# Teacher Resource Set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tuberculosis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Developed by</td>
<td>Sally Purath, Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Level</td>
<td>4-12</td>
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## Essential Question

What health issue caused a third of Colorado’s early settlers to move to Colorado beginning in the 1860s? What were the reasons for relocating to Colorado and not somewhere else?

What did doctors know about tuberculosis before they knew about germs?

How did Colorado’s economy benefit from the belief that climate could cure TB?

What were the attitudes and beliefs about the thousands of sick and dying tuberculosis patients who had migrated to Colorado?

How did Colorado’s economy continue to benefit from tuberculosis after it was known that climate did not cure the disease?

How does Colorado’s built environment in many of its cities reflect the influence of tuberculosis?

## Contextual Paragraph

In the 19th century, the top killer of people in the U.S. was tuberculosis. By 1900, about a third of Colorado’s early settlers had moved to the state in search of a cure. Not knowing about germs, doctors believed that Colorado’s dry air, clean mountain water, and year-round sunshine would enable people’s immune systems to cast off the deadly disease and cure them of the malady.

Those who arrived prior to 1880 were housed in a variety of facilities ranging from tents to boarding houses to private abodes. After 1880, TB became big business and with the influx of tuberculars numerous sanatoria were built to provide them care. In the period between 1880 and 1920 eighty sanatoria were established along the front range. Countless other facilities existed throughout the state as well as numerous small privately-owned accommodations such as Mrs. Lare’s Tent Sanatorium in Englewood, CO housed those in search of the cure.
### Contextual Paragraph (continued)

After 1890, the germ theory became widely accepted in medical communities. The attitudes toward tuberculars changed when it was realized that they could carry the contagion to those who came in contact with them. Efforts were made to educate the general population about tuberculosis and the steps that could be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Local governments passed statutes against such things as spitting on the streets, for example. In Colorado Springs, the city government discussed the idea of requiring tuberculars to wear bells around their necks as a means of identification. The idea never came to fruition.

Advancements in medicine in the 1950s resulted in drugs that could “cure” tuberculosis. Sanatoria were no longer necessary and they began to close down. In an effort to eradicate the disease, mobile TB clinic vans were sent to rural areas to locate and treat victims. Children were given “tine” tests in schools as a routine part of their K-12 educational experience. People employed in the public sector who had close contact with large numbers of people were required to have chest x-rays in order to detect the disease. These efforts resulted in the near elimination of tuberculosis by the 1970s.

In Denver, as in Colorado Springs, many of the larger sanatoria became the foundation for many of today’s hospitals. Among those that remain today along the front range are National Jewish, Swedish, Lutheran, St. Luke’s, St. Joseph’s, Denver General, Fitzsimons, Glockner, St. Francis and Penrose Hospitals. Other sanatoria remain, but are used for different purposes such as the Agnes Phipps Memorial Sanatorium which became Lowry Air Force Base in Denver and Cragmor, home of the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs. The preservation of these structures established and designed specifically for the treatment of tuberculosis pays tribute to this time period in Colorado history.

Although tuberculosis could now be treated in a patient’s home environment, Colorado continued to draw people to visit from around the globe. The appeal to move to Colorado’s climate changed from curing TB to being a healthy and vigorous place to live. Even today, the population continues to grow, attracting people who love yearly outdoor activities such as skiing in the snow and hiking and biking in the sunshine.
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<td>Transcript of a paper given by Dr. Frederick I. Knight a well-known specialist in lung diseases. It resulted in the migration of many tuberculars to Colorado.</td>
<td>“The best article on the climate of Colorado and on the class of individuals who should come here, that has appeared in any medical journal.”</td>
<td>Dr. Charles Fox Gardiner invented the TB hut for single patients, allowing many more to live more inexpensively.</td>
<td>Periods of particular significance include 1875-1899, 1900-1927. Article also contains a discussion of the 9 architectural styles found in the castle.</td>
<td>The building is significant because of its engineering and architectural aspects. Example of Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, and Romanesque styles.</td>
<td>Among the many individuals identified that were involved in this project was Dr. Gerald B. Webb, an internationally known leader in the fight against TB.</td>
<td>Located north of Colorado Springs in what is now known as Woodman Valley, this was one of the largest “tent colonies” developed to house tuberculars.</td>
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<td><strong>“Aged Negro Couple Give Land for New National Sanatorium”</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Cragmor Reorganized as Non-Profit Tuberculosis Sanatorium”</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Register of Historic Places Nomination form for Lowry Air Force Base September 3, 1998</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phipps Sanatorium c. 1911 Aka Agnes Memorial Sanatorium</strong></td>
<td><strong>TB Hut on display at the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs, CO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fitzsimons General Hospital c. 1921</strong></td>
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<td>Colorado Springs Gazette, November 22, 1910</td>
<td>Gazette and Telegraph, February 16, 1936</td>
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<td>Article about the donation of 480 acres to build a new sanatorium for African Americans suffering from TB.</td>
<td>“The new organization…is a non-profit, non-sectarian body created for benevolent, charitable and humanitarian purposes and for the treatment of tuberculosis…”</td>
<td>Originally built as the Agnes Phipps Memorial Sanatorium in 1904 as a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis, it was converted to Lowry AFB in 1932.</td>
<td>View of the main building at Agnes Memorial Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients (named for Agnes McCall Phipps), at East 6th (Sixth) Avenue and Quebec Street in Denver, CO.</td>
<td>The article from which this image is taken, “History of Search for TB cure tied to history of Colorado Springs” is described in the Colorado Springs Gazette, December 27, 2014.</td>
<td>Overview of the Fitzsimons General Hospital buildings in Denver, CO. The hospital was opened in 1918 to serve WWI veterans suffering from TB. It grew to 86 buildings and 1,400 patient beds.</td>
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<td>Former slave, James K. Polk Taylor (age 71) and his free-born wife Elizabeth Jane Taylor (age 75) gave land in Calhan near Colorado Springs for the Sanatorium. W.E.B. DuBois, among others, was on the Advisory Committee.</td>
<td>In depth article about the history of Cragmor Sanatorium located beneath Austin Bluffs in Colorado Springs. It details the reorganization of the once private institution for the wealthy.</td>
<td>From 1904-1932, Lowry was the Agnes C. Phipps Memorial Sanatorium, a 150-bed facility boasting the curative properties of Colorado’s climate.</td>
<td>The Spanish Colonial structure features stucco walls, arched windows, a tile hipped roof, and central dome.</td>
<td>Other examples of the diversity of housing for tuberculars are available in the View Gallery of the article. They include the Central Building of Cragmor Sanatorium, now the Main Hall at University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and Modern Woodman of America Sanatorium, January 25, 1927.</td>
<td>Fitzsimons has changed over the years and currently is the site of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Fitzsimons was placed in the State Register in 1999. For more information visit the Colorado Encyclopedia’s materials on Fitzsimons.</td>
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### Teacher Resource Set

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### Images:

2. JCRS Denver, CO
3. Sun Porch Tuberculosis Therapy
4. Sun Deck Therapy for Tuberculosis Patients
5. Denver Sanatorium for Tuberculosis
6. Tuberculosis in Colorado - Historic Photographs

### Links:

1. [http://more.ppld.org:8080/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/355046.pdf](http://more.ppld.org:8080/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/355046.pdf)
3. [https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=f82a2f65-9e15-4387-842a-7b9ae76e8eb4](https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=f82a2f65-9e15-4387-842a-7b9ae76e8eb4)

### Descriptions:

#### “Where Colorado Springs Proves Its Sense of Brotherhood”

*Colorado Springs Gazette*, October 5, 1913

The article highlights the work being done at Sunnyrest Sanatorium for tubercular treatment.

- **Jewish Consumptives’ Relief Society (JCRS) Denver, CO**
- **Sun Porch Tuberculosis Therapy**
- **Sun Deck Therapy for Tuberculosis Patients**
- **Denver Sanatorium for Tuberculosis**

- This sign marks the entrance to the JCRS sanatorium. It is contained in an article by Devorah Klein.
- Heliotherapy at JCRS sanatorium. c. 1920-1940.
- Adult patients on the Sun deck of the B’nai B’rith Infirmary Building.
- The B’nai B’rith Infirmary Building at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver.

#### Historic photos related to tuberculosis in the Denver area from the Denver Public Library Digital Collection.
| Anecdotal stories about several patients illustrates local attitudes toward TB patients. It also discusses belief that climate could cure the disease. | The article contains photos and biographies of many Jews of Eastern European heritage who moved to Colorado from the East to seek treatment. | Tuberculosis patients lie in beds on the porch of a building at the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (J.C.R.S.) sanatorium, 1600 Pierce Street, Lakewood, Colorado. The men lie in rows outside their rooms, and nurses attend to some patients. | Some of the thousands of Jews of Western European heritage who came to cure their tuberculosis with sun therapy. | This state-of-the-art sanatorium included sun porches and sun treatment decks to facilitate the healing of tuberculars at a time when it was believed that sun light could cure TB. | This collection contains photos of many of the sanatoria located in the Denver area at the turn of the 20th century. Institutions include Craig Colony, Lutheran Sanatorium, the Oakes Home. They provide an interesting comparison of architectural styles of the period. |

## Foundations Annotations

### Curriculum Connections

**History**

**Geography**

**Reading**

### Curriculum Standards

**CO State History Standard 1**: The historical method of inquiry to ask questions, evaluate primary and secondary sources, critically analyze and interpret data, and develop interpretations defended by evidence from a variety of primary and secondary sources. (High School)

**CO State Geography Standard 3**: The interconnected nature of the world, its people and places. (High School)

**CO State Geography Standard 1**: Use geographic tools to analyze patterns in human and physical systems. (Eighth Grade)

**CO State Geography Standard 2**: Connections within and across human and physical systems are developed. (Fourth Grade)

**Reading for Information Literacy Standard 4.1** Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**Reading for Information Literacy Standard 4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
## Content and Thinking Objectives

Students will be able to:

- evaluate primary sources to understand local views on the massive migration of tuberculosis patients both those with and without money.
- discuss how changing perceptions and knowledge about tuberculosis affected the ways Coloradans dealt with tubercular migrants.
- explain what doctors first incorrectly believed about the causes of tuberculosis and how it could be cured.
- discuss how tuberculosis effected the built environment in Colorado then and now.

Objectives are based on the Colorado Department of Education Content Connections located at:

[https://www.cde.state.co.us/contentareas/contentconnections/5gr_change.png](https://www.cde.state.co.us/contentareas/contentconnections/5gr_change.png)

The Colorado Department of Education Prepared Graduate Competencies at:

[https://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies/cas-ss-corrections.png](https://www.cde.state.co.us/cosocialstudies/cas-ss-corrections.png)

## Inquiry Questions, Activities and Strategies

### Inquiry Questions:

- Who are famous people who came to Colorado due to tuberculosis? Why did many of them remain?
- How did tuberculosis drive the Colorado economy? Why were so many poor sick people welcomed?
- Why would people continue to migrate to Colorado after it was discovered that the climate would not cure tuberculosis?

### Inquiry Activities:

- Ask students to plot the locations and a description of historic sites related to tuberculosis on Google Maps.
- Ask students to research tuberculosis and whether Colorado continues to remain an important state in the research and treatment of the disease today.
- Ask students to research germ theory. How has it evolved over time?
### Assessment Strategies

Depending upon how one uses the resources and which standards are chosen, assessment can take many forms. For example:

**CO History Standard 1** (High School) After analyzing items from the resource set, describe local people’s attitudes toward thousands of tubercular patients migrating to Colorado, both those who could afford to pay for their care and those who were penniless.

**CO Geography Standard 3** (High School) After analyzing items from the resource set, describe how sanatoria were adapted for tuberculosis patients in particular as opposed to a regular hospital or hotel for tourists.

**CO Geography Standard 1** (Eighth Grade) Students will plot the locations and a description of historic sites related to tuberculosis on Google Maps and make inferences about the patterns that emerge.

**CO Geography Standard 2** (Fourth Grade) Read a newspaper account from between 1880-1930 and list ways people with tuberculosis were treated for their disease.

### Other Resources

### Web Resources

- National Register of Historic Places: [http://www.nps.gov/nr](http://www.nps.gov/nr)
- Resources from History Colorado: [http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/tuberculosis](http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/tuberculosis)
## Web Resources (continued)

- Fitzsimons General Hospital, Open Air Tuberculosis Ward: [https://www.loc.gov/item/co0799/](https://www.loc.gov/item/co0799/)
- Fitzsimons General Hospital, Nurses' Tubercular Ward/Nurses' Infirmary: [https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.co0827.photos?st=gallery](https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.co0827.photos?st=gallery)

## Secondary Sources

The influence of tuberculosis on the built environment is substantial. Sanatoria were designed to provide optimum exposure to Colorado’s sunshine and dry air. Windows were a common feature of these buildings. Another feature that can be observed today in areas like North Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs or Montclair neighborhood in Denver are sleeping porches. It is not unusual to drive through the neighborhoods east of Colorado College in Colorado Springs and see wooden structures that resemble small sheds or playhouses in many backyards. These structures housed tuberculars in Woodmen Valley and Nordrach Ranch and as sanatoria closed, many citizens of the city relocated them to their yards. See the TB Hut in the resource set.

During the Progressive Era, numerous books and pamphlets were written about the architectural design of sanatoria. Thus, throughout Colorado and the United States, sanatoria were built according to these modern, scientific designs that included easy access to air and sunshine.

**Preservation Inquiry Questions:**

- Why are buildings that housed people with tuberculosis worth preserving?
- How does preserving this collection of buildings tell an important story about the history of Colorado?
- Who has taken on the role as preservationist of these buildings?
- Why are these buildings significant? Is the significance about the story they tell or the buildings and their architecture or both?
- How have these buildings been preserved and used for another (or the same) purpose?
Teacher Resource Set

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Sponsors

Partners