

COLO-ROAD
TRIPS
-K TO 5TH GRADE-
EDUCATIONAL ITINERARIES

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Galloping Goose
Ridgway Railroad Museum

Background: One of the most unusual items on display at the Ridgway Railroad Museum is the Galloping Goose. Galloping Geese were railcars built in the Depression era to deliver mail along the rural Rio Grande Southern route. They are unique hybrid vehicles, a car or truck riding on a train track, that were used until 1951.

[Watch this episode](#) from the Rocky Mountain PBS series, the Colorado Experience, to learn more about these distinctive railcars.

Activity: Make your way to the Galloping Goose on permanent display and the informational kiosks sharing information about their history. After watching the Rocky Mountain PBS video and viewing the informational kiosk about the Galloping Goose at the museum, answer the following questions and complete the chart below by identifying interesting facts about the Galloping Goose.

Questions to Ask:

1. Why was the Galloping Goose built? *for a more economical way to deliver mail, light goods, and small groups of people on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad*
2. Why was it named after a goose? *To keep the engine from overheating, the engine flaps would be opened to get cool air in and the attachment in front looked like a goose's beak.*
3. Why did they use parts from different vehicles to make the body? *During the Depression there wasn't a lot of money, so they used what they had, so they used cars and trucks.*
4. Why did the Galloping Goose stop being used in 1951? *The railroad line was abandoned when it was no longer needed.*

Galloping Goose Interesting fact:

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Fact I didn't know:

Most interesting thing I learned: