



Series Guiding Question

What does it mean to describe history as ‘constant change’?

Curriculum Standards

Colorado Academic Standards 2020:
SS.4.1.2 The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes in Colorado history and their relationship to key events in the United States within the same historical period.

SS.4.2.2 Connections are developed within and across human and physical systems.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to explain why cross-border management of migratory bird species can be difficult.
2. Students will be able to compare the ways birds (and sandhill cranes specifically) were used by people before and after European Settlers arrived.
3. Students will be able to list ways that people can influence laws for protecting wildlife.

History Happened: Migratory Birds Teacher Guide

Series Overview

The "History Happened" series explores the human history of Colorado, before and after it became a state. Students will focus on the changes in the natural landscape, and for human communities living here, caused by European settlement and westward expansion starting around 500 years ago. The series will consist of both pre-recorded videos and live, interactive virtual programs. Each installment will examine history through the lens of a specific natural resource or wildlife species.

Episode Overview

This “History Happened” episode, *Migratory Birds*, examines the history of wildlife regulations in the United States with particular emphasis on the role of women in influencing migratory bird protections. This video also acknowledges the impact that the arrival of European settlers had on wildlife management practices. The complexity of understanding and managing migratory species is introduced, as well as the necessity of cross-border cooperation among multiple communities and governments. Finally, this video tells the story of the sandhill cranes as an example of a species that was nearly extinct but able to recover thanks to the actions brought about by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Extension Activities

Pre-Video Activities

1. Have students watch [this video](#) about bird migration and the challenges that migratory birds face in their journey. Ask students if they think migratory birds would have an easy or hard time using their town as a stopover site during their journey. Ask students if they think they could make any of the small changes listed in the video at home.
2. Use E-bird to find birds that have been spotted near you recently. Open the [Explore page](#) and search for “Colorado” as a region. Scroll through the list of recently sighted birds and try to find a migratory bird that was spotted near your location. This may take some research and searching. Once you find a migratory bird species near you, do some additional research to determine that bird’s route, the distance it travels, the length of time of its migration and other important information about the species. Complete this activity as a class or in small groups. The [Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#) is a good resource for this activity.
3. Explore the [Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition](#) website to learn more about sandhill cranes, their behavior, and conservation status.
 - [Watch a video](#) of the nesting season for one pair of sandhill cranes. In the video, the female fights off attacks from raccoons and mink. In the end, watch as the male and female welcome their chicks!
 - There’s even [a video](#) of a sandhill crane fighting off a black bear.
 - Ask your students: Why do you think people love to watch sandhill cranes? What is it about them that makes them special?

Post-Video Activities

1. Read [this article](#) about the latest challenges that sandhill cranes are facing. The article discusses the eastern population of sandhill cranes but the challenges they face are the same that sandhill cranes face while traveling through Colorado. Brainstorm with your class some laws that could be put in place to protect sandhill cranes from these new challenges.
2. Explore the definition of a treaty as well as some examples of common international treaties (remember [The Buffalo Treaty](#) from History Happened: Episode 2?). Also [watch this video](#) or [visit this page](#) explaining what treaties are. Decide on a classroom resource (e.g. desks, backpacks, or books) and create a treaty to protect it. Divide the class into 2-4 groups. Each group will represent a different country.

Definitions

Migration: the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another

Treaty: an official agreement that is made between two or more countries or groups

How to Contact SOLE

Email: dnr_cpwssole@state.co.us

Web: www.cpwssole.org

Post-Video Activities continued...

Have each group come up with their own country and strategy for protecting the classroom resource. Then meet as a class to compromise on a solution.

- Once a treaty has been created, as a class, answer the following questions: How will we know if the treaty is successful? What is each country's role in maintaining the agreements?
 - Following the activity, ask students to discuss what made creating a treaty easy. What made it difficult?
3. Many large-scale environmental organizations began with the actions of a small group of people. As a class, identify a local environmental issue or species needing protection. (Optional: select a bird species living in your region that needs protection). Create an organization and action-plan for protecting this species. Answer the following questions:
- What is the name and mission statement of the organization?
 - Where is the organization based?
 - How will the class convince the public that this is an important cause? How will the class recruit new members?
 - Are there any laws or treaties that the organization is proposing as a part of your action plan? If so, what are they?

Other Resources

- Participate in the Christmas Bird Count with your classroom! [Click here](#) to learn more.
- Send your students home with [these activities](#) from Environment for the Americas so they can help protect migratory birds while at home.
- In the U.S. and Canada, the second Saturday of May is known as World Migratory Bird Day. To join in on the celebration, you can create your own event or look on the [World Migratory Bird Day's website](#) to find an event near you.
- For more information about the history of the National Audubon Society and the work they've done since their founding, [watch this video](#).
- Interested in witnessing the sandhill crane migration for yourself? Check out Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge's [Spring Crane Viewing](#) guide for more information.