

SOLO: Self Guided Field Trips
Place-Based Learning on the Poudre
Curriculum Route developed by Ray Aberle

Topic/Title: Past, Present, and Future on the Poudre River

Subject Area:

7th Grade Social Studies, Math, Science, Reading, Writing and Communicating, Comprehensive Health

8th Grade Social Studies, Math, Science, Reading, Writing and Communicating, Comprehensive Health

Suggested Grade Levels:

7th and 8th Grade

Lesson Objectives:

- Connect students to their river corridor via outdoor exploration
- Students are immersed in their local heritage, cultures, and landscapes
- Help students develop critical thinking skills by interpreting maps and signs along the route
- Encourage students to reflect on human-environment interactions within their watershed region

Lesson Description:

During this place-based learning activity, students will walk/ride a designated route of the Poudre River Trail while answering standards-aligned questions and connecting with their water heritage around them.

This lesson is designed with three components:

- 1) Pre-Route Reflection: Describes the student's prior relationship and understanding of the Cache la Poudre River.
- 2) Route POI Specific Questions/Activities
- 3) Summative Reflection (completed at end of route/SOLO field trip)

Colorado Academic Standards with Route POIs:

POI 1: 7th Grade Social Studies 1:1, 8th Grade Social Studies 3:6

POI 2: 6-8th Grade Comprehensive Health 2:1

POI 3: 7th Grade Math 1:2, 8th Grade Social Studies 3:4

POI 4: 7th Grade Social Studies 2:4, 8th Grade Social Studies 2:1, 2:3

POI 5: 8th Grade Math 2:8, Middle School Science 2:3, 2:5, 2:6

End question: 8:2 Life Science

Time Frame:

About ½ day for a student to walk the route, complete the worksheet and submit answers.

Hand-Outs:

- SOLO Route Map
- Applicable worksheet
- Sticker (upon completion)

Supplies:

- Pencil or Pen
- Paper to record answers
- Worksheet
- Electronic device (if applicable)
- Sunscreen/ other weather-related materials
- A small bag to carry all worksheet and materials

Introduction:

1. Students will watch this informational video about Cache la Poudre National Heritage Area:
 - a. <https://poudreheritage.org/video/a-river-runs-through-it/>
2. The teacher will assign the students a route based on if they are interested in walking or biking the routes.
 - a. This activity can also be offered as an extra credit assignment if the educator would prefer
3. Students complete a pre route reflection

Pre-Route Reflection

- This can be completed at any time prior to the student walking the route.
- 1) Using the following two prompts, write one paragraph (5-8 sentences)
 - a) Describe how you have interacted with the Cache la Poudre River in the past:
 - b) Describe the ecological role of the river and the services it provides to the natural environment of the area including a list of all plants and animals that you believe are dependent on the river:

Activity Procedure:

1. After students are assigned a route, teachers will send an email to the student with a link to the SOLO Learning hub this page contains:
 - a. Route Map PDFs, route details, and it is where students can submit their answers
 - b. If students are turning in the worksheet by hand, students will still have access to the Learning Hub to access the route information
2. Students walk or bike their route while completing the corresponding questions, and then submit their answers (and any photos they take) online in the Learning Hub.
 - a. OR submit them to the educator directly if in an in-person/hybrid setting.
 - b. Educators will be notified when their students submit their answers

- i. Additionally, the Poudre Heritage Alliance will send an organized list of all data to teachers upon completion routes for their records
3. Students can complete a summative reflection after the route
 - a. Write two paragraphs (5-7 sentences each) based on the following prompts:
 - i. What are **two** takeaways (things you felt you learned and will remember) from your learning adventure?
 - ii. Describe your *feelings* about the Cache la Poudre River.
4. The Poudre Heritage Alliance will send stickers for the Educators to distribute once SOLO routes are completed
 - a. This is a great opportunity to have an extension of the curriculum/lesson plan

Extensions:

- Discuss as a class
- Create a Google Slides incorporating pictures that were taken along the field trip
- Write a letter to Poudre Heritage Alliance describing your connection to or the importance of the Cache la Poudre River.
- Create a “work of art” written, visual, spoken word, related to your experience. This could be a poem, song, sketch/painting, descriptive story, or other form of expression.