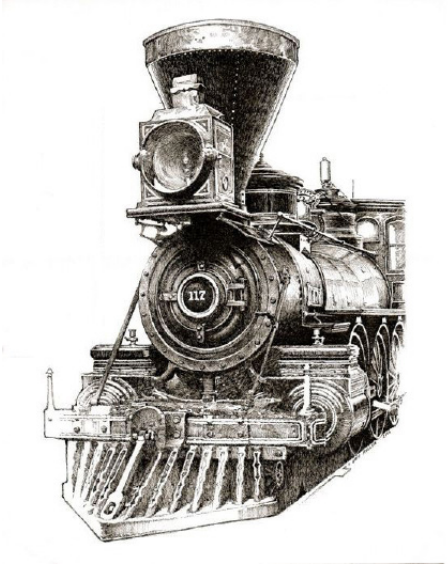
Unit 8: *Mining & Settlement*

Name: _____

Lecture 8.1 • *Extending the Frontier*

Mining & Early Towns

- After the 1849 California gold rush, prospectors discovered gold all across the West; in 1859 in "Pikes Peak Country" and Nebraska, and over the next two decades in Idaho, central Colorado, and S. Dakota.
- Frontier towns grew as the miners were followed by merchants who opened businesses like stores, restaurants, boarding houses, and laundries.
- Mining had a huge impact on the West. It ...
  - created jobs
  - encouraged railroad expansion
  - attracted financial investment from the East
  - stimulated the growth of towns



The Central Pacfic's locomotive at the TCRR completion was named after what Roman god of thunder?

Transportation

- Prior to 1860, America's railroads ended at the Mississippi River. In 1863, the race to build a transcontinental railroad began. The Union Pacific built westward from Nebraska, and the Central Pacific built eastward from California.
- Labor was scarce because of the Civil War, so both railroads turned to immigrants (esp. Chinese, Irish and Mexicans) as workers.
- The work crews faced scorching desert heat, mountainous terrain, and the threat of avalanches. Sometimes the crews would only average a few inches of track a day! Many workers died from the harsh conditions and back-breaking labor.
- Finally, in 1869 — four years after the end of the Civil War — the two railroads met at Promontory Point, just north of the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Personal Reflection:

Lecture 8.2 • *Mining in Colorado*

Colorado's Early Settlements

- In 1858, a pocket of gold was found near modern-day Englewood. Stories spread quickly, and soon, thousands were rushing to "Pike's Peak Country" in Kansas Territory to make their fortune.
- The first organized settlement, Auraria, was founded in 1858 by the St. Charles Company along the banks of the South Platte River.
- That same year, Denver City — named after the territorial governor of Kansas, James W. Denver — was founded by General William Larimer.

Types of Mining

- In the 1860s, there were three primary kinds of mining:

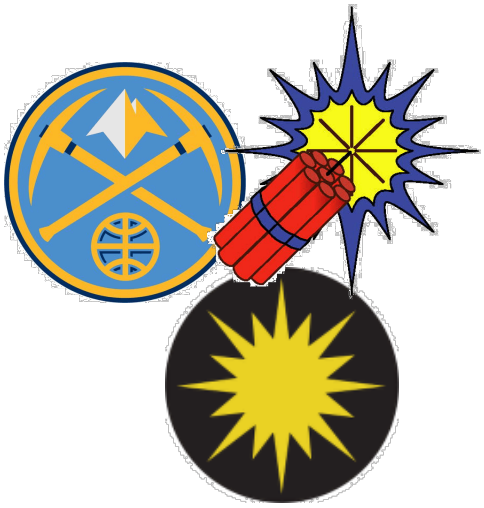
  placer mining = collecting naturally eroded "free" gold from river beds using panning, rockers, and sluice boxes

  hydraulic mining = using pressurized water to erode a hillside

  hard-rock mining = digging and drilling for deep veins of gold; much more dangerous because of flooding, cave-ins, and mine gasses

The Mining Boom

- From 1859 to 1862, gold was found in Idaho Springs, Central City, Blackhawk, Fairplay, Georgetown, Breckenridge, and Oro City. Colorado's gold boom was in full swing!
- Eventually though, the placer gold began to vanish, people started to leave Colorado, and miners were forced to turn to hard-rock mining. But even that gold became scarce within the next decade.
- Luckily, in 1864, silver was discovered near Georgetown. Several other silver strikes followed, and by the end of the 1860s, Colorado was the nation's mining leader.



Name these three Colorado professional sports teams which borrow their names from our mining heritage.

Personal Reflection:

Lecture 8.3 • *Early Colorado*

The Growth of Denver

- In 1859, Colorado's first newspaper, the ***Rocky Mountain News***, began printing in Denver City. Soon after that, the telegraph arrived and Colorado was linked with the East.
- By 1860, Denver City had a population of 1,000 men, and five to ten women!
- Lawlessness was the norm in Denver City's early years. What "justice" there was came from vigilantes and street gangs.
- Still, Denver City continued to grow, and in 1862 the first public school was opened. The first college, **Denver University** (DU) was founded two years later, in 1864.

What is the mascot of the University of Denver (DU)?

Colorado Territory

- In 1860, the people in "Colorado" tried to establish a new territory called **Jefferson Territory**, but their proposal was rejected by Congress, which was too preoccupied with the issue of slavery, and the threat of civil war.
- Once the war started though, Congress wanted more states and territories on the Union side, so in February of 1861 they created a new territory out of Kansas which they named **Colorado**.
- **William Gilpin** was appointed as the first governor in 1861, but was replaced by **John Evans** in 1862.

Personal Reflection:

Denver's Growing Pains

- During its early years, Denver City suffered several set-backs:

  In 1863, fire destroyed 70 buildings.

  In 1864, Cherry Creek flooded, destroying 50 buildings, and causing $6,000,000 in damage.

  From 1863 to 1865, the Cheyenne Wars cut off Denver City from the rest of the country.

- Despite these challenges, Denver City continued to grow, and in 1865 it beat out Golden to become the territorial capital. With it's newfound importance, the city changed it's name to simply "Denver".

Lecture 8.4 • *The Road to Statehood*

An Uncertain Future

- Immediately after becoming a territory, many Coloradans began thinking of becoming a full-fledged state, but they knew that they would need a larger population to gain statehood.
- Despite the mining boom of the early 1860s, the uncertainty of gold mining, combined with the constant threat of Indian attack kept most people away from Colorado.
- During the mid-1860s though, silver discoveries stabilized the economy, the Indians were pacified, and more and more people now wanted to come to Colorado.

The Colorado state flag is connected to the flag of the United States. How so?

The Iron Road to Denver

- From 1867 to 1870, the city of Denver built the Denver-Pacfic Railroad to link with the Transcontinental Railroad in Wyoming. From Denver, many smaller railroads branched out across the territory.
- With railroad access, the population of both Colorado and Denver grew rapidly:

	1860	1875
Denver	2,500	25,000
Colorado	34,000	125,000

Personal Reflection:

Colorado's Golden Age

- With railroads and an exploding population, the 1870s become Colorado's "golden age"

  1870: **Colorado State University** opened in Fort Collins

  1872: the first **Colorado State Fair** was held in Pueblo

  1874: the **Colorado School of Mines** opens in Golden

  1875: Ulysses Grant becomes the first president to visit Colo.

- Finally, Colorado became a state on ... **July 4th, 1876**.
- Given that the vote for Colorado statehood coincided with America's 100th birthday, it's not surprising that Colorado was nicknamed the "**Centennial State**."