

# EXPLORERS

## *Colorado Explorers*

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### READ EXCITING ADVENTURES DAILY

- *Zeb Pike, Boy Traveler* or *Pike of Pike's Peak* by Augusta Stevenson  
(Read two chapters to your children daily.)

### Research for the teacher and older students

- *Colorful Colorado* by Caroline Bancroft (refer to the pages that apply to this unit)
- *Our Colorado* by J. C. Leacock (pages 131-138)
- *Colorado Handbook* "The Arrival of the White Man" by Stephen Metzger (page 6)
- *Amazing Traveler Isabella Bird* by Evelyn Kaye
- *The Southwestern Journals of Zebulon Pike* by Stephen Harding Hart
- *Among the Eternal Snows: The First Recorded Ascent of Pikes Peak* by Phil Carson
- *Nature's Names for Colorado Communities* by Richard Pearl
- [www.zebulonpike.net](http://www.zebulonpike.net) is an excellent site with excellent resources on Zebulon Pike

Library and online information about these books are contained in your appendix.

For supplementary materials go to [www.ComeExploreColorado.com/resources](http://www.ComeExploreColorado.com/resources).

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### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Dictionary / Definitions: Have your children look up any unfamiliar terms in the dictionary or on the Internet and write out their definitions. These findings can be stored in a card file, notebook, or computer file.
- Creative Writing: Katherine Lee Bates wrote the song, "America the Beautiful," while standing atop Pikes Peak. Write a poem describing your favorite "view."
- You'll begin several activities in this unit that will continue periodically throughout all the units:
  - Journaling: Introduce your children to Zeb Pike's journals. Read out loud from them, taking note of the format of his writing. As you visit various communities, have your children write a paragraph of their observations, much like Pike did in his journals. Encourage the use of drawing, map representations, etc.
  - Languages: Using the book, *Nature's Names for Colorado Communities*, research the various community names and their origins. Pay particular attention to whether the names are of Spanish, French, or Indian descent.

### SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

- Timeline: Update your timeline with the various explorers you learn about in this unit.
- GPS: Using your GPS, what are the longitude and latitude readings? What is east, west, north, and south of the area?

For complete information on resources and destinations listed,  
visit our website at [www.ComeExploreColorado.com](http://www.ComeExploreColorado.com).

- Maps: Get a map large enough to put up on your wall and locate these communities as you focus on them. Using stickpins with colors of your choice to represent the various language origins. Locate the community and place a stickpin in it (one community a day or week). If you can find stickpins that are small flags representing the name's origin, all the better!

## Zebulon Pike

Zebulon Pike was sent to explore the Red River, which was then considered the border between Spanish Territory and American Territory. He never did make it to the headwaters of the Red River, but instead discovered the peak named for him, Pikes Peak. The clear air in Colorado makes the peak look closer than it really is. Pike attempted to hike to it and climb it. He set off with a few men and minor provisions, expecting to reach and climb it in one day. It took him three days just to reach it. He turned back at the foot, his men starving and freezing, because of poor weather. He proclaimed the peak would never be scaled.

- Watch the video, *Zebulon Pike and the Blue Mountain* (available at the library or online at [www.zebulonpike.net](http://www.zebulonpike.net))
- Complete the map lesson on pages 26-27 of *Maps of Colorado*.
- Hike a trail near you.
  - Sight a landmark in the distance. With your children, decide how long you think it will take you to hike to it. See whose estimate comes closest when you reach the landmark.
  - Discuss with your children how the clear air of Colorado makes things in the distance appear closer than they are.
  - Discuss with them how they would have felt if they were Zebulon Pike, trying to reach the peak in one day, and finding it took three days instead.
  - Ask your children what they would have done if they were Pike, both prior to hiking to the peak and after he finally got there. Would they have turned back? Why or why not? Discuss the consequences of their decision.
- Pike had to turn back because of extreme weather shifts. Colorado is known for its changing weather. A common saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes; it'll change!" is very true. To learn more about Colorado's weather, observe it over the course of this year. Have your children record their observations in their own "weather notebook." *The Colorado Weather Book* by Mike Nelson is a great resource for this activity and for learning about Colorado weather.
- Visit Pikes Peak. There are several ways to reach the top.
  - Hike it using the Barr Trail. This is a difficult climb in length/distance. You should allow two days to make the 26-mile round-trip hike. The trailhead begins above the hydroelectric plant in Manitou off Ruxton Ave. There are overnight shelters at the 6.8-mile Barr Camp Cabins and at the 8.6-mile Timberline A-frames. For more information, phone the Pike National Forest Service at (719) 633-7619.
  - Ride the Pikes Peak Cog Railway (runs year-round) in Manitou. The 7-mile ride takes just over three hours round-trip and allows you to see views not seen by car. The trains run every 1 1/2 hours from 8:00 in the morning, until 5:20 in the afternoon.

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- Drive the Pikes Peak Highway, open daily May through October. Allow at least 2-3 hours for the round trip. At the 13-mile point is Glen Cove Inn, complete with snack bar, souvenirs, and restrooms. At the top is Summit House (gift shop, doughnut shop, snack bar, and restrooms). Bring a heavy sweater; it is cold on top. Discuss with your children how the temperature changes as you go higher. Have fun on top discussing the view, the vegetation (alpine), and the lack of oxygen. (Carefully, have your children run some to get the full effect, but don't overdo it or they could get altitude sickness.) The toll road begins in Cascade; watch for the signs.
- Do some combination of these in the same visit. Have someone drive to the top to meet you as you get off the Cog Railway, then ride down in the car. Or ride the Cog to the top, and hike down. There are several ways you can combine the various tours and create a memorable experience.
- While you're at the top of Pikes Peak, sing "America the Beautiful," written by Katherine Lee Bates as she stood on top of Pikes Peak over a century ago. Get a copy of the song, complete with all the verses, and discuss with your children the verses and how adequately they describe what she saw. Ask your children what Pike would feel if he could transport through time to stand with them and sing that song—at the top of the mountain he declared would never be scaled.

## Stephen H. Long

- Major Long was sent to explore the northern boundary along the Arkansas River and into the mountains along the Continental Divide. It was one of Long's men, Dr. Edwin James, who led the first recorded ascent of Pikes Peak. He named the peak for himself, but Pike's name stuck, so another peak in Colorado was named after James. Follow Long's route on your map of Colorado. (Refer to page 6 in the *Colorado Handbook*.)
- Hike to the Keyhole on Longs Peak, located in Estes Park. Refer to page 103 in the *Colorado Handbook* for information on the trails. The hike up to the Keyhole (a small pass to the other side of the mountain located at the far side of the boulder field) is not difficult if you allow time for small legs and lots of curiosity. The view on the other side of the Keyhole is worth seeing, however there are heights involved, so keep a tight reign on your children. (Do not attempt to hike beyond the Keyhole. It is for experienced hikers only and is extremely difficult and dangerous.) The hike will take you all day, so be sure and bring lots of water, and pack a lunch and snacks.
- Update map: Locate and label the major peaks in Colorado. (Refer to page 10 in *Our Colorado*.)

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## ARTS & CRAFTS

Make a leather journal.

- Supplies you'll need for this activity:
  - A piece of soft leather measuring the size of book your child wants to make.
  - Paper to match the size of the book.
  - A leather tie to bind the book.
  - Leather stamping tools for decorating the front of the journal (optional).
- Fold the leather in half to separate the front and the back. Decorate each side using the stamping tools or other mediums (water paints, oils, etc.).
- Fold the paper to fit the book.
- Using the tie, bind the pieces into a journal.
- Use this journal for your children to record their favorite adventures, explorations, experiences, etc.

For more projects, games, and tools go to [www.ComeExploreColorado.com/resources](http://www.ComeExploreColorado.com/resources)

## BIBLE

- On the first page of their journal, have your children write their favorite motivational verse—one that they can use throughout their life—to encourage them in their own personal “journeys.”
- On the second page, have them write their name, the date, and their age. On the next page, have them write what their goals and aspirations are for when they become an adult. They can add to or edit the list as they grow older.
- The rest of the journal is for their reflections on life, goals met, prayers answered, more relevant verses they claim, etc.