

Welcome To Colorado

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Colorado. It is a mountain state in the west. Colorado is famous for skiing, mountains, altitude, beer, and the Air Force! It is the 8th largest state, so one of the bigger ones, and it's the 22nd most populous, making it average. You might know some of the major cities, like Denver, Colorado Springs, Aspen, Aurora, and Pueblo. The state capital is Denver. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Colorado, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Colorado is probably mostly known for the Rocky Mountains. It's a very high state, giving it one of its nicknames: The Highest State. However, it usually uses other nicknames, like The Rocky Mountain State. Colorado isn't just mountains though. It's actually something of a plateau, which is a wide, flat land. It's just very high up compared to most states. There are many natural beauties in Colorado, with national forests, mountains, and many great ski slopes. Colorado is also one of the 4-corners states, meeting at a perfectly square corner with Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Historically, Colorado was settled by Indian tribes like the Arapaho, the Comanche, the Apache, and the Cheyenne. Parts of it were in the Louisiana Purchase, which France sold to America. Most of it was claimed by Spain, later becoming part of Mexico. After the Mexican-American War, it became American land. It was split between the Utah Territory, the Nebraska Territory, and the Kansas Territory, only becoming the Territory of Colorado when James Buchanan signed it into territory status in 1861. Colorado became a state in 1876, which was 100 years after our country was founded, so it got the nickname of The Centennial State.

Today, Colorado is home to Colorado Springs, which is the home of the Air Force Academy. There are major brands from Colorado, like Samsonite, Russell Stover Candies, Coors Brewing, Celestial Seasonings Teas, and other brands. Mining, oil, and coal are big business in Colorado. Colorado has the 11th highest average household income in America, making the state one of the wealthier ones. Colorado is home to major sports teams like the Colorado Avalanche (NHL), the Denver Nuggets (NBA), The Colorado Rockies (MLB), and the Denver Broncos (NFL). There really is a lot going on in Colorado, and tourism is very big!

Now that you know a little more about Colorado, are you thinking about visiting? There are lots of places to hike or ski. It's a great place to get outdoors. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these Indian tribes might have been found in Colorado?
 - A. Cherokee
 - B. Seminole
 - C. Huron
 - D. Arapaho

2. True or False: Colorado is a very flat state in terms of altitude.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Which of these is NOT one of Colorado's many nicknames?
 - A. Rocky Mountain State
 - B. Centennial State
 - C. 100 Year State
 - D. Highest State

4. Which of these pro sports teams is NOT from Colorado?
 - A. Denver Nuggets
 - B. Denver Broncos
 - C. Colorado Rockies
 - D. Phoenix Cardinals

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Colorado? Why or Why Not?

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