

Sample Performance Assessment Stimulus Material

Content Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: Fourth (4)

Instructional Unit Sample: Choices and Consequences

Colorado Academic Standard(s):

- SS09-GR.4-S.3-GLE.1 -- People respond to positive and negative incentives.
- SS09-GR.4-S.4-GLE.2 -- The origins, structure and functions of the Colorado government.

Concepts and skills students' master: Interdependence, cause and effect relationships, government, goods and services, trade, tourism, economy, physical environment, citizenship, taxes, analyze, create and investigate questions, describe

Unit Description

In this unit, [Choices and Consequences](#), students will learn about the social and economic development of Colorado; as well as the important role that physical and natural resources have played in developing and establishing economic stability in the state. Students will investigate how different groups have adapted to their environment and used the local resources and how resource use has had both a positive and negative impact on the region. Finally, students will study how the use and availability of resources have affected community expansion and development and how state and federal governments work together to manage and regulate the use of these resources.

Stimulus Material

The local city council of your mountain town is meeting to discuss the proposed expansion of the local ski resort which is located on federal land. The resort wants to expand the ski area by increasing the number of ski lifts/runs, as well as adding year round activities (e.g., bike trails, a new alpine slide). As a member of this community, you are very interested in the economic success and environmental well-being of your town and state. As an interested party, you have a very strong opinion about this expansion. Your interests might represent a business owner, a resident whose family has been in the community for generations, a ski resort employee, a forest service worker, a homeowner, etc. You plan on speaking at the city council meeting to present your case. Your presentation should include a discussion of the economic and environmental benefits or drawbacks, as well as the local and state use of this natural resource (federal land).

Your presentation should include:

- a clear statement of your position on the expansion of the ski resort
- uses of the land and its impact on the environment and the local community
- possible misuse/overuse of the land
- current regulations for federal land use
- explicit connections between federal, state, and local governments

Presentations can be through Powerpoint, posters, story boards, or any other visual aid that will support the oral presentation.