



P R E F A C E :

The Cal Poly Shared Reading Program 2003

FAST FACTS ON COLORADO

Admitted: August 1, 1876 as the 38th state
Capital: Denver
Name: From the Spanish language, Colorado is the word for “colored red”
Population: 4,301,261 (2000 census)
Size: 8th largest state in US
Area: 104,247 square miles total
 387 miles long; 276 miles wide
 453 square miles of water and
 103,794 square miles of land.
Elevation: Average elevation of 6,800 feet (2,073 m).
 Highest point -
 Mount Elbert 14,433 feet
 Lowest point -
 Arkansas Valley 3,350 feet
 Colorado has 58 mountains that
 soar over 14,000 feet. Only 54 are
 considered Official four teeners.

Major Rivers: Arkansas, Colorado, North Platte, Rio Grande, South Platte

Mountain Range: Rocky Mountains

Time Zone: Mountain Time Zone - Adjust clock forward 1 hour on the 1st Sunday in April and back 1 hour on the last Sunday in October.

Weather: Each year Colorado receives:

- 300 days of sunshine
- More than 300 inches of snow at the mountain resorts.
- 16.5 inches of precipitation (8 down low and 23 up high)
- 33 percent humidity
- First snow in September (though it usually snows somewhere in the state every month, except maybe August)

Quick Fact: Denver’s known as the Mile High City because it’s a mile, or 5,280 feet, above sea level. At a mile high, water boils at 202 degrees instead of 212 degrees, which means it takes four minutes instead of three to soft boil an



Colorado State Seal:



Colorado State Flag:

Description:

The northeastern edge of Colorado (setting of Plainsong) is home to small towns and far-reaching grasslands that beckon visitors to “saddle up” and ride through history. Northeast Colorado is a mecca for history enthusiasts, boasting present-day cowboys, wagon train trips through frontier land, pheasant hunts, soda fountains, unique antique stores and a history etched in town museums.

The Old Overland Trail and Platte River pathways Northeast of Denver, Interstate 76 lies between the Overland Trail and historic Platte River, giving travelers the opportunity to stop off and take in a little history as they make their way to the Rocky Mountains. In the northeastern corner of Colorado, where trail and river meet, lies the town of Julesburg. Here visitors can drive the South Platte River Trail, the shortest of Colorado’s scenic byways. The 19-mile loop includes commemorative markers and museum stops, where travelers can learn about the history of this frontier settlement.

*Seven towns people
 whose lives converge in:*
PLAINSONG