

Timeline to use for Leadville/Twin Lakes

A complement to the provided lesson and timeline in [TWS Module 2 1a Lesson Plan](#)

Additional Resources:

[Lake County Public Library](#)

[Southern Ute Tribe History](#)

[Colorado State Curriculum on Ute History](#)

General background:

Denver area into Summit County was Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute (Nuu-agma-tuvu-pu), and Sioux (Oceti Sakowin) territory. As settlers encroached on lands established as tribal land (through agreements with the U.S. Government) with railroads, settlement and government roads, violence ensued. The U.S. Military, who explicitly stated in treaties, were supposed to be defending tribes would attack and treaties began shrinking native land.

The goal of this timeline is to enhance understandings of how this history impacts land management today (including Indigenous dispossession and erasure of presence and failure to acknowledge the trauma or racism in outdoor spaces).

There is additional space at the end of this timeline to add your own events.

Treaty of July 6, 1825. Signed in present-day Idaho officially recognized the Cheyenne Nation on friendly terms with the U.S. government and committed the U.S. Military to protect the Cheyenne Nation.

Treaty of Fort Laramie, September 17. Includes (tribe names in treaties) Arapaho of Upper Arkansas, Cheyenne of Upper Arkansas correlating to present-day: Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, WY; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, OK; Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, MT in addition to Crow, Assiniboine, Gros-Ventre Mandan and Arikara Tribes. Established territory of the Arapaho and Cheyenne Nations (southwestern border at present day Leadville) including most of the Front Range in exchange for allowing settlers to pass through on the Oregon Trail.

[Abe Lee discovers gold](#) in Leadville, April 26.

“Abe Lee discovered a rich load of placer gold in California Gulch, one mile east of Leadville. Three months later, Colorado’s gold rush was in full force, forever changing the state’s landscape. By the end of that summer, Leadville’s population reached 10,000 and \$2 million in gold had been extracted from California Gulch and nearby Iowa Gulch. To capitalize on his find, Lee staked nearly all of California Gulch with speculative claims, which led to the establishment of the Bylaws of the California Mining District—regulations on the number, size, and type of claims that could be filed. Because of these fair laws, more prospectors descended upon an already crowded California Gulch.”

[Treaty of Fort Wise](#), February 15. A second treaty with Arapaho and Cheyenne nations reduces their territorial lands. Treaty cedes most of Front Range to the U.S. and pushes the Cheyenne and Arapaho on a reservation along the Arkansas River in eastern Colorado. [Individuals in attendance are](#) several US officials, including Confederate general J.E.B. Stuart and eleven Native American leaders including Little Raven, Storm, Shave-Head, Left Hand, and Big Mouth (Arapaho), and Black Kettle, White Antelope, Lean Bear and Little Wolf (Cheyenne). Ultimately, this treaty reduces indigenous [lands by over 90% in Colorado](#).

Territory of Colorado is established by the U.S. Government on February 28.

1825

1851

1860

1861

1861

[Conejos Treaty](#), October. A treaty between the U.S. Government and the Tabeguache band of Ute people. Cedes all land in the Rocky Mountains east of the Continental Divide in present-day Colorado to the U.S. Followed the Homestead Act which brought more and more Europeans and European-American settlers into Native territory.

Treaty of Little Arkansas River, October 14. Though signed in present-day Kansas, this is the final treaty of three that compose the land ceded in [Cession 426](#) in Colorado. The treaty establishes “perpetual peace” between the U.S. and Arapaho and Cheyenne Nations who are then pushed onto even more limited land.

Nearly all Leadville’s placer **gold deposits are depleted**, causing a significant drop in population as miners leave for better prospects.

[Ute Treaty or “Kit Carson Treaty.”](#) Seven leaders from bands of Ute Indians in present-day Utah and Colorado sign the treaty which establishes a large reservation on the Western slope of Colorado in exchange for the U.S. Government taking the Central Rockies. This treaty becomes a turning point in opening up the mineral rich Divide to settlers, further stokes the drive for mining, and pushes Native American tribes even further from their ancestral lands.

Colorado is granted statehood on August 1.

1863

1865

1866

1868

1876

Leadville is founded and silver was discovered outside of town, bringing in a second boom for the town with a population of 30,000. After being called by many names, including California Gulch, Boughton, Cloud City, and Slab City, the town is officially named Leadville one year later after the lead ore found in the area.

Meeker Incident, September 29. Following increasing pressure from Indian Agent Nathan Meeker to change their lifestyle and his call for military presence, Utes attack the White River Indian Agency killing Meeker and his employees. Around the same time, Ute Raiders ambush U.S. soldiers at Milk Creek following an illegal invasion of the reservation by Captain Thornburgh. Between 20-37 Ute warriors and 24 U.S. soldiers and settlers are killed in the massacres. These events increase the pressure from the Colorado state government and the U.S. Army to remove all Ute tribes from the state. The response is the forced removal of the White River Utes and the Uncompahgre Utes from Colorado and the Colorado Legislature passing a resolution calling for Ute removal and support from Colorado militia to drive off the White River Utes.

After continued fighting and attempted peaceful negotiations - that continued to require the Utes to cede land - which involved Chief Ouray of the Tabeguache band, the U.S. government creates a nonnegotiable agreement that forces the White River Utes to Utah and Ouray's band to present-day Grand Junction.

The **remaining Ute tribes are removed** from Colorado onto Reservations, even those who had previously negotiated for land in Colorado, forcing them to leave land they had inhabited for over 500 years.

San Isabel National Forest is established. San Isabel National Forest is one of eleven national forests in Colorado. With over 1 million acres of land, it consists of snow-capped peaks, sparkling lakes, rich meadows, and raging rivers. In 1902, lands were first set aside as forest reserve. For 38 years, the San Isabel National Forest grew to include several other large forests and additional lands. Today, the forest has over 800 miles of hiking trails, several ski areas, 19 fourteeners, several scenic byways, and dozens of campgrounds.

1877

1879

1880

1881

1907

Camp Hale is established as a winter warfare training location for WWII and is used for training until it deactivated and lands returned to the Forest Service in 59 years later.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is designated by Congress in the National Parks and Recreational Land Act, amending the original National Trails System Act from 10 years prior.

Mt. Massive Wilderness Area is designated by Congress. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, the Wilderness area spans a total of 30,540 acres.

1942

1978

1980
