

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

Topic/Title: Greeley's Number 3 Self Guided Walking Field Trip

Subject Area:

4th Grade: Social Studies, Science, Math, and Reading, Writing, & Communicating

5th Grade: Social Studies and Science

Suggested Grade Levels:

4th and 5th grade

Lesson Objectives:

- Connect students to their river corridor via outdoor exploration
- Immerse students 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 a designated route of the Poudre River Trail while answering standards-aligned questions and connecting with their water heritage around them.

Colorado Academic Standards with Route POIs:

POI #1) 4th-grade social studies standard 2.2 and 5th-grade science standard 3.5

POI #2) 4th-grade social studies standard 2.2

POI #3) 4th-grade math standard 4.NBT.B

POI #4) 4th-grade social studies standard 2.1 and 5th-grade social studies standard 2.1

Bonus Activity) 4th grade Reading, Writing, and Communicating standard 3.3

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 (optional)
- Sticker (upon completion)

Supplies:

- Pencil or Pen
- Paper to record answers (if needed)
- Worksheet

- An electronic device (if applicable)
- Sunscreen/ other weather-related materials
- A small bag to carry supplies and worksheet

Introduction:

1. Students will watch this informational video about Cache la Poudre National Heritage Area: <https://poudreheritage.org/video/animated-history/>
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

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. 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 talking about what you appreciate about the Poudre River Trail
- Write a poem based on the sensory details you wrote about while sitting on the benches