

## **Colorado History Exploration: Settlers, Mountain Men, Fur Traders, and Trading Posts**

After reading *Bearstone* and *Hardgold*, we are ready to learn more about Colorado History. We are going to dig deeper into our state's history by looking at different regions and their impacts on Coloradoans in the past and today. It is important to identify the influences that a past event played on people at the time of the incident and how it influences us today, so that we can learn from the past and improve upon the future.

While looking at each region, we will learn about mining, national parks, farming, ranching, legends, trading, major Native American battles (yes, Colorado is home to five battles), and French and American explorers. We will start by checking out this website: [www.explore-old-west-colorado.com](http://www.explore-old-west-colorado.com). By entering this web address in the URL, you are entering into a new realm. Please read carefully and think critically! This assignment may be done with a partner or independently.

You will be asked to perform research outside of this website; therefore, you will need to give credit to your sources in the form of a works cited.

### **Start: Settlers**

Step 1: Go to [www.explore-old-west-colorado.com](http://www.explore-old-west-colorado.com). On the left-hand side click on [Colorado Settlers](#). Read this page and list three things that you learned.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. What are fried cakes?
5. What is your choice beef or buffalo? Explain your answer.



**Step 2: Early Commerce:** On the left-hand side please click on [Early Commerce](#). Read this page and list three things that you learned.

7.

8.

9.

**Step 3: Mountain Men and Fur Traders:** After reading the page about Early Commerce, click on [Mountain Men and Fur Traders](#). Read this page and list three things that you learned.

10.

11.

12.

13. What were mountain men? What did they do?

14. What is a fur trader? Were they any different from mountain men?

15. What is a pelt?

16. How much were they worth?

17. Who wanted pelts?

18. What were pelts used for?

19. What is a mountain men's rendezvous? You will probably need to research on another website besides this one and Wikipedia.

**Step 4: Trading Posts:** On the left-hand side click [Early Commerce](#). Read until you come across the [Trading Posts](#). Click on this link and read this page. List three things that you learned.

20.

21.

22.

23. Name a famous trading post.

24. Does it still stand today?

25. Can we take a tour of it right now?

26. What was it made of?

27. What is the purpose of a trading post?

28. When did the trading post, especially Bent's Fort, end its role as a trading post and act as a base for the military?

29. T/F While trading posts were used for trading purposes, mountain men, fur traders, Native Americans, and settlers all got along.

30. T/F Once the trading posts stopped acting as a place for trade, people became hostile.

31. Why did Bent's Fort's owner leave his place of business? Explain the legend of this guy.

32. List four other Forts that resided in Colorado.

a.

b.

c.

d.

33. Explain the significance of the Arkansas River. Does the location of this river influence Bent's Fort, Native Americans, Mountain Men, and Fur Trappers?

34. If you lived in the 1800's in the state of Colorado, what role would you have wanted to take? (Would you have wanted to be a mountain man, fur trapper, trader at a post, or a Native American?) Please explain your answer by providing at least five specific examples.