

Wyoming State Museum Activity Guide Answer Key

Wyoming's Story

1. On the big map, push the button that shows the fur trade rendezvous sites.
Who attended rendezvous?
Trappers, traders, and Native Americans
What did they do there?
They traded furs for supplies.
2. Look at the blocks of time.
How many years did dinosaurs walk the earth?
147 million years
How many years have humans lived on the earth?
3.5 million years
What surprises you about the blocks of time?
Student's own answer
3. When was the Union Pacific Railroad built across Wyoming?
Late 1860s

The Wild Bunch

1. How many people hunt and fish in Wyoming each year?
150,000
Is this a good thing? Why?
Student's own answer (good for our economy)
2. What two factors led to the disappearance of woolly mammoths in North America?
Overhunting and environmental changes
3. What happens to the jackrabbit as days grow shorter and winter nears?
Their fur turns white
Why?
Less sunlight triggers the changes in their coat; white fur makes it easier for them to hide from predators in the snow.
4. What is your favorite animal in the diorama?
Student's own answer

Swamped With Coal

1. Wyoming was once a swamp land. True or false?
True

2. Why does Wyoming have so much coal?
Millions of years ago, swamps covered Wyoming. Rotting plants sank into the swamps and were slowly buried by mud. Over time, nature turned the buried plants into coal.
3. Who developed the first miner's safety lamp in 1813?
Dr. Reid Clanny
4. What state mines the largest amount of uranium?
Wyoming
Name three things uranium is used for:
Examples include: power plants, x-ray tubes, ultraviolet lamps, glass, ceramics, steel, and nuclear warheads (until 1965)

Rex In Pieces

1. Wyoming is home to one of the world's richest dinosaur fossil beds located between Medicine Bow and Rock River. What is it called?
Como Bluff
2. What was the Apatosaurus mistakenly called for many years?
Brontosaurus
3. Find the fossilized freshwater turtle. How old is it?
At least 40 million years old
4. The majority of the dinosaur bones that have been found in Wyoming have been sent out of the state to be studied and displayed at other universities and museums. Do you think that is a good thing? Why or why not?
Student's own answer.

Barber Gallery

1. Complete the sentence.
Washakie is one of the few Native American chiefs who never...
Made war against the U.S. government
2. Who was Jim Baker?
Baker has been described as a trapper, trader, guide, and Indian fighter.
Would you like to ride in his canoe? Why or why not?
Student's own answer
3. Which two tribes live on the Wind River Indian Reservation in central Wyoming?
Shoshone and Arapahoe
4. How do you think you would fire the Chinese Wall Gun?
Student's own answer (probably by propping it up on the edge of a trench, a log, etc.)

Drawn To This Land

1. Name two countries that many Wyoming sheepherders came from.
Mexico, Scotland, France, Spain
2. What element did hat makers use on beaver fur that made them “mad as a hatter?”
Mercury
3. Who were the Buffalo Soldiers?
The Buffalo Soldiers were two cavalry and four infantry regiments formed in 1866 that were made up entirely of African American enlisted soldiers (with European American officers). They served on the frontier and were among the most reliable regiments in the U.S. army.
4. Name one thing you learned in the “Trails of Dust, Iron, and Air” exhibit.
Student’s own answer

Living In Wyoming

1. Why are Japanese kimonos on exhibit in the Wyoming State Museum?
They belonged to the Suyematsu family, a Japanese family who settled in Casper in 1919. The Suyematsus established businesses, endured discrimination in WWII, served in the military, attended college, and became prominent citizens both locally and nationwide.
2. Take a look at the kitchen exhibit. Name two things that we can buy in the grocery store today, that people used to make by hand.
Student’s own answer (butter, jelly, juice, milk, waffles, bread, etc.)
3. When did the need for saddles decline? Why?
1920s, open-range cattle grazing was over and automobiles replaced horses
4. Find the 1872 “Rules for Teachers” near the school exhibit. What rule most surprises you?
Student’s own answer

Hands-On History

1. Name an object from the curiosity cabinet that you have never seen before.
Student’s own answer
2. What animals do you think the four pelts in the frontier fort came from? Take a guess!
Beaver, coyote, red fox, river otter
3. Find the picture on the wall that shows women voting. Wyoming was the first territory and state to give women the right to vote. What year did women in Wyoming first vote?
1869
4. What is your favorite item in the Hands-on History Room?
Student’s own answer