Flatirons coloring page

The Flatirons are rock formations located near Boulder, Colorado. These sandstone rocks are the remnants of a mountain range that pre-dated the Rocky Mountains that you see from this train!
BECOMING A JUNIOR RANGER

Welcome aboard the California Zephyr train! You are about to embark on the journey of becoming a National Park Service Junior Ranger.

As a Junior Ranger, your mission is to:

EXPLORE: You will see a lot of exciting and important landmarks during your trip today. Be on the lookout for opportunities to explore the train and what you are seeing outside of the train!

LEARN: Find out how much you can learn during your trip by completing activities in this booklet, but your journey does not end here! Junior Ranger programs are offered aboard many Amtrak trains and in most of the 417 National Park Service units across the United States of America.

PROTECT: Did you know that riding on a train is better for the Earth than driving a car? One of the jobs of a National Park Service Ranger is to protect the land and animals in our country. By riding on this train and learning about the land and wildlife, you too are helping protect our environment and country.

WHAT’S NEXT?

There are many activities located within this booklet to help you learn more about the train you are on and the environments that you are traveling through. Wherever you see this symbol — there is an activity for you to try! Try to complete as many activities as you can! When you complete the same number of activities as your age, take this book to one of the Trails & Rails Guides in the lounge car of the train that you are on. The train guides are also available to help you complete these activities!
Hey there! My name is Sammy the Squirrel and I am a passenger on the California Zephyr train, just like you! I ride the train so that I can teach people about the cool places they travel through. That’s because I also help with the Trails & Rails program, which provides educational opportunities for passengers on board trains. I have learned a lot about Colorado and would love to share some of what I know with you!

This booklet has a lot of fun activities that will teach you about the California Zephyr route as it passes through the great state of Colorado. Are you ready to learn about the California Zephyr?

Let’s Get Started! Use the map below to fill in the blanks!

The California Zephyr is a long train route that travels daily between the cities of __________, Illinois and ______________, California. The California Zephyr route is over 2,400 miles long, and takes about 52 hours to complete! It goes through 7 states: __________, __________, __________, __________, __________, __________, and __________. It also passes near many cool cities and national parks. These cities include __________, Nebraska and __________, Utah. You will also see Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (specifically Long’s Peak) if you are going to or coming from Denver.
This is a map of the California Zephyr train route as it cuts through the state of Colorado. Your job as an aspiring Junior Ranger is to place the numbers in the answer key in the circles located within the map so that they match up with some of the features that you will be seeing on your train ride today. Remember, if you need help completing this, or any of the other activities in this book, ask one of the Trails & Rails guides and they will be happy to assist you!

**ANSWER KEY**

1. Denver
2. The Flatirons
3. The Continental Divide
4. Rocky Mountain National Park
5. Glenwood Canyon
6. Glenwood Springs
7. Grand Mesa
8. Palisade
9. Grand Junction
10. Colorado National Monument
CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR ROUTE

I spy and I tell game

You will see so many things on your train trip from Denver to Grand Junction. We ask that you not only look for a special object, but that you also describe what you see. When you spy an object below put a check or X in the box next to it. For a bigger challenge, try to describe the items you spy. Try and do as many as you can and have fun!

- a person fishing - What color was his or her shirt?
- a raft - How many people were in the raft?
- a rapid in the river - Which side of the train?
- a dam - What color was it or what was it made of?
- gondola cars filled with rocks - What was unusual about them?
- a reservoir - Which side of the train or where was it?
- a canyon - What type or color of rocks were on the sides of the canyon?
- a school house - What color was it or what was it made of?
- the entrance to the Moffat tunnel - What color was the entrance?
- a dog - What color was it and how big was it?
- a wind generator - On which side of the train and was it turning?
- a slide fence that goes over the top of the train - How many wires?
- a railroad bridge - What was it going over?
- a car bridge - What went under it?
- a railroad tunnel - About how many seconds were you inside the tunnel?
- a car tunnel - How many lanes of traffic went into the tunnel?
- a coal train - How many cars or how many engines?
- a flag - What kind or what color?
- a hotel - Where or what was it made of?
- a rifle range - About how many targets?
- a water wheel - Which side of the train?
- a telephone pole - How many wires was it supporting?
- a railroad maintenance crew - What were they doing?
- a bird - What kind or color?
- a wild animal - What kind or size or color?
- a person - What was he or she doing?

For the Super Spies!
- tunnels: How many between Grand Junction & Denver?
- train station stops: How many between Grand Junction & Denver?
- cars: How many through Glenwood Canyon?
- motorcycles: How many through the entire trip?
Complete these fun facts by unscrambling the words below them. If you have trouble, use the pictures or the Trails & Rails guides to help you.

Fun Fact #1
Denver has one of the largest ______ ______ systems in the nation with 86% of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park.

TCYI KRPA

Fun Fact #2
Denver claims the invention of this sandwich. The trademark for the name was awarded in 1935 to Louis Ballast of Denver.

HEBGERCEUSER

Fun Fact #3
The 15th step of this building is exactly one mile high: 5,280 ft. This is why Denver is often referred to as “The Mile High City”.

OPLCATI

Fun Fact #4
Thirty-two _____ over 13,000 ft. and two over 14,000’ can be seen from Denver.

SNMUTOIAN

Fun Fact #5
Colfax Avenue in Denver is the longest continuous ____ in America.

TRESET

Fun Fact #6
This baseball team opened on April 9, 1993 before 80,277 fans, the most ever to witness an opening game in baseball history.

ISRCOEK
The Flatirons are rock formations located near Boulder, Colorado. These sandstone rocks are the remnants of a mountain range that pre-dated the Rocky Mountains that you see from this train!
Historically it was very hard to cross the Colorado mountains. This story explains some of the problems and how the problems were solved. Use the chart below to fill in the blanks in the story!

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Before the tunnel it took almost six hours to go over Rollins Pass and now it takes about __ __ minutes to go under Rollins Pass. Although this makes for an easy trip, the coach doors must be kept closed while the __ __ __ __ __ is in the tunnel because bad __ __ __ __ will enter the coaches. Large __ __ __ __ help to remove the fumes from the tunnel. It took __ years to dig the tunnel. A train with 40 freight cars would have to make about __ __ __ __ trips to remove the rocks from the tunnel. The __ __ __ __ __ __ tunnel is __ miles long.

and it passes under the

Rain or snow that falls on the __ __ __ __ side of the Continental Divide flow into the __ __ __ __ __ ocean. Rain or snow that fall on the West side of the Continental Divide flows into Pacific __ __ __ __ __. There is a place in __ __ __ __ __ Mountain National Park where you can easily step across a small stream that eventually becomes the __ __ __ __ __ Colorado River that is __ __ __ __ __ __ enough to cut through rock to form the beautiful __ __ __ __ __ Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park.

The Colorado River is important because it provides water for __ __ __ __ __ __ people. Much of this water comes from snow fall that can reach __ __ __ __. However, __ __ __ __ climate __ __ __ __ __ __ could cause less snow to fall and long __ __ __ __ could become common. It is important for young people like __ __ __ to care for and keep our National Parks __ __ __ __ and __ __ __ __ __ __ so __ __ __ __ children can enjoy them too!

A2 B6 A6 B3
ACROSS
1  The force of the river has created deep ______
3  An extremely fast-moving part of a river
6  The Colorado River flows through how many states
8  The headwaters of the Colorado River are in this National Park
10  This type of dam helps prevent erosion
11  The Colorado River passes through _____ Canyon

DOWN
1  The Colorado River flows through which state first
2  The Colorado River ends at the Gulf of ______
4  Overflowing river water causes ______
5  A popular recreational activity on the flowing river
7  Original name of the Colorado River
9  Rate of water flow is measured by _____ feet per minute

WORD BANK
- rapids
- California
- four
- Rocky Mountain
- cubic
- roller
- Grand
- Glenwood
- flooding
- canyons
- rafting
- Colorado

Use the letters in the shaded squares to unlock the secret word! Note: One letter is used twice. Hint: A dam in Glenwood Canyon helps the Colorado River produce: __________________________________
COLORADO WILDLIFE
fill-in the blanks

The train passes through three different areas which provide food and homes for a wide variety of animals. We travel the high plains, the Rocky Mountains and into the Colorado Plateau, each of which provides unique opportunities for animals to survive. The animals range from very small (pika, pine beetle, pine martin) to very large (moose, bear, and elk). Look closely, and if you’re lucky you might see wildlife today!

Colorado’s state fish!

O L _

P _ _

U H T R_

P _ _

R _ _

O _

P _ _

T _ _

I _ R S _ _

O _ _
Glenwood Canyon is one of the deepest and most scenic canyons in Colorado. Glenwood Canyon was formed a couple million years ago by the ___________ River, which also formed the Grand Canyon. This canyon is _______ miles long and has cliffs that are up to ________ feet high.

The railroad that you are on, Interstate Highway 70, a bicycle _____________ and the river must pass through this canyon in close proximity. There was a lot of concern about the likelihood that the new highway would damage the _________ and serenity of the canyon, so to minimize the _____________, special designs were used for this road, including building completely separate traffic _____________, unusual tunnels, and raised sections supported by offset _____________. From the train, you get a very good view of the new highway and its unusual ________________.

As you head west through the canyon you will see an exit for Hanging ____________, which is a favorite destination for _______________. The shoreline of Hanging Lake is composed of _____________, which gives the lake water an incredible green color. The water color and the spectacular waterfalls _____________ make this area very popular with _______________. While the hike is only one mile long, the trail has an elevation gain of 1,000 ________.

Glenwood Springs is a very popular place for _____________ to leave or rejoin the train. People have come here ever since _____________ Americans discovered the mineral springs and hot _____ caves. Across the river is the famous Glenwood _____________ _____________. Pool and the Hotel Colorado, completed in 1893. President Teddy _____________ stayed here, and some say the Teddy Bear originated at this hotel.

Just west of the Glenwood Springs train station is the cable car that takes people to the Glenwood Springs _____________ Park that features Glenwood Caverns, also know as the _____________ Caves. Glenwood Springs has popular hotels and motels, restaurants, shopping, and a nearby ski area. It is also the jumping off point for _______________ and other popular mountain towns and resorts. The station here also has a railroad _______________.

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<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>vapor</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RAND MESA
maze

Sammy Squirrel has been exploring Grand Mesa. Now, please help him get back to the campground safely!
Known as the "banana belt," Palisade is famous for the many fruits grown here. Compressed air from Debeque Canyon warms the air to create an ideal growing climate.
Grand Junction is located where the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers merge. The Bookcliffs are to the north, Grand Mesa is to the east and the Colorado National Monument is to the south. Many dinosaur species have been unearthed in the area. You can also study dinosaurs in a local museum. There are a variety of biking and hiking trails and many weekends there are festivals and special events. The area is prime for growing many kinds of fruits and vegetables. Uranium, shale oil and natural gas development are part of its history. And the local people love to climb aboard Amtrak for transportation to places both east and west.
CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR CAR
a closer look at the train

Let’s see what we can learn about one of the upper portions of a passenger car on the California Zephyr. Complete as many items below as you can!

1. How many stair steps does it take to get from the bottom part of the passenger car to the top part of the car? __________

2. How many windows are in the car? Don’t forget the windows in the doors! _________

3. How do the windows make the passenger car safer? ___________________________________

4. Name two ways to open the doors at the end of the car. ___________________________

5. How many fire extinguishers are there on a passenger car? ________

6. How many trash bins are there on a passenger car? ________

7. How many passengers can be seated in a passenger car? ________

8. How many wheels are on a passenger car? You can watch other cars on a curve and count the number of wheels, ask the conductor, or ask a Trails & Rails Guide. ________

9. How many cars, including the engine, make up the California Zephyr? You can watch other cars on a curve and count the number of wheels, ask the conductor, or ask a Trails & Rails Guide. ________

10. When you take two big steps you move about five feet. Use your steps to measure the approximate length of the inside of the car in feet. ________

11. What is the approximate width of a passenger car? ________

12. If it takes approximately 14 minutes to go through the Moffat tunnel and the tunnel is approximately 7 miles long. What speed is the train traveling in miles per minute? Hint: Speed = Distance / Time ________

13. How far would the train travel in 60 minutes at tunnel speed? Hint: Distance = Speed x Time ________ in 60 minutes

14. How many miles per hour was the train traveling through the tunnels? Hint: How many minutes are there in one hour? ________

15. What does the word “Zephyr” mean? Ask several passengers if they know. ________________________________

16. Close your eyes for a few minutes (don’t go to sleep) and note the sounds, smells and motions of the train. Describe your observation in three or more sentences.

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________
Overview
Chicago, Emeryville, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Omaha, Salt Lake City

Fun facts
City Park, Cheeseburger, Capitol, Mountains, Street, Rockies

Decoding game
12, Zephyr, fumes, fans, 6, 1600, Moffat, 7, Continental Divide, East, Atlantic, ocean, Rocky, mighty, strong, Grand, million, feet, global, climate change, droughts, clean, beautiful

Crossword puzzle

Fill-in the blanks
Elk, Pika, Cutthroat Trout, Bison, Pine Martin, Black Bear, Bighorn Sheep, Pine Beetle, Moose

Story with word bank
Colorado, 12.5, 1300, path, beauty, impact, lanes, pillars, construction, lake, hiking, travertine, waterfalls, photographers, feet, passengers, Native, vapor, Hot Springs, Roosevelt, Adventure, Fairy, Aspen, Museum

Connect the dots
A steep cliff
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This certifies that

[Name]

has completed all activities for the

California Zephyr® Trails & Rails Award

and is hereby granted the official title of

National Park Service Junior Ranger

Junior Ranger Pledge:
"I promise to discover all I can about the special places protected by the National Park Service and share my discoveries with others. I pledge to enjoy and protect the plants, the animals, and the historic places of my country."

Junior Ranger Signature & Date

Trails & Rails Guide Signature & Date

To receive a California Zephyr Junior Ranger badge, please present your certificate or send a copy of your certificate to: National Park Service, Office of Inte Program Manager, 12795 W. Alameda Pkwy, Lakewood, CO 80228.