

Multi-Genre Research Projects

Instead of producing a single, large research report, students could separate the information into multiple, smaller formats. Charlene Crouch at Selma Elementary (Selma, IN) integrated a variety of writing genres within her fifth grade students' research projects on U.S. States. Requiring specific types of information and facts, students had to present the required data within a multi-genre project.

Each student's final project included:

- A title page
- A Table of Contents
- A forward letter (friendly letter format) that introduces the state researched and a little background on why the student chose it
- A 250-word expository article or essay on the state including capital city, state bird, state flower, population, climate, popular landmarks, historical events, figures related to the state, etc.
- A poem (of any form, including acrostic, free verse, rhyming, concrete, etc.)
- A photo collage including highlighted places, scenes, objects, and landmarks. (Minimum of 5 photos. All must include captions written in sentences)
- A hand-drawn state map identifying the capital city, three additional places/cities to visit, and all major rivers/waterways
- Any two additional genres that provide additional information specific and unique to the state. These could include:
 - *A hand-drawn license plate, with a detailed explanation about the design*
 - *An additional poem about the state*
 - *A timeline of important events related to the state*
 - *A bumper sticker/design that relates to the state, including a detailed explanation*
 - *A travel brochure that highlights annual festivals and events within the state (include explanations of each event, who would attend, why the event is being held, what/who the event honors, etc.)*
 - *A journal entry from a famous person from the state (written in first person)*

Read excerpts from a Selma Elementary fifth grader's project on Colorado on the following pages.

Dear Reader,

I chose Colorado because I thought the name was interesting. See I didn't know a lot about this state. The only thing I "knew" about Colorado was it's average of cool weather and it had a couple of rivers.

Included in my project are 5 different pieces. I have a poem about Colorado. The next piece is a photo collage of different pictures of my state. Then I made a state map that shows different places in Colorado. Next, I have a T-shirt design. It is has a saying about Colorado.

What I hope you get from this project is interesting facts about Colorado. Again, I didn't know much about Colorado before this project. Hopefully, you will learn as much as I did after you read my project!

Amanda R.

Spelling = 10
paragraphs = 6
format = 6
content = 20

42
/42

Colorado

Do you like the cool breeze of Colorado? Me too. I'll tell you more about Colorado. Did you know that Colorado has the highest average elevation of any state? The capital is Denver. Denver has a population of 555,000! Some of the largest cities are Denver, 557,917; Colorado Springs, 369,815; Aurora, 297,235, Lakewood, 140,671; and Fort Collins. 57

Also, the major bodies of water in Colorado are Blue Mesa Reservoir, Grand lake, John Martin Reservoir, Lake Grandy Meredith, and Nee Reservoirs. The highest point is Mount Elbert, it is part of the Rocky Mountains. There are a lot of major rivers in Colorado such as; the Arkansas River, Colorado River, North Platte River, and Republican River. 58

Spaniards searched Colorado for gold in the sixteenth century. In 1803 the United States bought the eastern and central regions in the Louisiana Purchase. In 1858 gold was discovered in present / Day Denver. In 1876 Colorado became the thirty - eighth state. That was some great facts about the amazing Colorado! 59

Now, if Colorado seems interesting to you, then I will give you some suggestions you might want to visit like: Pikes Peak, located in the west of the Colorado Springs, the most famous mountain in the Rockies. Central City, located near the old - operas house. Garden of the Gods, near Colorado Springs, also a breathtaking cluster of huge red sandstone rocks. Royal Gorge, near Canon City, is a massive canyon cut by the Arkansas River. And of course, Air Force Academy, which is north of Colorado Springs trains the nation's Air Force officers. 63

words - ~~258~~ = 10
spelling - 0 = 10
content = 25
415/50

Cat From Colorado

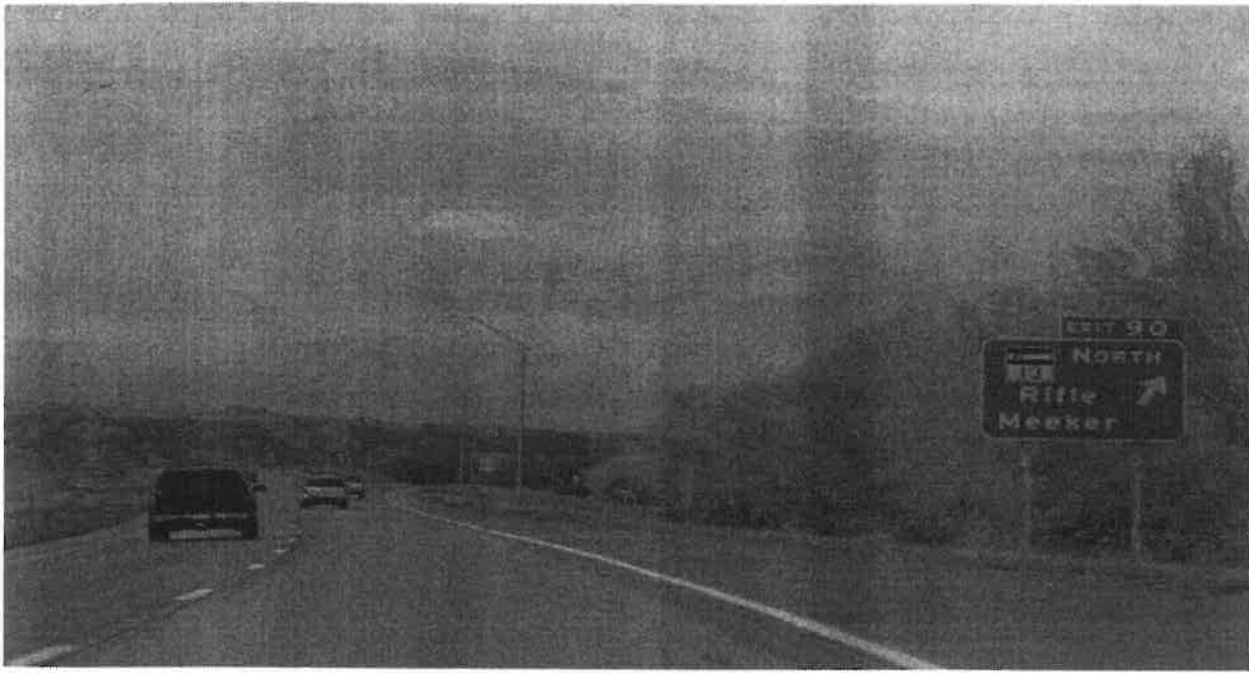
(poem)

There once was a cat from Colorado.
All the while she hoped to follow her shadow.
So she jumped on a train,
then began to complane.
Oh, that little cat from Colorado.

Awesome!

spelling - 0 = 5
format = 10

15
/ 15

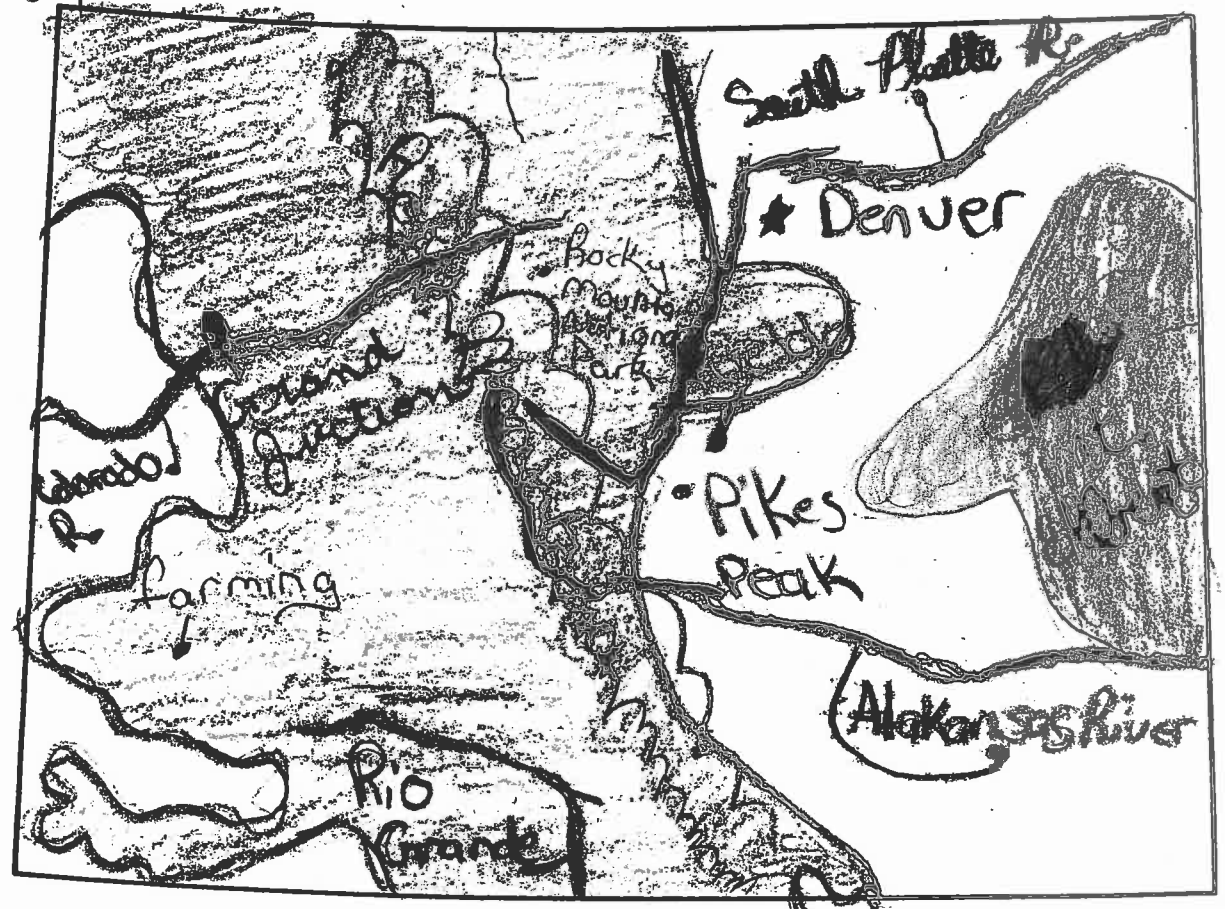


pics - 5 = 5
descriptions - 0 = 2
spell - m/a = 2 / 6/15


Amanda #116

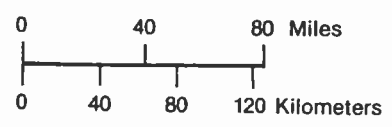
COLORADO

Agriculture
label 3 places to visit



225-14

Some reasons why you should visit are one; there is flat land for farming, two; there might be mountains to climb and three there are  rivers to wade in.



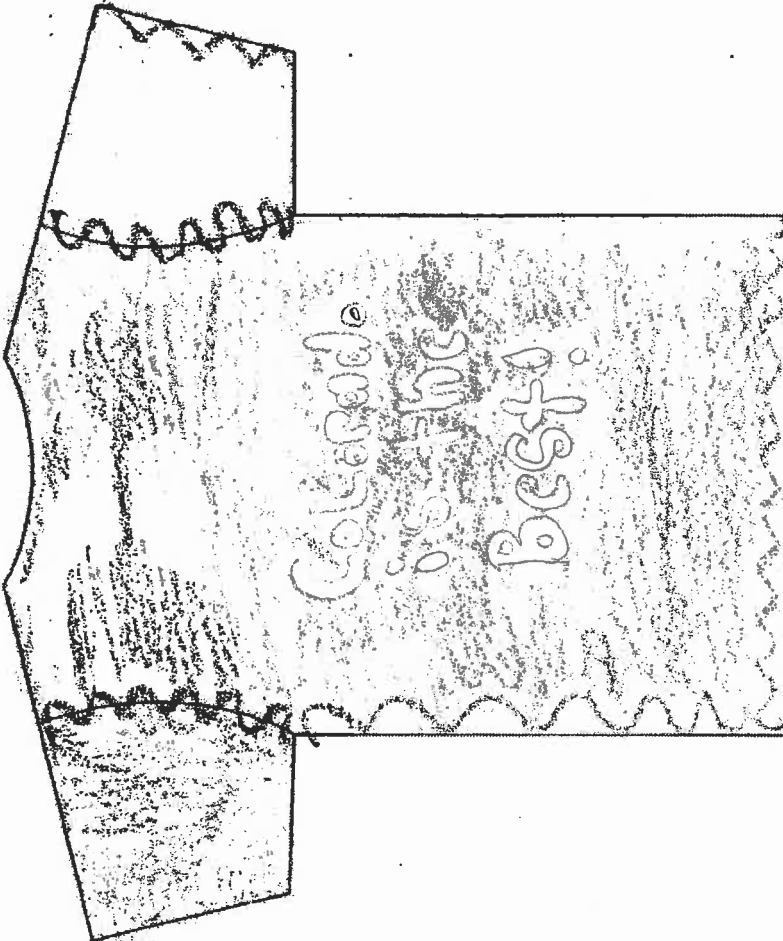
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16
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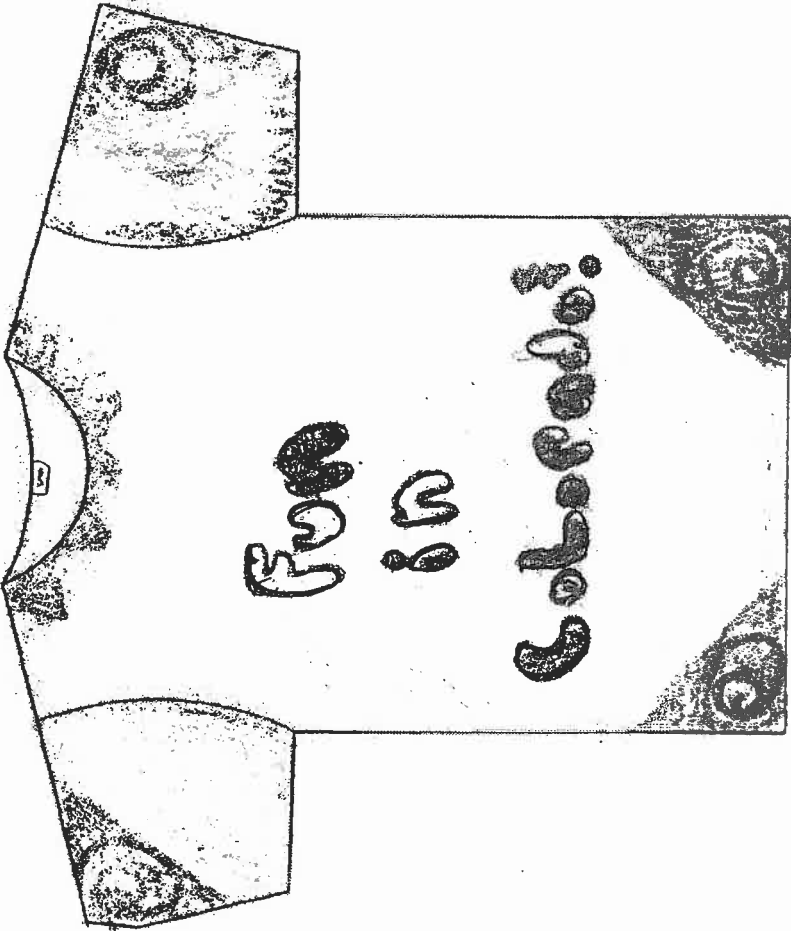
Back

B



Front

F



creative
 3
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 3
 descrip
 0
 state
 3

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