|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Fitzsimons General Hospital |
| Developed by | Kelly Jones-Wagy, Social Studies Teacher, Overland High School, Cherry Creek School District |
| Grade Level | 7-12 |
| Essential Question | How did the influenza outbreak during World War I impact the economy and settlement of the Denver Metro area? |
| Contextual Paragraph | Beginning in the late 1800s, due to its dry climate, Colorado became a haven for people suffering from respiratory ailments. As America entered the Great War in 1918, there was a national need for medical facilities to treat the wounded returning from war. The leading cause of disability discharge from the military in the early 1900s was tuberculosis. Fitzsimons Hospital was established to ease the burden on other army hospitals, though the war ended only a month after the hospital opened.  In 1920 the name of the hospital was changed from General Hospital No. 21 to Fitzsimons General Hospital, named for the first US casualty in World War I, Lt. William Thomas Fitzsimons, MD. During the Great Depression, budget cuts almost closed the hospital, however the Colorado legislature appealed to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Public Works Administration (PWA) for funds to continue to treat tuberculosis patients in a new building. The building was dedicated on December 3, 1941. Four days later the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor.  The most notable patient at Fitzsimons General Hospital was in 1955 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower was visiting Colorado on vacation and suffered a massive heart attack. Eisenhower recovered over the course of a couple months and successfully ran for re-election in 1956. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fitzsimons General Hospital, Entrance Gateway, East Colfax Avenue & Peoria Street, Northeast Corner, Aurora, Adams County, CO | Tuberculosis Don't kiss me! Your kiss of affection - the germ of infection | **Fitzsimons General Hospital, 1920** | **Fitzsimons Army Hospital** | **History of National Jewish Health** | **Lt. William T. Fitzsimons, MD** |
| Entrance to Fitzsimons during the 1930s while the hospital was being funded by the WPA and PWA. | Poster about tuberculosis in children and methods of transmission. Published between 1936-1941. | In 1918 Fitzsimons General Hospital was established east of Denver to treat soldiers infected with tuberculosis during World War I. | Building 500 is the original building commissioned in 1918. | National Jewish Hospital in Denver was also a treatment center for tuberculosis patients. | A graduate of the University of Kansas Medical School, Fitzsimons was killed in action in 1917. He was the first American casualty of WWI. |
| Fitzsimons has gone through multiple evolutions since it was built in 1918. | Tuberculosis spread rapidly during the Great Depression. The Works Progress Administration produced educational posters to help stop the transmission of the disease. | Aerial photograph of Fitzsimons General Hospital in 1920. | This is the iconic image of Fitzsimons Hospital. | The original National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, opened in the 1890s. | The name of the hospital, Army Hospital No. 21, was officially changed to honor Fitzsimons in 1920. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | The original hospital building was completed in 1893, but due to a nationwide recession, it did not open until 1899. | http://kuhistory1.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/09071917_01g.jpg |
| <https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.co0801.photos?st=gallery> | <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3f05369/> | <http://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/fitzsimons-general-hospital> | <http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/historic-sites/> | <https://www.nationaljewish.org/about/history> | <http://kuhistory.com/articles/a-death-in-france/> |

|  |
| --- |
| **Foundations Annotations** |
| **Curriculum Connections** |
| History  Geography |

|  |
| --- |
| **Curriculum Standards** |
| **CO State History Standard 2:** The key concepts of continuity and change, cause and effect, complexity, unity and diversity over time. (High School)  f. Investigate causes and effects of significant events in United States history.  **CO State Geography Standard 2:** Explain and interpret geographic variables that influence the interactions of people, places and environments. (High School)   1. Apply geography skills to help investigate issues and justify possible resolutions involving people, places and environments. 2. Explain how information and changing perceptions and values of places and environment influence personal actions. |
| **Content and Thinking Objectives** |
| Students will be able to:   * describe life in the US during WWI and compare it to their own lives. * identify the ways tuberculosis has impacted the development and growth of Colorado. |
| **Inquiry Questions, Activities and Strategies** |
| **Inquiry Questions**  What does this set of primary sources say about the effect disease has on the built environment?  What are the connections between Fitzsimons Hospital, the influenza outbreak at the end of WWI and the long term impact it had as a global pandemic? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Assessment Strategies** |
| Depending upon how one uses the resources and which standards are chosen, assessment can take many forms.  For example:  **CO State Geography Standard 2** **(a and f)** (High School) Create a project that illustrates the ways disease (tuberculosis and influenza) influenced the interactions of people, places and environments in early 20th century Colorado. |
| **Other Resources** |
| **Web Resources** |
| Colorado Encyclopedia: <http://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/fitzsimons-general-hospital>  Colorado Public Radio: [www.cpr.org/news/story/how-tuberculosis-fueled-colorados-growth](http://www.cpr.org/news/story/how-tuberculosis-fueled-colorados-growth)  Rocky Mountain PBS “American Experience: The Forgotten Plague”: [www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/plague](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/plague)  University of Kansas: [www.kuhistory.com/articles/a-death-in-france](http://www.kuhistory.com/articles/a-death-in-france) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Secondary Sources** |
| Carol R. Byerly, *Good Tuberculosis Men: The* Army Medical Department’s Struggle with Tuberculosis (Fort Sam Houston, TX: Office of the Surgeon General, Borden Institute, 2013). Teachers  Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Aurora Colorado: A Commemorative History (Aurora, CO: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Public Affairs Office, 1997). Teachers  R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, “Fitzsimons General Hospital, Main Hospital Building,” Colorado State Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (November 27, 1998). Teachers |
| **Preservation Connection** |
| Fitzsimons Main Building “500” was built in 1941, and was, at the time, the largest structure in Colorado. In 1998 it was nominated for the Colorado State Register of Historic Places. |

**Working together to tell the story of our state!**

**Developers**

** ** ****

**Sponsors**

** **

**Partners**

****  ** **