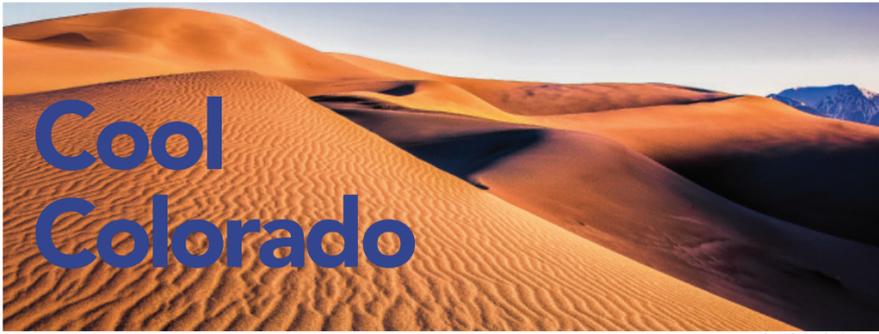


The Mini Page

Issue 09, 2026

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Leprechauns!



Cool Colorado

photo by Jack McLane

Welcome to Colorado! This western state is also considered part of the Southwest, the Mountain West and the Four Corners region, bordering Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Colorado became a state in 1876. Its capital is Denver, the Mile-High City. It's the eighth-largest state by area in our country.



Colorado history

Native Americans and their ancestors have been in the region for many thousands of years. Ancient Pueblo, Ute, Apache and Comanche peoples, among others, lived in the region.

Later, American settlers traveling west on the Santa Fe Trail went through the southeastern portion of Colorado. Much of eastern Colorado was part of the Kansas Territory until 1861.

In the late 1800s, silver and gold were mined in central Colorado, bringing more people to the state.

Living in Colorado

About 6 million people live in Colorado, with more than 700,000 in Denver. The state has many different geographical features, including the Rocky Mountains, deep canyons, deserts with vast sand dunes in the south-central portion of the state, and high plains in the east.

Denver lies on the eastern edge of the

Rocky Mountains, called the Front Range. Colorado is home to 58 peaks over 14,000 feet tall, called "fourteeners." That's the most of any state.

On the Western Slope of the Rockies, ski resorts attract winter sports enthusiasts.

Coloradans work in agriculture and tourism, along with food processing, manufacturing and beer brewing. The U.S. Air Force Academy is near Colorado Springs. People also work at four national parks and 11 national forests in the state.

Colorado fun

Along with skiing, hiking, biking, river rafting and other sports, Coloradans can follow their favorite professional sports teams: the Colorado Rockies (MLB), the Denver Broncos (NFL), the Denver Nuggets (NBA) and the Colorado Rapids (MLS).

The University of Colorado, Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Mines, among others, are public universities in the state.

At the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, athletes prepare for competition.



A girl skis in Breckenridge, Colorado.

photo courtesy Mia & Steve Merzdagh

Colorado Icons

• **Mikaela Shiffrin**, who was born in Vail, is considered the best alpine skier of all time. Her parents were both ski racers. Mikaela won the Olympic gold medal in slalom at age 18 and the gold in giant slalom four years later. She planned to participate in the 2026 Olympics.



Mikaela Shiffrin

photo by Lisa Ferdinando

• Supreme Court Justice **Neil Gorsuch** was born in Denver. He was nominated by President Donald Trump and was sworn in on April 10, 2017. Before he rose to the Supreme Court, he was an appeals court judge.



Neil Gorsuch

photo by Franz Jantzen

• **Chief Ouray** (YUR-ay) was a leader of the Ute people in Colorado in the late 19th century. Ouray was responsible for negotiating treaties with the U.S. government on behalf of the Utes. The town of Ouray lies in the southwestern part of the state, and the Ute Indian Museum is near land that once belonged to him and his wife.



Chief Ouray

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/49EoRSX

At the library:

- "National Parks of the USA" by Kate Siber
- "Colors of Colorado: Animals in Camouflage" by Linda Cox

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Colorado are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BIKING, COLORADO, DENVER, DUNES, FOURTEENERS, GOLD, GORSUCH, HIKING, MOUNTAIN, OLYMPICS, OURAY, PARKS, PLAINS, PUEBLO, SILVER, SKIING, SOUTHWEST, TOURISM, UTE.

P U E B L O S T O U R I S M T
 F O U R T E E N E R S H T U S
 B C O L Y M P I C S O I G S E
 I M O U N T A I N P U K O I W
 K P O L D G D O R A R I R L H
 I W L D O E N X D R A N S V T
 N P E A U R N I P K Y G U E U
 G T U O I N A V I S S U C R O
 U T Y M Q N E D E K V K H H S
 G O L D Q F S S O R S G P O L

Cook's Corner

Chilaquiles

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 (4.5-ounce) can chopped green chilies, drained

- 1/3 cup evaporated milk
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 6 tortillas



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Melt 1 tablespoon butter or margarine in a skillet over medium heat. Add onion, tomato and chilies. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring often. Add evaporated milk and bring to a boil. Stir often.
2. Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream. Mix well.
3. In another skillet, melt remaining butter. Heat tortillas, one at a time, for about 1 minute on each side.
4. Place one tortilla in a 2-quart casserole dish. Spread about 1/4 cup of chili mixture on top. Repeat layers with remaining tortillas and chili mixture. Place one tortilla on top.
5. Cook in a preheated 350-degree oven for 15 minutes. Serves 8.

1. Natural streams of water bigger than a brook or creek (6-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. Enclosed or underground passage with openings on each end (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

3. The business of growing crops or animals (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Raised areas of land higher than hills (9-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. _____ at the Continental Divide flow both east and west.
2. The Eisenhower _____ passes under the Rockies.
3. Many Coloradans have jobs in _____.
4. Many of Colorado's _____ are higher than 14,000 feet.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Rivers, Tunnel, Farming, Mountains.

Mini Jokes



Cal: What's a mountain's favorite type of music?

Caroline: Rock 'n' roll!

Cindy: What is a Coloradan's favorite food?

Conrad: Rocky Road ice cream!

Eco Note



Hundreds of native plant species are blooming in midwinter across the United Kingdom, a shift scientists say is a clear sign of climate change disrupting natural cycles. Data from the annual New Year Plant Hunt show that for every 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit of warming in November and December, an average of 2.5 additional species bloomed during the new year period. Volunteers recorded 310 native species in bloom, far more than the roughly 10 normally expected, with daisies and dandelions again appearing early in 2026. The trend highlights growing stress on ecosystems as Britain experiences its hottest years on record.

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For later:

Look in your local newspaper for news about things happening in Colorado.

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