



Mountain Man Map Analysis



Museum of the West Exhibit Activity

Overview: Students will analyze a map from the mountain man era on display at Museum of the West in order to better understand how the political boundaries of the United States have changed over time.

Grade: 4-5

Connection to Colorado Social Studies Standards:

- 4th grade: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2
- 5th grade: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- analyze a primary historical map source,
- describe how political boundaries of the United States have changed,
- predict what life would be like if the political boundaries did not change

Vocabulary: political boundary, mountain man, fur trade, territory, state

Before your Visit

Check out the Mountain Men Kit designed by Museums of Western Colorado and Grand Junction High School. The lessons contained in the kit will provide students with background information that will prepare students for their visit.

Or

Introduce the concepts of the fur trade and mountain men to your class prior to your visit.

During your Visit

Observe the map in the Mountain Man display and instruct students to fill out the Mountain Men on the Map worksheet using the map on display in the museum.

After your Visit

Writing activity: how do you think life would be different if the same map boundaries existed today?

