

1. Title / Content Area:	The Boettchers								
2. Historic Site:	Various								
3. Episode	<a href="http://www.rmpbs.org/coloradoexperience/people/boettchers/">http://www.rmpbs.org/coloradoexperience/people/boettchers/</a>								
4. Developed by:	Sally Purath								
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<p><i>Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup> - HS</i></p> <p>Content in this Document Based Question ( DBQ ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards  <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i>  <i>Understand the nature of historical knowledge as a process of inquiry that examines and analyzes how history is viewed, constructed, and interpreted.</i></p> <p><i>Colorado Standards:</i>  6th: History Standard 1  HS: History Standard 1</p> <p><i>C3 Standards in Social Studies:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>D2.His.1.6-8</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>D3.1.6-8.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>D2.His.2.6-8</i></td> <td><i>D3.3.6-8</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>D2.His.3.6-8</i></td> <td><i>D2.His.3.9-12.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>D2.His.2.9-12.</i></td> <td><i>D2.His.1.9-12.</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>D2.His.1.6-8</i>	<i>D3.1.6-8.</i>	<i>D2.His.2.6-8</i>	<i>D3.3.6-8</i>	<i>D2.His.3.6-8</i>	<i>D2.His.3.9-12.</i>	<i>D2.His.2.9-12.</i>	<i>D2.His.1.9-12.</i>
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6. Assessment Question:	How did the Boettcher family both become rich by their businesses in Colorado and give back to Colorado as well?								
7. Contextual Paragraph	Charles Boettcher and his family's businesses helped develop Denver from a small town to the Queen City on the Prairie and then generously gave back to the people and places of Colorado and continue to do so today. He was a German immigrant who came to America to avoid the Prussian military draft and started working in his brother's hardware store in Cheyenne. They bought more stores in Colorado, selling hardware to the silver miners. Seeing that the silver boom would end, they								



shifted into selling farm equipment and did not lose their fortune in the crash. They continued to diversify to avoid future crashes. Charles and his wife visited Germany and discovered sugar beets growing in a climate similar to Colorado. He filled his bags with beet seeds and persuaded farmers in northern Colorado to plant them, agreeing to build a sugar processing plant. This was the start of the Great Western Sugar Company. The Volga Deutsch or Russian Germans came to hoe beets and become the first migrant farm workers between Greeley and Fort Collins. Charles also noticed people bought expensive bags of cement from Germany. He then started the Ideal Cement Company, which became the largest private cement company in the world. He and his son Claude started banks, insurance companies, and created an investment company that helped finance much of the early infrastructure of the state including the Moffat Tunnel, Valley highway, Stapleton Airport, Boettcher Concert Hall, the Tropical Conservatory at the Denver Botanical Gardens, the welcome center at the Denver Zoo, and the Brown Palace Hotel. They donated their home to become the Governor’s Mansion and Lorraine Lodge, their hunting lodge in Golden, now known as the Boettcher House, to Jefferson County for public use. They also donate money to individuals, giving 42 high school seniors full scholarships to Colorado colleges each year and funding early career biomedical researcher awards.

**8. Connection to Historic Preservation**

Lorraine Lodge, the Colorado Governor’s Mansion, and the Brown Palace Hotel were listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1984, 1969, and 1970.

Lorraine Lodge is a well-preserved example of Rustic and English Tudor style architecture and exhibits the wealthy lifestyle of Denver’s upper class in 1918.

The Colorado Governor’s Mansion was donated to the state by the Boettcher Foundation in 1960 after Claude and his wife’s deaths. It was built in colonial style and has 27 rooms and has exceptional period furnishings and beautifully landscaped grounds

The Brown Palace Hotel was preserved and expanded by the Boettcher family and they shepherded this unique building through Prohibition, the Depression, and World War II.

## Document Based Question (DBQ)

### Document Set

Harrison Avenue, Leadville, with Boettcher Hardware building 1887



<https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/digital-colorado/colorado-histories/boom-years/charles-boettcher-denver-businessman/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Boettcher sell hardware to the miners instead of mining silver?
2. How was Charles Boettcher able to survive the Silver Crash when other rich mining business went bankrupt?

Lorraine Lodge summer home built in 1917

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What made Lorraine Lodge's location especially attractive as a summer home?
2. Why would the family donate it to Jefferson County rather than continue to live in it?
3. What is the style of the lodge? How do you know?



<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/image/charles-boettchers-lorraine-lodge>

#### Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion



[https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/governor's-residence-boettcher-mansion](https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/governor-s-residence-boettcher-mansion)

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What are some unique antique furnishings bought by the Boettchers for the mansion?
2. What is the style of this building?
3. Why would it make an excellent governor's mansion?

Brown Palace Hotel



<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/brown-palace-hotel>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What features made the structure of Brown Palace Hotel unique for its time?
2. How was it expanded and preserved?
3. What famous people have stayed there?
4. How does this building act as a visible landmark of Denver's history for those visiting the Queen City of the Plains?

Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion	<b>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What kinds of antique furnishings did the Boettchers buy for their house?</li><li>2. How did the Boettcher Foundation enable the state to buy such an expensive house to maintain?</li><li>3. How do Colorado's people still benefit from the state owning the mansion?</li></ol>
	
<a href="https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/governor-s-residence-boettcher-mansion">https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/governor-s-residence-boettcher-mansion</a>	

<b>Assessment Question</b>  In what ways did the Boettcher family get rich in Colorado businesses and then turn around and give back to the state that they lived in?
Response

