

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Design a Carousel Critter

Extra Credit Activity: Kit Carson County Carousel

Background: Between 1885 and 1930 over 2,500 wooden carousels were carved in America. Of these, fewer than 150 still exist. One of the finest examples of a wooden carousel is found in Burlington, CO. On the Burlington carousel the animals are stationary rather than moving up and down.

[Visit the website](#) to learn more, listen to organ music and discover some other interesting facts about this historical landmark. Forty-six carved animals include horses as well as zebras, giraffes, and tigers, and so many more. The attention to detail and vibrant colors makes this an unforgettable experience AND it's still only twenty-five cents per ride.

After a ride on the carousel, check out the carousel museum. If you visit and the carousel is not open, take a look inside the window for a visual experience.

Questions to Ask:

1. What animals do you see? *25 horses, 3 giraffes, camels, goats, zebras, 2 burros, a lion, a tiger, a hippocampus and a St. Bernard. There are four chariots as well.*
2. Why is this carousel so unique? *The animals are hand-carved, it was crafted by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1905, used to be owned by Elitch Gardens in Denver, the animals are fully restored, it still costs 25 cents per ride just as it did in 1928*
3. Which is your favorite?
4. Why is it your favorite? *Examples could be the animal itself, the colors, the designs on the animal, etc.*

Activity:

On a separate sheet of paper, design your own carousel creature. Is it a real animal or a mythical beast?