

Parent's Guide

Journey to Pikes Peak

Please Do Not Remove This Copy

Dear Parents,

We are so glad you are here – thanks for visiting Journey to Pikes Peak! This interactive children’s gallery was designed specifically for children ages 2-10. We are pleased to offer this space as a hands-on, learning environment where children are free to explore local history through play.

For your child’s safety we ask that you remain in or immediately outside the gallery where seating is available. Restrooms and water-fountains are located nearby. If you need any additional assistance please notify our staff at the front desk.

We ask that you help us maintain this exhibit by encouraging your children to respect this space and each other. Also, please remember that no food or drink is allowed in the Museum.

This guide will provide you with historical information (also available throughout the exhibit) related to the three time periods depicted in this exhibit.

- ***Mouache and Capote Ute ca. 1835***
- ***Pikes Peak or Bust emigration ca. 1865***
- ***All Aboard for Pikes Peak ca. 1895***

Journey to Pikes Peak

Do you ever wonder why people live in a particular place? How they got there and why they came? These concepts are creatively explored in ***Journey to Pikes Peak***. Children aged 2-10 are free to join our mascot *Max the Marmot* to discover how, why and when people came to live in the Pikes Peak Region over time.

Start your journey by learning about the Ute people who have always called this place home. From inside a canvas tipi find out how horses transformed Ute culture and why families moved throughout the area according to the seasons. Before you pack your parfleche to continue on your travels, practice building a fire, try your hand at musical instruments, enjoy books and games and learn about what Ute children did for fun.

Continue your journey by packing your child-size wagon for a long trip west to the Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush. What supplies do you need to take to survive the weeks-long trip? What supplies do you need to make life more comfortable on the trail? When you get to Colorado what does your family plan to do? Mine? Farm? Open a business? Pick a route on the map and explore life on the trail by cooking meals, choosing supplies, and playing with music, games and dress-up clothes.

Complete your journey when you buy a ticket at the station and come on board a train bound for Colorado Springs! Which cities will you stop at before arriving? Use a timetable to pick the fastest route and make sure to set your watch because the train leaves on schedule when you hear the bell. Are you coming to Pikes Peak for vacation? For your health? To go to school? What food and clothes did you bring with you and what can you buy when you get there? Read the mail, newspapers and mail-order catalogs on your journey in addition to playing games and dress up clothes.

No matter when or why you came – we hope you enjoy your
Journey to Pikes Peak!

Composite Photograph of Pikes Peak Courtesy of Dave Wolverton

The People: The Mouache and Capote Ute ca. 1835

We call ourselves ***The People or Nùu-ci***. Other people call us Ute. More specifically, we are the Mouache and Capote Ute. The area around Pikes Peak has always been our home. Every year we move across our territory according to the seasons. This has been going on for so long that we have favorite places to stay. We spend the winter in the San Luis Valley, or along the Front Range. It is much warmer here than in the mountains! Before it gets too cold, we harvest all of our crops that we planted last year. We also harvest pine nuts from the groves of trees near our camps. Winter is a time to rest, keep warm, work on projects, and share stories with our loved ones.

When spring comes, we pack our belongings and travel up Ute Pass to our hunting grounds in North and South Parks we gather many things to eat including berries, roots, and syrups. There are big horn sheep, deer, and many other animals in these parks for us to hunt. Throughout the summer and fall everyone works hard hunting, collecting, and preparing food by drying or curing it for the winter time when we will return to the foot of the mountains.

Our Horses

We move seasonally throughout our territory because we know where to find the best resources like plants and animals based on where they can be found at different times of the year. While traveling to the south we saw how useful horses were to our Spanish neighbors and around 1640 we began to trade for them. Our horses make our seasonal migrations so much easier because they carry many of our belongings. We began to use tipis like this one because they could be put up and taken down quickly and our horses could carry them from camp to camp.

With horses, we can travel much farther and faster too. Horses are also useful for hunting bison which we call **Kùcu**. Bison are an important resource because we use them for food, clothing, blankets, tools and containers. Because we can travel so far on horseback our territory and hunting grounds have become larger. This means that we come into contact with many other American Indian tribes and Europeans too. This provides us more opportunities to trade for things we want but it also means that we sometimes fight our enemies for the resources we need to survive. Our horse herds are very large and our warriors have become famous for their riding and hunting skills.

Our Homes

Our grandparents, and their grandparents, and their grandparents want us to remember that the ***Nùu-ci*** or ***Ute*** people ***were always here***. We have always made our home near Pikes Peak which we call Sun Mountain. As long as we could see Sun Mountain or know that it was right over the next hill we knew that we were home. When we began to use horses to travel farther and faster around our territory we needed a new type of home that was mobile.

We borrowed the idea of living in tipis from our Plains Indian neighbors to the east. Although our tipis were originally made of animal skins, we later made them from lightweight canvas like the one you are in now.

Sometimes our tipis are decorated and sometimes they are not. Tipis belong to women who put them up, take them down and pack them on the horses. Inside our tipis we have fires to cook with and keep us warm. We also have room inside to sleep, play games and spend time with our family and guests. The doors on our tipis face east to greet the morning sun.

******Because of the size and shape of this exhibit***

the tipi door faces west***

Family Roles

Mouache and Capote Ute boys and girls play games that teach us how to be men and women. By practicing things that older people do we learn by example from our elders. For instance, boys learn to ride horses almost as soon as they learn to walk. As they get older boys work with their family's herds, guarding the horses at night and warning the adults in case of raids. Boys also practice hunting with miniature weapons. By the time boys grow up they have become expert riders and hunters.

Girls practice adult skills through play also. They pretend to cook, grow crops, and raise tipis by using smaller versions of their mothers' tools, baskets and cookware. They also practice being mothers by playing with dolls and miniature cradleboards that women in their family make especially for them. As girls get older they learn how to make clothes and create beautiful designs with beadwork.

Packing our Parfleches

We make many of our clothes from buckskin which is the softened hides of deer, antelope, mountain sheep or buffalo. We also make clothes from wool trade cloth and cotton fabric as well. Our mothers, grandmothers and other female members of our family decorate our clothing with intricate floral or geometric designs using beads, ribbons, and other ornaments. Even our moccasins are beaded. Women in our families take great pride in creating beautiful clothing.

When it comes time to move to a new camp, our belongings are packed in a variety of different sized and shaped bags. Some bags are made to specifically carry pipes, tobacco, arrows or ceremonial items. However, our **parfleches** are the most versatile type of bag because they are extremely lightweight yet durable. We use them to transport food, clothing, medicine, tools and utensils. Women also make baskets from the shoots of sumac and willow trees to carry food and water. The water jars are sometimes called **Ollas**. They are tightly woven baskets made waterproof by rubbing pine pitch (sap) all over them.

Music and Dance

Music, dance and storytelling are an important part of our *Nùu-ci* or Ute culture. One of our most important celebrations is held around the first day of spring and is known as the Bear Dance. People from the seven Ute bands come together from far apart to welcome spring. It is a time to exchange news, tell stories, sing, dance and have fun. After a long hard winter, our families enjoy the opportunity to come together and honor the grizzly bears that are just beginning to leave their dens after hibernation. Our elders share with us that many, many years ago the grizzly bear promised that as long as the Ute danced the Bear Dance, our hunters would find game and our families would continue to grow.

Pikes Peak or Bust! Ca. 1865

After gold was discovered in 1858, my family joined thousands of other people who rushed west to Pikes Peak. Some people came because they lost their all their money in the financial panic of 1857 and were looking for an opportunity to start over. Others dreamed of owning a large piece of land far from the crowded cities of the east. Some came just for adventure. Most of us hoped we would strike it rich!

Our parents read reports about the gold rush in newspapers and illustrated weeklies. People told outrageous stories about how easy gold was to find. So easy in fact, that if you went sledding down Pikes Peak the sled runners would create enormous ribbons of pure gold hundreds of feet long! We even heard that it was hard to get a drink in a Colorado creek because the water contained too much gold dust. Of course the stories were not true. Some people did find gold in Colorado but it was very hard work!

Even though we were eager to start a new life, nearly everyone had a difficult time leaving their family, friends, and home. Who knew if you would ever come back? Many families sold nearly everything they owned to pay for the journey. Many difficult decisions had to be made. My parents had to choose what to take and what to leave behind. Children had to part with most of our toys, books, and extra clothes. The wagon would be crowded!

Decisions my family had to make before we left for Pikes Peak:

1. Where should we go? Colorado Territory was a big place!
2. What time of year should we go?
3. Which trail should we take?
4. What did we need to take?
5. What did we want to take?
6. What should we leave behind?
7. Where should buy our supplies?
8. Should we join a wagon train?
9. Should we use oxen or mules to pull our wagon?
10. What should we do when we get to Pikes Peak?

Jumping Off!

Next, our family made our way to a jumping-off place. This was what people called the towns located near the start of the trails. From these towns emigrants were **Jumping Off** to the west! To prepare for our trip we read *Luke Tierney's 1859 Pikes Peak Guidebook* cover to cover many times. We purchased a new wagon and all of our supplies. Boy, were we kids excited — but our parents were not! They were shocked at the high prices and the very long list of things we would need for our journey.

Here are just a few of our supplies and their prices:

1. 1,000 lbs. of Flour = \$30.00
2. 400 lbs. of Bacon = \$40.00
3. 150 lbs. of beans = \$5.25
4. 50 lbs. of coffee = \$7.00
5. 200 lbs. of sugar = \$18.00
6. 20 blankets = \$40.00
7. 1 tent = \$15.00
8. 3 yoke of oxen = \$180.00
9. Wagon and cover = \$85.00
10. 4 gold pans = \$2.00

My family decided it would be best to join a wagon train. Our caravan had 3 dozen wagons but some were smaller and some were much, much larger! Once a wagon train was formed a leader was elected. We called the leader the Captain or Wagon Master. It was his job to guide us safely to Pikes Peak. He made all the important decisions along the way such as when to leave, where to camp and how far we should travel each day.

There were 3 main routes to Pikes Peak: the Oregon Trail along the Platte River; the Santa Fe Trail along the Arkansas River; and the central route known as the Smoky Hill Trail. Each route had its advantages and disadvantages. The Platte River and Arkansas River trails were longer but they had ample supplies of water along the way. The Smoky Hill Trail was the most direct route but it had very little water and therefore could be dangerous. Some people called it the **Starvation Trail!**

Life on the Trail

Our journey to Pikes Peak took 6 weeks. Every day we woke up before dawn and travelled for about 10 hours. My father decided to pull our wagon with slow but sturdy oxen. At night the oxen foraged for grass. We usually travelled 10-15 miles per day. If we had bad weather or crossed a stream or river we went even slower. Sometimes it felt like we were going nowhere at all! Some wagon trains used horses or mules which are much faster but are not as strong or reliable. Horse-drawn wagons can easily travel 15-25 miles per day but we did not have a single inch of extra room in our wagon for horse feed!

We were so excited to start our journey to Pikes Peak! However, after a few days on the trail the excitement wore off. The flat plains seemed to stretch on forever and life on the trail could be hard. Most people walked all day long because the wagons were so full and heavy. Occasionally someone was injured or became sick and the Wagon Master or Captain had to make the decision to stop or keep going.

On the journey everyone had a job to do. Children helped take care of the animals by milking cows and driving them along the trail. We gathered water and searched the ground for wood and buffalo chips to light our campfires. Boys helped their fathers hunt and girls helped their mothers prepare meals. When fresh game could not be found our supper consisted of beans, bread, and dried meat. Everyone drank coffee — even children!

We stopped for lunch at noon and then pressed on until it was time to camp for the night. The wagons were parked in a circle for safety. Some people slept in tents or under the wagons, while others enjoyed sleeping in the open air under the stars. Along the way we did our best to have fun. Around the campfire at night we sang songs and danced to fiddle music. We also told stories, played games, read newspapers and books by firelight and wrote letters home to our friends and family. Our **Journey to Pikes Peak** was one we would never forget!

All Aboard for Pikes Peak!

My family journeyed to Pikes Peak aboard a train! We were coming to Colorado Springs on vacation but other people travelled here for many different reasons. The railroads brought settlers, immigrants, miners, health seekers, and tourists west. Some travelers hoped to strike it rich by mining for gold and minerals. Others looked forward to owning their own farmland. Health seekers travelled here hoping to cure their tuberculosis. Doctors in the east told them that the mountain air and sunshine would help.

Before our trip we had seen many beautiful photographs and postcard pictures of Pikes Peak. Advertisements described the beauty and explained the health benefits of Colorado. To prepare for our journey we read tourist guidebooks filled with ideas about what to do when we arrived. On the train we created a list of all the things we wanted to do and see:

1. Hike in Cheyenne Canon
2. Ride a Burro up Pikes Peak
3. Carriage Ride in Garden of the Gods
4. Drink mineral water in Manitou Springs
5. Explore Cave of the Winds

Luckily, time on the train passed quickly. We children brought books, games and a few toys to entertain ourselves. Our parents spent their time reading newspapers and magazines, talking with other passengers and writing letters back home to our family and friends.

Some passengers travelled by 1st class, with luxurious sleeping, dining and parlor cars. Our family chose to travel by 2nd class to save money for our vacation. My mother packed a basket full of food but we also ate at **Harvey House** restaurants when the train stopped. At night we folded down our cushioned seats to make beds. 3rd class passengers had the least comfortable trip with wooden seats in crowded and noisy compartments.

Be On Time!

We could hardly wait for the day of our trip to arrive! Our parents made sure we arrived at the train station early to purchase our tickets. Everyone knew trains left on time. If you were late — you missed the train!

In fact, being “on time” was an idea that developed right along with the railroad. In the early 1800s every community ran on what was called **local time**. For example, from one town to another the time could be 10, 20, or 30 minutes different. This was very frustrating to travellers who constantly had to adjust their pocket watches!

Railroad companies decided to do something about this problem. On Sunday, November 18, 1883 people across the country were required to stop what they were doing and reset their clocks anywhere from two to thirty minutes. The four main time zones in the United States are:

1. Eastern Time Zone
2. Central Time Zone
3. Mountain Time Zone
4. Pacific Time Zone



The Transcontinental Railroad

The transcontinental railroad changed history! Instead of traveling slowly on foot, by boat or on horseback, people could now ride a train from one side of the country to another! A journey of several weeks or months from New York to San Francisco by ship around the tip of South America or overland by wagon, now could take only days! Railroads changed the way people traveled and communicated.

President Abraham Lincoln believed a transcontinental railroad would unite the country and help America grow. Even though the country was in the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln signed the **Pacific Railroad Act** on July 1, 1862. The law provided government help to the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad. Working from the west and the east the two railroads eventually met at Promontory Summit, Utah on April 9, 1869.

In addition to passengers, railroads carried food, clothing and products. Companies used the railroads to ship merchandise from coast to coast. This meant that people in Colorado could now enjoy oranges grown in California and fresh oysters from Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. Settlers in the west could order anything they wanted or needed from a **Sears, Roebuck** or **Montgomery Ward** catalog. Some people even ordered houses from catalogs!

Special train cars were invented to hold specific things:

- Passenger cars carried people
- Freight cars carried grain or dry goods
- Tanker cars carried oil
- Cattle cars carried cows and horses
- Boxcars carried coal
- Flatcars carried large machinery
- Mail cars carried postal workers and mail

Planning Our Trip

Our family tried to pick the fastest route to Pikes Peak. We were in a hurry to start our vacation! We had many different trains to choose from. Once on board, the conductor told us we were travelling at an average speed of 30 mph. We could hardly believe how fast the scenery was flying by our windows! Our trip from St. Louis, Missouri to Colorado Springs took about 27 hours. How long would it take if we were coming from another city?