



EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Scenic Letter

Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

Background: Durango, a Denver & Rio Grande Railway town, was founded in early in 1880. By 1882 tracks had been laid between Durango and Silverton to haul both passengers and freight. Even in the beginning the train was promoted as a scenic trip, although the primary goal for the train was hauling gold and silver ore from the local mines. Today, this 45-mile route provides visitors with spectacular scenery and a unique experience.

After the train ride, answer the following questions.

1. What part of the trip did you especially like?

2. What are some descriptive words about the scenery? If you want to improve your writing the [following site](#) will help with synonyms in your writing.

3. Who would be a person you would like to tell about this trip?

Activity: Write a letter to a friend or family member describing the train ride. You can choose to talk about the train itself and/or the scenery you encountered.

Dear _____,

_____ (Your Name)

Additional discussion: If you used the online thesaurus, discuss what words were changed and how this enhanced the letter.

