

Directions: Close Read this assignment.

Step 1 - For 1st read, use the highlighter tool to emphasize important information such as vocabulary words that are important to remember.

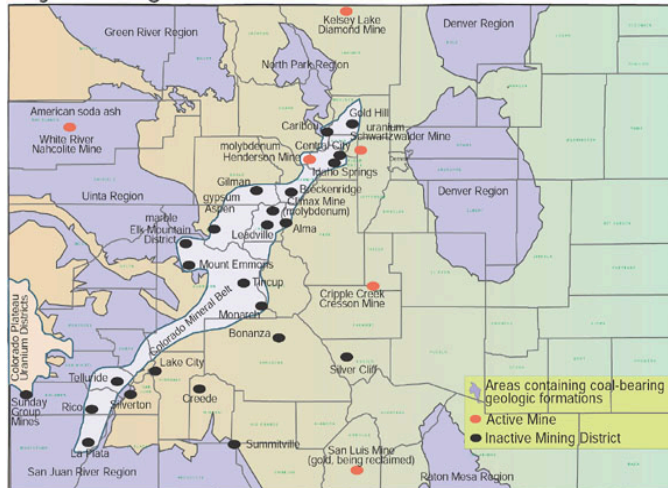


Step 2 - For 2nd read, create a comment box to write the underlined and *italicized vocabulary* words only.

MINING HISTORY OF COLORADO

In 1859 prospectors from Georgia found gold in gravel deposits in Cherry Creek just south of Denver. Later prospectors discovered gold in vein deposits around present-day Blackhawk and Central City. The rush to Colorado was on. Gold production from the central Front Range through 1990 was 7.3 million ounces. Since 1859 Colorado's mines have produced about 45 million ounces of gold.

Major Mining Districts of Colorado



Colorado's largest gold discovery was the Cripple Creek district in 1893. This one district alone produced over 22 million ounces of gold. The Cripple Creek district is the only remaining gold mine in Colorado with an estimated annual production of 240,000 ounces in 2000 and is still in production today.

Gold prospectors in the Leadville area kept finding an unknown dark mineral in their gold pans. This was later recognized as silver ore and lead to the development of the Leadville, Gilman, and Kokomo districts, which produced about 1.9 million tons of zinc, 1.3 million tons of lead, 333 million ounces of silver, and 3.6 million ounces of gold through 1998. The Black Cloud Mine was the last working mine in the district and it closed in 1999.

Molybdenum was discovered in the Climax area around Fremont Pass north of Leadville in 1879. The strange greasy metal had no known uses at the time of its discovery;

however, by World War I, it had come to be used as an alloy for hardening steel for armaments. The Climax Mine continued to increase production through World War II and into the 1970s. The Henderson Mine in Clear Creek County opened in 1976. The Climax Mine was shut down in 1986, and only the Henderson Mine continues to produce molybdenum in Colorado. The Henderson Mine in Clear Creek County is now the nation's largest primary molybdenum mine which produced 35 million pounds of molybdenum in 2008. The Climax Mine near Leadville began reopening in 2008, but the reopening was suspended.

Many uranium deposits were discovered in the southwestern portion of Colorado and in the Front Range during the 1950s. The most significant uranium mine was the Schwartzwald Mine between Golden and Boulder. As recently as 1997 the mine produced about 500,000 pounds of uranium oxide which closed in 2000. Uranium price increases from 2001 to 2007 prompted a number of companies to revive uranium mining in Colorado. However, price drops and financing problems in late 2008 have forced some companies to cancel or scale back uranium-mining projects. There are no currently producing uranium mines in Colorado.

Sand and gravel, crushed stone, gypsum, limestone, clay, and other rock materials are important commodities that provide the basic infrastructure materials for Colorado's booming economy of the late 1990s and 2000s. Production of these commodities has increased steadily over the past decade. The Yule Marble quarry in central Colorado produces some of the finest white marble in the world. Marble from the Yule quarry was used for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and part of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Coal mining in Colorado began soon after the first settlers and miners arrived in the Front Range. The area around Boulder and Weld counties once had over 100 producing coal mines. Coal is still produced, primarily from open pit and underground mines in the northwest part of the state. Production in 1999 was almost 30 million tons making Colorado number 11 out of 30 coal-producing states. In 2014, Colorado mines produced 21.8 million metric tons.

Answer the following questions IN FULL RESPONSES below:

1. Where was the largest gold discovery in Colorado?

Cripple Creek

a. When was this?

1859

b. How much gold was found?

2 million ounces of gold

2. Create a TABLE (Insert/Table) that lists 5 materials mined here in Colorado, and what they are used for.

3. Is this article written in support of mining or against mining? Explain your answer.

4. Of all the materials mined in Colorado, which of them do you think is most important? Why do you think this?