



The Mini Page

Issue 25, 2025

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Our states:
Wisconsin



photos courtesy National Park Service

Visit Mount Rushmore

In the 1920s, South Dakota state historian Doane Robinson got the idea that carving a sculpture in the Black Hills would attract visitors to the remote and thinly populated state — and bring in money, too. He was right.

Today about 2.5 million visitors travel to Mount Rushmore each year.

A monumental project

Mount Rushmore, a giant sculpture of four presidents, is at the top of a mountain towering about a quarter of a mile above the main viewing area.

The sculptor, Gutzon Borglum (GUT-son BOR-glum), sculpted the faces of the four presidents he thought did the most to make our country great: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Work began in 1927 and continued for 14 years. When Borglum died suddenly in early 1941, his son, Lincoln, took over and finished the project.

Choosing faces

Borglum first planned to carve three presidents: Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson. When he realized there was room for one more president, Roosevelt was chosen because Borglum thought he helped working people and the environment.

Carving the sculpture

Before he began the mountain sculpture, Borglum made smaller plaster models. Then he marked the mountain in red paint to show

how many inches of rock workers needed to remove. The workers then blasted it away.

About 90% of the sculpture was carved by using dynamite. About 450,000 tons of rock were removed. Workers next drilled to get to the final face, putting on the last touches with a hammer and chisel. The rock was then smoothed over.

About 400 workers helped carve the mountain. Most were miners, ranchers, farmers and teachers who lived in the area.

They worked, dangling from harnesses, in weather ranging from hot 90-degree summers to days of 25 to 30 degrees below zero in winter. No worker was seriously injured during the whole project.



A National Park Service worker dangles in a safety harness to power-wash George Washington's head. Each fall, park employees inspect and repair cracks with a special sealing mixture. Water collects in cracks in the mountain. Each cold South Dakota winter, the water freezes. In spring, the ice melts. This cycle of freezing and thawing causes the cracks to get bigger.

Mini Fact:

Each of the presidents' heads is 60 feet high from the chin to the top of the head and 40 feet wide.



This model shows what Crazy Horse Memorial will look like when it is finished. You can see the actual sculpture, still underway, in the background.

Native Americans

Native Americans in the area considered the Black Hills sacred ground. Mount Rushmore was one of seven sites in the Black Hills that they thought was especially holy.

In 1868, the U.S. government forced the Lakota people out of the Black Hills and onto reservations. The people considered the carving of their sacred mountain into sculptures of white leaders' faces to be an insult.

Today the National Park Service seeks to honor all cultures visiting the monument. Near the visitors' center, Lakota interpreters talk about their life and the Black Hills.

A private group is currently carving a memorial of the Indian leader Crazy Horse on land about 17 miles from Mount Rushmore.

Resources



On the Web:

- [nps.gov/moru](https://www.nps.gov/moru)
- [crazyhorsememorial.org](https://www.crazyhorsememorial.org)

At the library:

- "Mount Rushmore" by R.J. Bailey

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Try 'n' Find

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



BORGLUM, CRAZY HORSE, DYNAMITE, HARNESS, JEFFERSON, LINCOLN, MELT, MEMORIAL, MODEL, MOUNT, NATIVE, PLASTER, ROCK, ROOSEVELT, RUSHMORE, SCULPTURE, SOUTH DAKOTA, WASHINGTON.

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



Cook's Corner

Martha Washington's Applesauce

You'll need:

- 2 1/2 pounds tart cooking apples, peeled, cored and cut into thick slices
- 2 to 3 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest
- Water as needed

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 to 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg



What to do:

1. Put the apples in a saucepan over low heat. Add the lemon zest and about 1/2 cup of water.
2. Cover and cook the apples, stirring often and adding more water if the fruit seems too dry. Add only enough to prevent the apples from sticking to the pan. Cook for about 20 minutes, until the apples are very soft. Remove from the heat and mash the apples roughly.
3. Blend in the butter. Add 3/4 cup of the sugar, stirring in more as needed, and then add the nutmeg. Serve applesauce warm or at room temperature. Makes 3 to 4 cups.

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

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Mini Jokes



Ryan: What do you call George Washington's false teeth?
Rachel: Presidentures!

Eco Note



Scientists have discovered mysterious micro-burrows in marble and limestone across Namibia, Oman and Saudi Arabia that appear to be biological in origin. The tiny tunnels, about half a millimeter wide and up to an inch long, were found filled with calcium carbonate powder, possibly left by unknown microorganisms that burrowed through the rock for nutrients. It's believed the structures are 1 million to 2 million years old and may have formed during a wetter climate.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for Independence Day celebrations that feature the Mount Rushmore presidents.

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1. To look at and keep seeing (5 letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

2. A loud or not so nice sound (5 letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. To give off small flashes of bright light (7 letter adjective)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Not inside; in or into the open air; outside a building (8 letter adverb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Crowds were happy to _____ pretty fireworks in a dark night.
2. The fireworks made so much _____ that Sue covered her ears.
3. Three circles high in the sky made a _____ of bright color.
4. A fireworks celebration only happens _____ in good weather.

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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: Watch, Noise, Sprinkle, Outdoors.