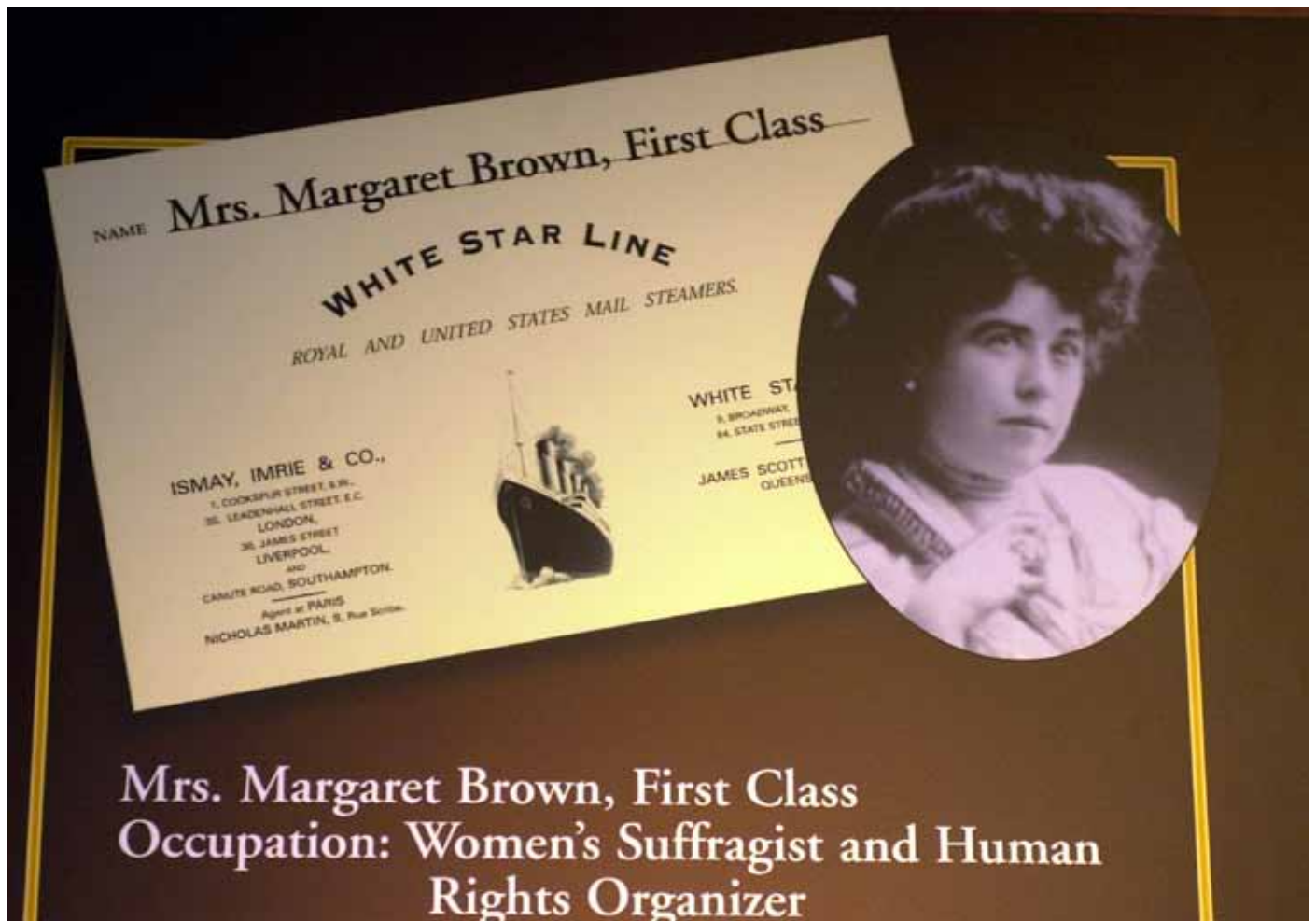
Zoom in on America

Colorado quiz

Before you read the issue devoted to America's highest mean elevation state, check what you already know about Colorado. The answers to the questions on this page can be found on p. 5. GOOD LUCK!

1. Who named the Colorado River and what does the word mean in Spanish?
2. When did Colorado become a state?
3. Why is Colorado nicknamed the "Centennial State"?
4. What countries did Colorado belong to in the past?
5. When did women receive the right to vote in Colorado?
6. When was Rocky Mountain National Park established?
7. Which states meet at the Four Corners in Colorado?
8. Why was Margaret Brown of Leadville, Colorado called *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*?
9. What is the average elevation of the state of Colorado?
10. What is the name of the red marble used in the construction of the Colorado State Capitol?
11. And a special visual question: Look at the photo below showing The Colorado Centennial medal issued in connection with the nation's bicentennial in 1976. What does the title written on the medal say?

Photo (AP Photo/Bob Scott)



A photograph of Margaret Brown along with a reproduction of her Titanic boarding pass hang on a wall in the "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit" at the Houston Museum of Natural Science Thursday, July 18, 2002, the 135th anniversary of her birthday. (AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

THE CENTENNIAL STATE

Colorado became a state in 1876, one hundred years after the American colonies declared their independence from the British. For this reason, its nickname is the Centennial State. Before the 19th century, the native inhabitants of Colorado included a variety of tribes such as the Cheyenne and Ute. These tribes hunted buffalo, which had large populations in the plains and in the mountains. The plains variety of buffalo was entirely killed off by the early settlers of Colorado for its valuable fur. As a result of this extinction (in addition to many other conflicts) the native tribes fell on hard times. However, thanks to repopulation efforts, the mountain variety of buffalo still lives on today and remains a symbol of the state.

Colorado can easily be split into two distinct geographical regions. The eastern part of the state is part of the Great Plains, an enormous flat prairie in the middle of the United States. This region has been transformed into the agricultural heartland of the country. The western part of Colorado consists of the Rocky Mountains, which are a mountain range stretching from the southern United States into Canada. Many wild animals live in the Rocky Mountains, including bears, elk, mountain lions, buffalo, deer, coyotes, foxes and eagles. There are many amazing sights in Colorado including Rocky Mountain National Park, St. Mary's Glacier, Garden of the Gods, Mount Evans, the Continental Divide, Red Rocks, the Royal Gorge, and the Flat Irons. In between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains is a slim region of land known as the foothills.

The first European explorers of Colorado were Spanish conquistadors who named the region Colorado ("colored

red" in Spanish) because of the red color of the rocks. The first American explorers of Colorado were mountain men. They were trappers and traders. They would venture into the mountains alone or in small groups, capturing beaver and bison for their precious fur. One of the most famous mountain men was Kit Carson, whose many adventures included fighting for the North in the Civil War and living among the Arapaho and Cheyenne. The grave of Buffalo Bill, who famously rode in the Pony Express, can also be found in Colorado, on Lookout Mountain. Many settlers passed through Colorado on their way to California and Oregon. In 1858 the Pike's Peak Gold Rush caused many more permanent settlements to be created. Miners used simple tools like pans to search for flakes of gold in mountain streams. This led to the creation of the expression "panning out" which roughly translates to "working out" or "paying off."

In 1867 when the Transcontinental Railroad was nearing completion, there were two candidate cities for Colorado's state capital: Golden and Denver. Both cities wanted to become the state capital, so both raced to build a railroad that connected to the Transcontinental. Denver won this race by building 100 miles (161 km) of railroad tracks in 180 days and has been the state capital ever since.

Although the Gold Rush has long been over, the population of Colorado is booming once again. In recent years, many young people have been moving to Colorado for its pleasant climate, beautiful landscape, good education system, and growing economy.

Text: Jackson Emanuel



American bison cows head out of a trailer on to their new home on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in the northeast Denver suburb of Commerce City, Colorado, Saturday, March 17, 2007. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

"DENVER HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A DAY"

Erecting a state capitol was a matter of great importance for every state, financially, artistically and logistically. The history of the capitol in Denver, Colorado illustrates how a project like this was realized.

The Seventh Legislative Assembly made Denver the official capital of Colorado on December 9, 1867. Colorado was still a territory at that time - it was admitted to the Union on August 1, 1876 as the 38th state. In 1867 the Capitol Commission was appointed to secure a donation of ten acres of land to be a site for a capitol building. Acquiring land proved an easy task. Henry C. Brown, a local real estate developer offered the land across East Colfax and Lincoln streets. However, a lack of funds - the total financial assets in 1867 were only \$25,406 - did not allow the city to start the construction.

Upon admission to the Union, the state was asked to select the capital city in a general election. At that point there was a lot of uncertainty about building the capitol in Denver. The situation got tense and Henry Brown filed a deed of revocation reclaiming the land he had donated. Yet, when the election on November 8, 1881 chose Denver as the capital city and Brown's deed was rejected, the prospects of building Colorado capitol on a hillside at Lincoln street in Denver brightened up.

The Board of Capitol Managers was created to supervise the project. The Board turned to quarries to submit speci-

mens of stone and published a "Notice to Architects" to send in plans for the building.

In the meantime the Board went on a tour of the Midwest to visit the capitals of different states to learn about problems that they encountered while constructing their own capitol buildings.

Again due to the lack of sufficient funds the project had to wait another two years until the Fifth General Assembly allocated sufficient money in 1885.

There were further problems involving contractors prior to starting the construction based on the winning plan by Elijah E. Myers, but when the big day of the Cornerstone Dedication came on July 4, 1890 (23 years after the birth of the idea) the city of Denver was overjoyed. Thousands of visitors arrived by train, the choir which sang at the ceremony consisted of a thousand singers, and there was a procession and speeches. In the sealed copper box that was the cornerstone were among other items copies of the Colorado and Federal constitutions, a Holy Bible, an American Flag, a 1890 Denver City Directory, a map of Colorado and a series of gold coins.

When, in 1908, the dome on the Colorado Capitol in Denver was leafed with gold, the dream of the Colorado citizens finally came true.



Denver Capitol (Photo Bozena Pilat)

COLORADO IN PICTURES



*A bicyclist makes the climb to the summit of Independence Pass between Aspen and Leadville, Colorado, Thursday, May 26, 2005.
(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)*



In this June 29, 2016 photo, cranes dot the landscape in downtown Denver. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



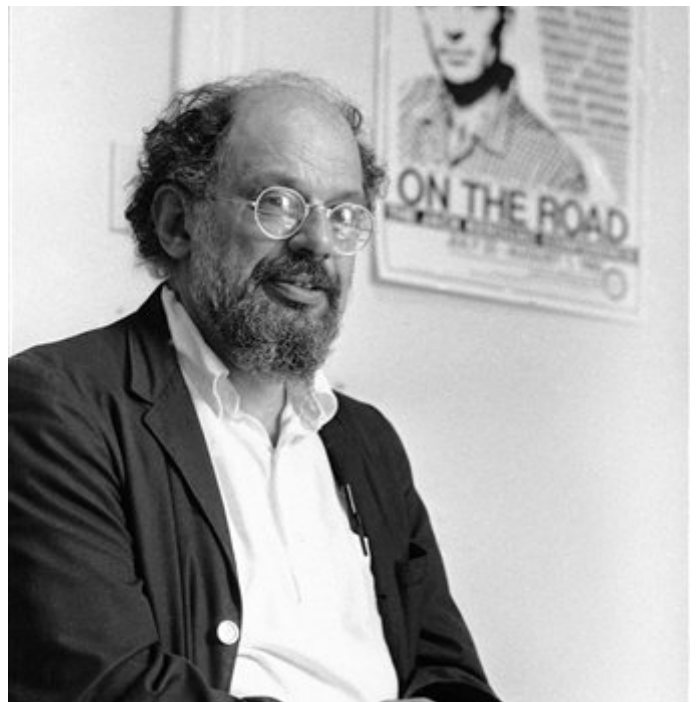
*A dried out mine wastewater sediment pond is vivid with the colors of minerals and chemicals, high in the San Juan Mountains north of Silverton, southwestern Colorado, Friday, August 14, 2015. The mines that settlers built in the booms of the 19th century are an ever-present part of the landscape in this mineral-rich part of Colorado.
(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)*



*The hillside tailings of an abandoned mine are slowly reclaimed by the surrounding forest, high in the San Juan Mountains north of Silverton, southwestern Colorado, Friday, Aug. 14, 2015.
(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)*

Colorado Quiz (p.2) Answers

1. Spanish Explorers
2. On August 1, 1876 on a proclamation of President Ulysses Grant
3. Because it was admitted as a state in the centennial year of the Declaration of Independence
4. France, Spain, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas
5. In 1893
6. In 1915
7. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah
8. Because she survived the 1912 sinking of the RMS *Titanic*
9. 2070 m. Also, Colorado is the only state lying entirely above 1,000 meters in elevation
10. Beulah red
11. Special question: "Colorado" and "Land of Promise."



*Allen Ginsberg at his Boulder, Colorado home where he tries to spend at least half the year, October 8, 1982
(AP Photo/Jerry Cleveland)*

FAMOUS MESA VERDE - ANCIENT DWELLING PLACE

Mesa Verde is a truly unique place with nearly 5,000 archaeological sites that tells us how the ancient inhabitants of this place lived hundreds of years ago.

Archeologists have called these inhabitants Anasazi. In Navajo, the word means “the ancient ones” or “ancient enemies.” Nowadays, they are referred to most often as Ancestral Puebloans.

Mesa Verde became the first national park to preserve not only natural resources, but also the “works of man.” President Theodore Roosevelt established it on June 29, 1906.

Mesa Verde, which is located in the Four Corners region, became home to its ancient dwellers about 1,400 years ago.

Today, their stone homes hidden in the alcoves of the canyon walls are an impressive, though silent, evidence of a culture that excelled in its ability to co-exist with nature in a beautiful way.

The name Mesa Verde is Spanish for “green table.” The first inhabitants known as Basketmakers moved into the area about A.D. 550. When they settled in Mesa Verde they abandoned their nomadic life and engaged in farming. Their skill at the craft of making baskets earned them the name by which they are known today.

At first they lived in pithouses built on mesa tops or in cliff recesses. They learned to make pottery and started using the bow and arrow for hunting.

As the population grew, Basketmakers learned to build houses of poles and adobe (mud) above the ground. The houses stood one against another in long rows and from that time the word Puebloans, Spanish for “village dwellers,” is used to describe them.

The people’s adobe homes later developed into to skillful stone masonry. The houses were two or three stories high and were joined together into units of 50 rooms or more.

Around A.D. 1200 Ancestral Puebloans moved back into the cliff alcoves. It remains a mystery why this happened and we can only speculate about their reasons.

However, their well-preserved cliff dwellings are now a major attraction for tourists and a landmark not only of Mesa Verde but of other similar places (Canyon De Chelly - see *Zoom in on America*, November 2011 issue) where the works of ancient men in America are a powerful witness to their architectural and artistic skills.

(Based on NPS website on Mesa Verde)



The Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park in Cortez, Colorado. (AP Photo/Margaret Matthews)

ACTIVITY PAGE

NOVEMBER 2016 TRIVIA QUESTION

Why is Colorado nicknamed the Centennial State?

Send the answer
(with your home address) to:
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

The 3rd, the 7th and 10th sender of the correct answer will be awarded with a book prize.

Deadline:
December 10, 2016

OCTOBER 2016 Answer:

For example: Ernest Hemingway, Toni Morrison

The winners are:

Magda from Sosnowiec, Karolina from Gaj, and Anna from Gdansk

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The prizes will be sent to you by mail.



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KrakowAIRC@state.gov

American Information
Resource Center
Krakow
Konsulat Generalny USA
ul. Stolarska 9,
31-043 Krakow
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

Exercise 1: Reading comprehension.

Read the text "The Centennial State" on p. 2 and decide whether the sentences below are true or false:

1. Colorado became a state in 1876
2. Before the 19th century, the native inhabitants of Colorado included a variety of tribes such as the Cheyenne and Ute.
3. The eastern part of Colorado consists of the Rocky Mountains while the western part of the state is part of the Great Plains.
4. Wild animals that live in the Rocky Mountains include bears, elk, mountain lions, buffalo, deer, coyotes, foxes and eagles.
5. Yosemite National Park is one of the amazing sights in Colorado.
6. The first European explorers of Colorado were the Dutch settlers.
7. Spanish conquistadors named the region Colorado ("colored red" in Spanish) because of the red color of the rocks.
8. The first American explorers of Colorado were trappers and traders capturing beaver and bison for their precious fur.
9. Kit Carson fought for the South in the Civil War.
10. Buffalo Bill rode in the Pony Express

Exercise 2 Reading Comprehension

Read the texts on p. 2 and 6 and answer the questions below:

1. What did miners use to search for flakes of gold in mountain streams during the Gold Rush?
2. Why did Denver and not Golden become the capitol of Colorado?
3. Why do people move to Colorado?
4. Who were the ancient inhabitants of Mesa Verde?
5. What does the name "Mesa Verde" mean in Spanish?
6. What is adobe used for?
7. Why did Ancestral Puebloans move back into the cliff alcoves around A.D. 1200?

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The first American bison bull leaps from the trailer and on to its new home on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in the northeast Denver suburb of Commerce City, Colorado, on Saturday, March 17, 2007. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)