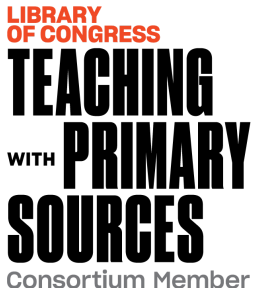|	
1. Title / Content Area:	Magic Mountain
2. Historic Site:	Magic Mountain Archaeology Site
3. Episode	Magic Mountain Archaeology Site
4. Developed by:	Sally Purath, Poudre School District, Fort Collins, CO
5. Grade Level and Standards:	*Grade Level:* 6th - HS Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards *Prepared Graduate Competencies:* *Understand the nature of historical knowledge as a process of inquiry that examines and analyzes how history is viewed, constructed, and interpreted.* *Colorado Standards:* 6th: History Standard 1 HS: History Standard 1 *C3 Standards in Social Studies:* *D2.His.1.6-8* *D3.1.6-8.* *D2.His.2.6-8* *D3.3.6-8* *D2.His.3.6-8* *D2.His.3.9-12.* *D2.His.2.9-12.* *D2.His.1.9-12.*
6. Assessment Question:	Why is it important for people today to preserve archeological sites for the future?

7. Contextual Paragraph	Magic Mountain Site is one of the most important archeological sites in the Front Range of Colorado showing evidence of different cultures living there since at least 9000 years ago. In the 1860s, near Golden, Colorado was a mining town called Apex that was the last supply stop for gold miners heading for the gold fields. This area was scattered with Indian relics that were looted for decades until 1941when archeologist Cynthia Irwin-Williams dug 13' deep block pits and recorded 6 soil levels with artifacts from 4 distinct cultures, enabling them to be dated and put in context.	
	In 1955, Disneyland opened in California and was so successful that a Disney-inspired park was built by the Magic Mountain Company on the Apex land that was named after the original mining town. It was so expensive that it closed after only three months but its name was popular and it remained. In the late 1970's a housing development crept near the archaeology site, spurring archeologists to list (include in) the area in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, saving it from being destroyed.	
	Between 1994 and 1996, serious archeological excavations were completed. New discoveries of rock walls showed there had been permanent residents there, not just people passing through. Over 80,000 artifacts were collected along with their context. In the film, according to State Archaeologist Holly Norton,"Before excavation of the Magic Mountain site, archaeologists really didn't have a good idea of what cultural phases looked like on the Front Range."	
	In 2017-2018 new archeological approaches were put in practice. One was the use of geophysical survey technologies and remote sensing gear that enabled the undisturbed earth to be examined to pinpoint artifacts instead of having to dig random holes all over. The second was the use of public archeology programs where volunteers were encouraged to be trained to excavate a site properly. Over 3000 locally trained volunteers, university students, and youth groups all came to see what they could excavate. Native Americans were also invited and five tribes answered, even sending native teens to work the digs, even practicing on potato chips. This taught them how fragile artifacts from 6000 years ago could be in the field. These archeologists especially wanted to know more about the Early Ceramic Period (200 to 1000 CE) when pottery and the bow and arrow was created, changing how	

	the people lived. They were also curious about the earliest peoples to live in this area during the Late Paleo-Indian Period of 13,000-6000 BCE. Artifacts 9000 years old were found that were used by bison hunters. This was exciting because few other sites that old exist. Archaeology is a unique science in that it destroys the very thing it studies. Much care must be done to maximize knowledge as it is discovered since the dug-up ground can't be dug up again in the same spot. Most importantly, the context of each artifact is what matters in learning about the ancient peoples. An object by itself is interesting but tells little about the culture it came from. Recording artifacts along with their context such as the soil qualities, depth found underground, position relative to other objects and natural features will tell a story about how the people actually lived long ago. The procedure is to develop research questions, excavate artifacts while carefully recording the context as completely as possible, take the artifacts back to a lab for physical analysis, and finally propose a narrative explaining their significance, which generates new research questions.	
8. Connection to Historic Preservation	Threatened with nearby bulldozers digging house foundations and roads, the area was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 in order to preserve it for future study. Some people wanted to hide Magic Mountain's bounty, afraid its treasures would be looted again. In 2017-2018 the public was invited to participate in the digging itself so they could appreciate what is there and be inspired to save it for the future. This fits in the guidelines for protections of archaeological sites as the community is asked to learn, volunteer, and protect the site for future generations.	

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Magic Mountain Archaeology Site	GUIDING QUESTIONS:
   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_Mountain_ Site#cite_note-Gibbon488-4	1. In how many time period layers, starting about 6000 years ago, were artifacts found in 1994-96, showing people had lived extensively there?

| Magic Mountain proclaimed to be one of most important archeological sites in the Front Range of Colorado in 2017

 https://www.dmns.org/science/anthropology/projects/magic-mountain/ | GUIDING QUESTIONS:

 1. What three types of artifacts were discovered in the 80,000 they collected in 1994-96?
 2. What are the three steps used to cataloguing each artifact in 2017?

 3. What kinds of information do the physical artifacts give us?
 4. Why was the public invited to do the excavations instead of only relying on scientists?

 5. What is the benefit of using drone photogrammetry, ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry to find artifacts over digging holes?

 6. What are the three research goals of the 2017-2018 excavations? |

Denver Has a 7000-Year-Old Archeology Site in its Back Yard 2018 https://www.5280.com/2018/06/denver-has-a-7000-year-old-archaeology-site-right-in-its-backyard/	GUIDING QUESTIONS: 1. What are two technologies that enable scientists to search the area for artifacts without actually digging holes into it? 2. Why did the scientists open up excavating to volunteers and kids instead of only letting the experts do it? 3. What are new discoveries they found here dating back 7000 years?

Magic Mountain https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/magic-mountain-archaeological-site	GUIDING QUESTIONS: 1. Why did people feel it was important to place this site in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 when there were no plans at the time to excavate it? 2. Why is this site, which has not been deeply excavated very much yet, considered to be one of the most important archeological sites in Colorado? 3. How many bone, ceramic, and other artifacts were collected for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science just in the 1990s alone?

Assessment Question
Why is it important for people today to preserve archeological sites such as Magic Mountain for the future?
Response