

**“It’s News to Me!”**  
**Teaching with Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection**  
**Model Lesson Format**

*Fill out the list of the components to be included in a lesson using primary source materials that is aligned to Colorado Model Content Standards.*

**Lesson Title:**

FARMERS AND WATER, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

**Subject(s) and Grade Level(s):**

Colorado History, Media Literacy, Reading and Writing, Grades 6-8

**Focus of Lesson:** A brief explanation of what students are to learn in this lesson (content and/or skills). What is the purpose of the lesson?

This lesson will focus on articles in *Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection* and an electronic edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* involving the significance of water in Weld County, Colorado. Students will be given an opportunity to develop their skills in searching historic databases, browsing articles, retrieving primary source information, analyzing past and current events, and asking critical questions of the content.

**Standards Assessed:** Which standards will you be assessing in this lesson? Identify the content area, the standard number and any key components or benchmarks that are applicable.

**Information Literacy Standard 2:** The information literate student evaluates information critically and competently.  
**History Standard 2:** Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.  
**History Standard 2.2** Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.  
**Reading and Writing Standard 1:** Students read and understand a variety of materials.  
**Reading and Writing Standard 4:** Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

**Assessment:** Explain the assessment. (Include the formal 'assessment assignment' and any forms, worksheets, etc. in the Materials Section)

1. Students will locate, read and analyze four articles on the topic of irrigation water from Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection and the Rocky Mountain News.
2. As a class project, students will formulate a questionnaire to ask selected farmers in the Weld County area regarding irrigation water, and the impact to the community.
3. Students will complete a self assessment and write a reflective paragraph.

**Standards Addressed:** Which standards will you be addressing (but not assessing) in this lesson? Identify the content area, the standard number and any key components or benchmarks that are applicable.

**Information Literacy Standard 1:** The information literate student accesses information efficiently and effectively.

**History Standard 3:** Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.

**Reading and Writing Standard 2:** Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

**Time:** The number of class periods required for the lesson as well as the length of class period.

Two class periods – 40 minutes each

**Materials / Teacher Preparation Section:** List the technology, handouts, chart paper, text resources, etc. needed to complete the lesson. Include what you need to do to prepare ahead of time for your students to complete the lesson.

Teacher Lesson Plan Guide, introductory information, daily plan, possible questions for class use with historic newspaper articles, and inquiry questions for students with personal experience.

Technology—Computers with Internet access, networked printer, technology support from media specialist, or classroom teacher for functions in Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection and the Rocky Mountain News.

Handouts—Student Lesson Guide with introduction, suggested questions, search questions, and a daily schedule.

Newspaper Analysis Guide

Self Assessment

Text Resources Visit the Library/Media Center to inquire about maps, books, pamphlets and history of the area.

**Possible Procedures:** Enumerate the procedure teachers can follow to teach the lesson to students. Provide the URL for the digital primary sources that you will use.

**Class 1** – Introduction to Keyword Searching and Article Analysis

*Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection*

<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

**Class 2** – Advanced Analysis and Questioning Techniques

Electronic Edition, *Rocky Mountain News* [http://www.post-](http://www.post-newscustomer.com)

[newscustomer.com](http://www.post-newscustomer.com)

Newspaper Analysis Guide (student)

Self Assessment (student)

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