



I Live in the Rockies

by Joseph Ciciano

Overview

This book explores the geography of the Rocky Mountain region by describing the jobs of some people who live and work there.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 259 words*

High Frequency Words

am, down, here, I, live, work

Content Words

mountain range, Rockies, ranch hand, cattle, farmer, base, guide, visitor, hikes, park ranger, national park, ski instructor

Reinforcing Decoding Skills

- **Double Consonants:** *t, p, l* (*cattle, apples, valley*)
- **Initial Consonant Blends:** *gr, tr, fr* (*grow, trail, fresh*)

- **Syllabication:** Two-, three-, and four-syllable words (*mountains, potatoes, information*)

Print Conventions

- **Capitalization:** Personal pronoun *I*, proper nouns
- **Punctuation:** Commas
- **Using parts of a book**

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Summarizing main ideas
- Comparing and contrasting
- Stating a reason for reading

Text Features

- Maps
- Glossary

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Writing about the mountains
- Describing things visitors can do in the mountains
- Listening to information about the Rockies

Observe/Assess

See Retellings on page 170.

Social Studies Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Recognizing that the Rockies are a mountain range that covers a large area of North America
- Understanding how the lives and work of people in the Rockies are related to the geography of the region

Background Information

The Rocky Mountains are North America's largest mountain range, extending over 3,000 miles north and south. Ute, Navajo, and Shoshone Indians lived in the Rockies when Europeans came to North America. The first Europeans there were Spanish explorers around 1600. They were followed by Lewis and Clark and

Zebulon Pike around 1805. At that time, the Rockies were the center of the American fur trade.

Correlation to National Standards Social Studies

- People, Places, and Environments

See Standards Chart on page 218.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Display pictures of mountains and discuss any experiences children have had when visiting mountain regions.

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Show children the cover. Read the title and author's name. Have children look at the cover and title page pictures and predict what they will learn from the book.

Pages 2-3

After you read the text, point out the place names on page 2 and remind children that the name of specific places begin with capital letters. Have them look at the map and discuss the features that are shown. Ask:

Do you know some states and cities in the Rockies? What are they?

Pages 4-23

Have them define *ranch hand* based on context. Then have them look it up in the glossary on page 24. Ask:

What are some jobs that people do in the Rocky Mountains?

How does life in the Rockies compare to life where we live?

Respond

- Call attention to the letters *gr* that make the initial sounds in word *group* on page 2. Have children find other words in the book beginning with *gr* (*grass, grow, great*). Repeat the activity for words that begin with *fr* (*fruit, fresh*) and words beginning with *tr* (*trails*).
- Point out the word *mountains*. Have children clap to indicate how many syllables it contains. Repeat with other multisyllable words, such as *potatoes, visitors, vacation, instructor, and information*.

- Point out the word *cattle*. Tell children that two-syllable words with a double consonant are usually divided between the two consonants. Have children divide the words *cattle, apples, and valley* into syllables.

○	○	○
cat/tle	ap/ples	val/ley



Composing Sentences

Activity Master, page 56

Have children complete the Activity Master, page 56, by writing sentences about a job.



English Language Learners

Discuss the word *cattle*, pointing out that it is plural and refers to both cows and bulls.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

Mountain ranges can be found across Earth's surface. People who live in the mountains adjust how they work and live to their environment.

Activities

National Parks

Have children work in groups and research a national park, such as Grand Teton or Yellowstone. Have group members prepare maps or drawings of the parks.

Animals in the Rockies

Have each child choose an animal, such as a bighorn sheep, bear, deer, rabbit, mink, mountain lion, porcupine, squirrel, coyote, moose, muskrat, or trout, that lives in the Rockies. Help children use books or the Internet to research an animal. Then have them draw the animal and write a few sentences telling about the animal they researched.

Mountain Vacation

Have children find pictures of people enjoying vacation activities in the mountains. Have children make captions for the pictures and display them on a bulletin board.



Rockies Facts

Activity Master, page 57

Have children complete the Activity Master, page 57, by answering questions about the Rocky Mountains.

Name _____

I Live in the Rockies

Imagine that you have one of the jobs listed in the book. Write about the activities you do each day. Then draw a picture of yourself doing your job.

Name _____

I Live in the Rockies

Use facts about the Rocky Mountains to answer each question.

1. What do ranch hands do with cattle in the summer?

2. What are some crops that farmers grow in the Rockies?

3. How do guides in the Rockies help visitors?

4. Why are the Rocky Mountains popular in winter?

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