

# 7th Grade Montana History Curriculum Syllabus

Text Book: Montana: Stories of the Land

By: Krys Holmes

Montana Historical Society Press

Copyright 2008

## **Chapter 1: Montana: Where the Land Writes History**

- Why all of Montana history starts with the land
- How geologic forces shaped Montana
- Ways the land is still alive and changing
- Why Montana is really three different lands

## **Chapter 2: People of the Dog Days**

- How your life is similar to a teenager's in the Ice Age
- The different ways we learn about the past
- The three periods of the ancient past and how people lived in each period
- Where you can see signs today of Montana's ancient people

Field Trips after this chapter may include:

- Visit to the Wahkpa Chu'gn Buffalo Jump, Havre, MT

## **Chapter 3: From Dog Days to Horse Warriors: Montana's People – 1700-1820**

- Who lived here 300 years ago and what their lives were like
- How Europeans' arrival on the continent affected the people already here
- How horses and guns changed life dramatically
- The real names of Montana's Indian tribes

## **Chapter 4: Newcomers Explore the Region – 1742-1827**

- What explorers were looking for when they came here
- How an idea called Manifest Destiny affected the future of this land
- How the explorers and the locals saw each other
- How American and European explorations changed life here

Within this chapter I also use the following resource:

- "Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery  
A PBS Home Video Film by Ken Burns  
Copyright 1997

Field Trips after this chapter may include:

- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT
- CM Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT (Chpt. 8)

**Chapter 5: Beaver, Bison, and Black Robes: Montana's Fur Trade – 1800-1860**

- How beaver changed the history of this region
- How Indian people helped the fur trade
- Why the market shifted from beaver to bison
- Who the “Black Robes” were and how they influenced Indian life

Field Trips after this chapter may include:

- Fort Benton tour of the original “Fort”

**Chapter 6: Montana's Gold and Silver Boom – 1862-1893**

- How new ideas change the landscape
- How the gold rush changed Montana
- The difference between placer mining and quartz mining
- Why mining camps needed to establish Montana Territory

**Chapter 7: Two Worlds Collide – 1850-1887**

- Why the government needed treaties with Indian tribes
- Two important results of the treaties
- Why conflicts erupted after the United States signed treaties with Indian tribes
- What strategies different tribes followed to survive

Field Trips after this chapter may include:

- Blaine County Museum tour & visit to Chief Joseph's Battlefield, Chinook, MT

**Chapter 8: Livestock and the Open Range – 1850-1887**

- What drew ranchers to Montana Territory
- What problems plagued the open-range cattle ranches
- How the winter of 1886-87 changed life on the open range
- How the brief open-range ranching days shaped life in Montana today

**Chapter 9: Railroads Link Montana to the Nation – 1881-1915**

- Why railroads wanted to come to Montana
- Why Montana needed railroads
- Why the railroads shrank Indian reservations even further
- Why the Northern Pacific Railroad became Montana's biggest landowner
- How railroads changed life here

**Chapter 10: Politics and the Copper Kings – 1889-1904**

- Why it took so long for Montana to become a state
- How the copper industry shaped Montana politics
- What the “War of the Copper Kings” was all about
- How ordinary people tried to regain control over their state

**Chapter 11: The Early Reservation Years – 1880-1920**

- How Indians survived without the bison
- How the U.S. government tried to destroy Indian culture
- What Indian people did to keep their cultural traditions alive
- Why non-Indians own so much land on some Indian reservations

**Chapter 12: Logging in the “High Lonesome” – 1862-1949**

- How American Indians traditionally used fire
- Who controlled Montana’s timber industry
- What it was like to work as a lumberjack
- When and why fire policy changed

**Chapter 13: Homesteading This Dry Land – 1905-1920**

- Why thousands of people flocked to Montana after 1902
- Who the homesteaders were
- What life was like on an early homestead
- Why the homesteading boom ended

**Chapter 14: Towns Have Lives, Too – 1870-1920**

- What causes a town to grow in a certain place
- The secrets behind the shape of your town
- What a town provides besides businesses
- How you shape the community you live in

**Chapter 15: Progressive Montana – 1900-1924**

- How industrialization affected the way people lived and worked
- What problems industrialization caused in Montana
- What made people demand change
- Which changes helped – and which did not work at all

**Chapter 16: Montana and World War I – 1914-1918**

- How war in Europe affected life in Montana
- Why working conditions worsened during wartime
- What made some Montanans turn against one another
- Why a Lewistown mob burned books on Main Street in 1918

**Chapter 17: Montanans on the Move: The Coming of the Automobile – 1904-1940**

- How automobiles changed everyday life in Montana
- Why some people hated automobiles – at first

- Why cars and trucks needed new roads
- How automobiles changed the Montana landscape

**Chapter 18: The Great Depression Transforms Montana – 1929-1941**

- Why Montanans were already struggling when the Great Depression began
- What Montanans did to survive during the Great Depression
- How the government helped put people back to work
- How the Great Depression changed Montana

**Chapter 19: World War II in Montana – 1939-45**

- What Montanans did during World War II
- Why Montana was a strategic spot in the war effort
- How the war affected everyday life in Montana
- What lasting effects the war had in Montana

**Chapter 20: Building a New Montana – 1945-1965**

- How the nation's largest economic boom affected Montana
- Why the Anaconda Company dug the Berkeley Pit
- Why more rural Montanans moved into town
- How fear of communism affected everyday life

**Chapter 21: A People's Constitution – 1972**

- Why Montana needed a new constitution
- How the 1960's changed how citizens thought about their government
- Why the constitutional convention was called a "people's crusade"

**Chapter 22: Living in a New Montana – 1970-2007**

- Why your community is different from the way it was 30 years ago
- What challenges Montana is facing as you grow up
- How Montana's American Indians are solving problems on the reservations
- How we as Montanans are changing the way we see and use the land

There are many additional resources for each chapter in this textbook online at the Montana Historical Society website ([www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org)). Worksheets and tests are also available on this website by using the Teachers password to login. Additional information and links for each chapter include: **Learning from Historical Documents, Interesting Links, Educational Trunks, Websites and Online Lesson Plans, Videos or DVDs, Possible Field Trips.**

