

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

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**By the Numbers**

**Royal Gorge Bridge and Park**

**Background:** Before Europeans settled in North America, the Ute people wintered in the Royal Gorge area, where the steep canyon walls provided shelter during the colder months. Later, traders and explorers had to traverse the gorge to transport goods. Eventually train tracks were laid down to help transport gold and other goods to and from nearby mines. While the railroad was being constructed down in the gorge, attention turned to the top, where locals would sit on the rim for picnics, admiring the **1.08 million year old** granite walls and its magnificent beauty. Then, in 1928 a company called the Royal Gorge Bridge and Amusement Company started to build a suspension bridge **956** feet above the ground and **1,260** feet across the gorge. The bridge was completed in **1929**, with **1,300** planks, each weighing about **250** pounds—the bridge is very solid! This marvel was the highest suspension bridge in the world until **2001**. Today it is still the highest in the United States. For more information, [watch this video](#).

**Word Alert:**

**Suspension bridge** - There are many different types of bridges. In a suspension bridge, the roadway hangs from strong wires called cables. The main cables hang between two or more towers. Smaller cables hang down from the curving main cables. These smaller cables hold up the roadway. Another example of a suspension bridge is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

**Activity:** Match the left column with the correct answer on the right.

[Get answer key](#)

1. The Royal Gorge was built in	A. 250
2. Pikes Peak Granite is how many years old?	B. 956
3. The bridge is how many feet above the Arkansas River?	C. 1,300
4. How many feet is the bridge across?	D. 1,260
5. How many planks are on the bridge?	E. 1,987
6. Each plank on the bridge weighs how many pounds?	F. 1929
7. The zipline flies how many feet across the Royal Gorge?	G. 1.08 million
8. The Royal Gorge Bridge was the highest suspension bridge in the world until what year?	H. 2001

**Interested in Learning More?**

Visit the [Royal Gorge Bridge and Park website](#) to learn more about the history of the bridge.