



colorado central

A HISTORY LESSON IN 10 PAGES OR LESS

railroad



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The City of Loveland Cultural Services Department strives to enrich lives and connect our community through diverse arts and history experiences.

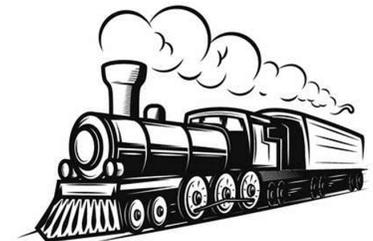
The Loveland Museum has created a series of quick lessons designed to provide basics on a topic important to our local history. These lessons have been compiled by staff and volunteers at the Loveland Museum. Suggested activities give ideas for hands-on learning and are not intended to be all-inclusive. Other resource links may also be provided in some sections for additional online learning.

Introduction

The Railroad and Loveland, Colorado

The arrival of the Colorado Central Railroad to the Front Range was a significant moment in Loveland's history. The train tracks that run through Loveland carry a history of bringing people and possibilities to Colorado. The railroad was a great influence in making Colorado what it is today. The tracks that run through now also brought Loveland its name!

It wasn't always easy for people to travel. Today, we take it for granted that we can drive to Denver in a couple of hours. Back in the early 1800s, it would take a day or longer to make the same trip. People had to travel by horseback, wagon or stage-coach... all slow and inefficient forms of travel. Roads were not smooth and paved. They were often rutted and difficult to travel across. Then there was the weather! Storms could easily prevent people from reaching their destination in a timely manner. Needless to say, travel was difficult, and one had to be ready to take the long journey.



Enter the railroad...

Colorado Central Railroad

Learn More

At the time our story begins, “civilization” ends at St. Louis, Missouri and so does train travel. A person could take a train from the east coast to St. Louis, but that would be the end of the line. Beyond St. Louis was a whole other story. The west was still mostly unsettled. Travelers would have to join up with a group of wagons (wagon train) to travel the bumpy roads. Colorado as we know it wasn’t even a territory yet. In 1865, the federal government tasked railroad companies with finishing the transcontinental railroad. In 1867, Union Pacific, completed their line from Omaha, Nebraska to Cheyenne, Wyoming. In the years after, other companies connected more cities. One of those companies was the Colorado Central Railroad.

Colorado Central Railroad Timeline:

1859 – Pioneer William Austin Hamilton Loveland and his family arrive in Golden, Colorado from Illinois.

1861 – The Territory of Colorado is established.

1865 – Efforts to build the transcontinental railroad begin.

Businessmen W.A.H. Loveland, Henry Teller and Edward Berthoud establish the Colorado & Clear Creek Railroad. Unfortunately, they are not able to get enough investors and the company fails.

1866 – The three businessmen try again with the Colorado Central & Pacific Railroad. Again, it fails.

1868 – Third time is the charm for Mr. Loveland, Mr. Teller and Mr. Berthoud. The Colorado Central Railroad is established and a railroad line between Golden and Denver is built.

1870- March- Union Pacific gives money to the Colorado Central Railroad to complete a northern line. Since the transcontinental railroad connected to Cheyenne, WY, Union Pacific wants to connect Denver to Cheyenne. **June** – Denver Pacific Railway beats them to the punch. They complete a line from Denver to Cheyenne through Greeley.

1873 – The Colorado Central Railroad builds a line as far north as Longmont. Then efforts are stopped for 4 years because of a financial panic in the east. There is no money to complete the project.

1876 – Mr. W.A.H. Loveland, active in his community and with the railroad, is named president of the Colorado Central Railroad company.

1877 – Homesteader David Barnes and his family own a large farm in the area known as Old St. Louis. He is good friends with Mr. Loveland and has heard that the Colorado Central Railroad will be laying track north of Longmont. It is determined that the best and flattest route is straight through the Barnes’ farm. Mr. Barnes deeds the right of way of his land to the railroad. He also sells small plots of land for businesses and churches and a town begins to grow. Many people want the new town to be named “Barnesville” after him and his family, but Mr. Barnes decides to give the honor to his friend and president of the Colorado Central Railroad... William Austin Hamilton Loveland!



ACTIVITY ONE

Mapping

The new town of Loveland connects to Denver, Cheyenne, Fort Collins, Longmont, and Golden by railway. This connection not only made it easier for people to travel to these various Colorado cities, but also to transfer to other trains that could take them to larger cities across the country.

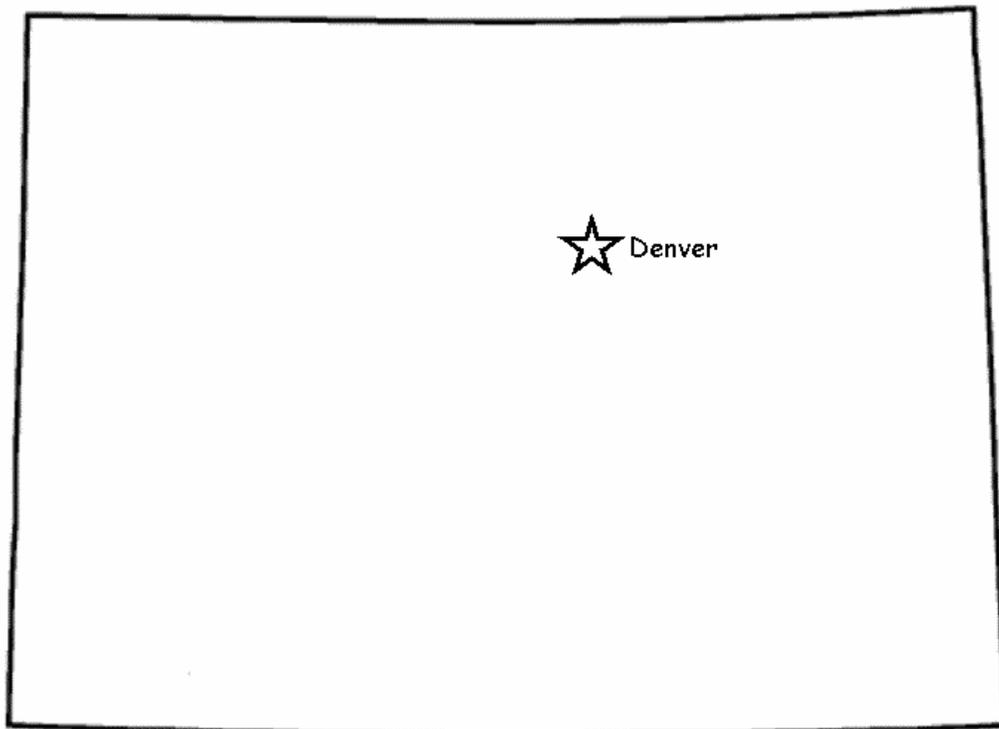
Farmers could now load their harvest as freight on the train and have it shipped to larger markets instead of having to rely on markets they could only reach by wagon. New products from around the country could also now also be transported to Loveland.

Below, you will find a map of Colorado. On your map, mark the towns that were located along the Colorado Central Railroad line. If you can't print the map, just use a blank sheet of paper. Colorado is the same shape as a piece of paper and makes mapping easy!

Colorado Central Railroad Towns:

- Fort Collins
- Loveland
- Berthoud
- Longmont
- Golden
- Denver
- Cheyenne, WY (use an arrow to show the way to Cheyenne)

Colorado



Newspaper Article

ACTIVITY TWO

The train coming to the area created huge changes. There were new ways to travel and new ways to transport goods and services. New towns and cities were being formed.

Think about it...

Your small farming community had just a few farms, a church, a general store and a one-room schoolhouse. Now, a new town is being built nearby. It has a train depot, where new people arrive every couple of days. New “specialty” stores and shops that sell more than just the items found at the general store. A hotel, more homes and a new school with several classrooms are built too.

You walk to the general store to buy candy. They are out of your favorite flavor. It used to take two weeks for the store to have the flavor back in stock. Now, things can be delivered in just a few days by train!

Write about it...

Younger students: On the next page, use the template to write a newspaper article talking about the excitement around town with the arrival of the train. What do you think it was like to see a train for the first time in 1877? Draw a picture to go with your story.

Older students: With the arrival of the train, suddenly so much more of the country is open to travelers and moving goods and supplies. Look at the maps in this article which estimated the time it took to travel across the U.S. in the 1800s. (<https://www.mnn.com/green-tech/transportation/stories/how-fast-could-you-travel-across-the-us-in-the-1800s>). From the years 1800-1930, the times that it took to travel across the country were very different. In a report, explain what you learn.

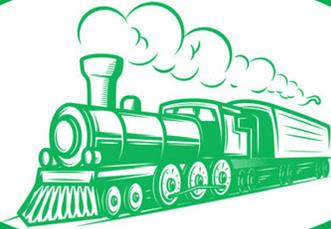
The town of Loveland continued to grow so much that in 1902 a new, bigger train depot had to be built. The location of the old depot also caused major “traffic jams” on 4th Street.

This photo shows people arriving on the train and then getting into Stanley Steamers that would take them up the canyon to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park for sightseeing.



ACTIVITY THREE

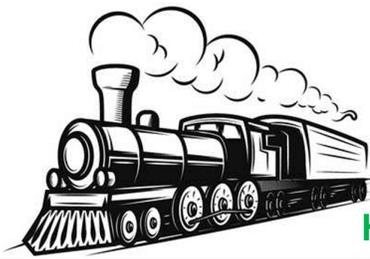
Trivia Game



See what you can remember from reading about or listening about the Colorado Central Railroad and its importance to Loveland.

Challenge someone in your household to a trivia game!

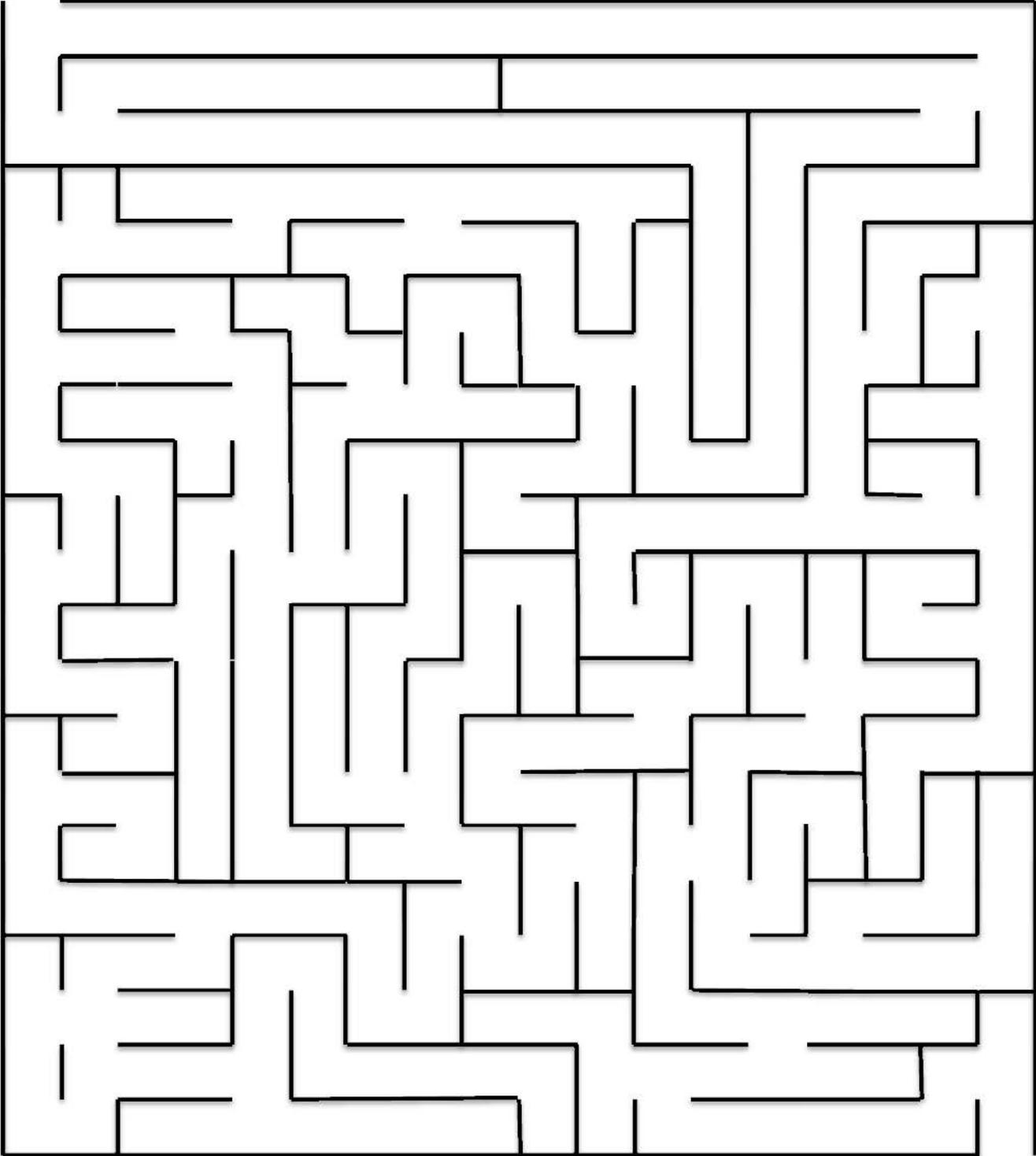
Question	Answer
Who was the town of Loveland named after?	William Austin Hamilton Loveland
The town of Loveland was established the same year that the train came through. What year?	1877
Why was the train depot in Loveland rebuilt in 1902?	The population outgrew it and the original location caused traffic jams on 4th Street.
Who granted the right of way of their land for the railroad to be built in this area?	David Barnes
What two cities did the Colorado Central Railroad first build a railroad line between?	Golden and Denver
What was the main mode of transportation used before trains arrived on the Front Range?	Wagons
Who was the president of the Colorado Central Railroad in 1877?	William Austin Hamilton Loveland
When the railroad line was built through what became Loveland, what two "major" cities did it connect?	Denver and Cheyenne



ACTIVITY FOUR

START

Help the train find the depot



FINISH