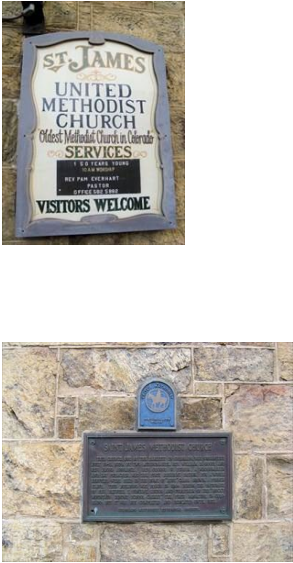
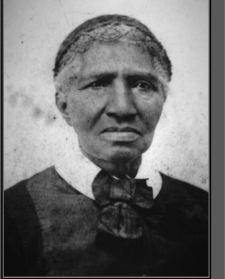





## Teacher Resource Set

Title	Clara Brown
Developed by	Elizabeth Duncan and Rae Harris
Grade Level	3–5
Essential Question	In what ways did Clara Brown overcome personal challenges and make a difference to the lives of people in Colorado, especially other freed slaves?
Contextual Paragraph	Clara Brown was likely the first African American woman to come to Colorado. Born a slave in Virginia, Brown was freed in Kentucky and headed west during the Colorado Gold Rush of 1859. Overcoming a very difficult personal history, Brown acquired mining properties in Gilpin County and used her wealth to become a philanthropist who helped former slaves rebuild their lives in Colorado.

### Resource Set

<b>Plaque at St. James Methodist Church</b>	<b>Aunt Clara Brown, undated photo</b>	<b>Slaves on the Auction Block</b>	<b>Aunt Clara Brown Dies in Denver</b>	<b>Trouble Marked the Life of Clara Brown</b>	<b>Central City after the Fire</b>
A plaque on St. James Methodist Church in Central City (the oldest Methodist church in Colorado) honors Clara Brown.	Aunt Clara Brown settled in Denver or Auraria Cherry Creek in 1859.	This 1870s engraving depicts an enslaved woman and young girl being auctioned as property.	A brief article in the Gunnison-Review Press, 10/27/1885, notes the passing of Clara Brown	Column on “Remarkable Coloradans” in the Golden Transcript, 8/11/1975.	Clara owned seven different houses in Central City.
Clara’s home was used for the first church services. She was a active member and donated to churches throughout	This is the only known photograph of Clara Brown.	Clara Brown was born into slavery. Later, her husband and children were sold away from her. When she gained her freedom as an	Clara Brown was known and appreciated throughout Colorado.	The author made note of how Clara Brown overcame adversity. The column also includes an 1880 sketch of Clara	In 1873, Clara’s home and several of her other properties went up in flames in a huge fire in Central City.


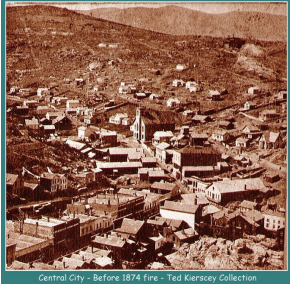




<p>her life. Her Christian beliefs were the basis of her charitable work.</p>		<p>adult, she immigrated to Colorado.</p>		<p>Brown.</p>	
	<p>Colorado Black Hall of Fame</p>  <p>"Aunt" Clara Brown 1800-1882 Freed Slave-Philanthropist</p>		<p><b>Aunt Clara Brown.</b> DENVER, Colo., Oct. 27.—Aunt Clara Brown (colored) who was claimed to be the oldest woman in Colorado, died last night at 10 o'clock. She was the only female member of the Colorado Pioneers' Association. She lived in an early day at Blackhawk, Central, and many of the Camps of the northern part of the State and kept boarding houses. Many were the first settlers who had Aunt Clara Brown to thank for care and comfort during sickness. She was liked by everyone.</p>	<p>Centennial milestone <b>Trouble marked life of Clara Brown</b></p> <p>Editor's note: This article is one of a series being offered by the University of Colorado news service. The series will highlight events in the history of Colorado that are significant as the state prepares to observe its centennial.</p> <p>"Adversity" well could have been the name of Clara Brown, a Virginia-born slave who, in middle life, bought her freedom, lived in an early day at Blackhawk, Central, and many of the Camps of the northern part of the State and kept boarding houses. Many were the first settlers who had Aunt Clara Brown to thank for care and comfort during sickness. She was liked by everyone.</p>  <p>from 1869 until her death Oct. 23, 1885, "Aunt" Clara Brown was to become one of the best-loved citizens of Central City and Denver.</p> <p>The accompanying sketch appeared in the March 17, 1890, Denver Republican. The artist is unknown—it appears in the Kathleen Bruyn book, "Aunt' Clara Brown: Story of a Black Pioneer."</p> <p>She opened the first laundry in Central City, charging 50 cents for a flannel shirt. She bought real estate in the mining areas along the eastern slope of Colorado, served as a nurse and a midwife to blacks and whites and opened the first Central City Sunday school.</p> <p>Her generosity was so great that for a number of years she would grub-stake prospectors with no demand for a share of their successes.</p> <p>The tragedy and triumph of her life centered in slavery. She was torn from her husband and children in a slave market and for the rest of her life searched for her husband and children, all of whom had been sold to different owners.</p> <p>Though she failed to find her husband, the triumph of her determination came shortly before her death in a poignant reunion in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she found her daughter Eliza Jane.</p> <p>Also during her life she found 34 other relatives and brought them to Denver in the first of many black wagon trains she would sponsor.</p> <p>The impact of "Aunt" Clara Brown on the lives of Coloradans was to be seen by her before death when friends sponsored a benefit in her honor to raise money for her care. After her death, a memorial chair was established in her name in the Central City Opera House—Room 11, seat number 4, on the left side of the house in the parquet section.</p>	
<p><a href="https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm">https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm</a></p>	<p><a href="https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p">https://digital.denverlibrary.org/digital/collection/p</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.history.com/topics/black-">https://www.history.com/topics/black-</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=">https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=">https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.coloradovirtualibrary.org/digital-">https://www.coloradovirtualibrary.org/digital-</a></p>

## Teacher Resource Set

<a href="#">7TQK_183_St_James_Methodist_Church_Central_City_CO</a>	<a href="#">15330coll23/id/9904/</a>	<a href="#">history/slavery</a>	<a href="#">d&amp;d=GNP18851027-01.2.2&amp;srpos=3&amp;e=-----en-20--1--img-txIN%7ctxCO%7ctxTA-%22Clara+Brown%22---2-----</a>	<a href="#">d&amp;d=GOT19750811-01.2.14&amp;srpos=7&amp;e=-----en-20--1--img-txIN%7ctxCO%7ctxTA-%22Clara+Brown%22---2-----</a>	<a href="#">colorado/colorado-histories/beginnings/clara-brown-angel-of-the-rockies/</a>
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<b>Wagon Train</b>	<b>Central City Before the Fire</b>	<b>Gold Mining in Central City</b>	<b>Exodusters in Kansas</b>	<b>Clara Brown Gravestone</b>	<b>Stained Glass window in the Colorado Capitol</b>
Wagon trains were the means of getting to the gold country. This picture is of a wagon train going to Utah, but Clara did not go that far.	Clara worked as a laundress and owned property in a thriving Central City during the gold rush.	Many people went west to find gold.	View of Washington Street in Nicodemus, Kansas in 1885.	Clara Brown is buried in Riverside cemetery in Denver.	Clara Brown was selected to be honored with a stained glass window.
Blacks were forbidden to buy a ticket on the wagon train, but Clara arranged to be hired as a cook to secure her passage.	Clara's investments in Central City were lost during a fire in 1873.	Clara left the South and headed west to find work doing laundry for the miners and to try to find her daughter.	Exodusters were former slaves who migrated to the west after the Civil War in search of a better life. Clara helped them move to Colorado where there were better opportunities.	The gravestone notes that Clara was the first woman member of the Colorado Society of Pioneers.	In 1976, Clara's contributions to Colorado were recognized with a stained glass window in the old Supreme Court Chamber.

## Teacher Resource Set

	 <p>Central City - Before 1874 fire - Ted Kerssey Collection</p>			 <p>COLORADO PIONEER - 1859 CLARA BROWN DIED 1885 AGE 83 EX-SERVANT BORN IN KENTUCKY, MARRIED 1857 ONE OF FIRST BLACK RESIDENTS OF COLO. LIVED IN CENTRAL CITY AND DENVER FIRST WOMAN MEMBER COLOR SOCIETY OF PIONEERS</p>	
<p><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.timetoast.com/public/uploads/photos/7551654/Wagon_Train.jpg?1478040953">https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.timetoast.com/public/uploads/photos/7551654/Wagon_Train.jpg?1478040953</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.narrowgauge.org/images/tkcok/m00226.jpg">http://www.narrowgauge.org/images/tkcok/m00226.jpg</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/digital-colorado/colorado-histories/beginnings/clara-brown-angel-of-the-rockies/">https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/digital-colorado/colorado-histories/beginnings/clara-brown-angel-of-the-rockies/</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Exodusters - Homestead National Historical Park (US National Park Service)</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm14ZR6_Clara_Brown_Denver_CO_USA">https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm14ZR6_Clara_Brown_Denver_CO_USA</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8053901/clara-brown">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8053901/clara-brown</a></p>

<p><b>Laundry Sign</b></p>					
<p>Laundries were profitable businesses in mining towns.</p>					

## Teacher Resource Set

<p>Clara Brown made a fortune from her laundry business in Central City. She charged 50 cents for each item she washed.</p>					
					
<p><a href="https://in.pinterest.com/pin/524739794087464764/">https://in.pinterest.com/pin/524739794087464764/</a></p>					

### Foundations Annotations

#### Curriculum Connections

History

**Curriculum Standards**

**CO State History Grade Level Expectation 1:** People in the past influenced the development and interaction of different communities and regions. (Third Grade) Students can:

- a) Give examples of people, events, and developments that brought important changes to a community or region.
- b) Recognize how members of a community rely on each other and interact to influence the development of their communities.
- c) Give examples of people, events, and developments that brought important changes to a community or region.
- d) Describe the history, interaction, and contribution of the various peoples and cultures that have lived in or migrated to a community or region and how that migration has influenced change and development.

**CO State History Grade Level Expectation 2:** The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes in Colorado history and their relationship to key events in the United States within the same historical period. (Fourth Grade) Students can:

- a. explain the relationship between major events in Colorado history and events in United States history during the same era.

**CO State History Grade Level Expectation 1:** Analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context. (Fifth Grade) Students can:

- a. recognize how historical context can affect the perspective of historical sources.
- b. make observations and draw conclusions from a variety of sources when studying American history.

**Content and Thinking Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- list the contributions of Clara Brown to the well-being of Black newcomers to Colorado.
- explain how Clara Brown's life reflected the historical events of the times, such as slavery, westward expansion, discovery of gold, etc.
- examine how Clara Brown demonstrated perseverance and resilience in successfully facing the many challenges in her life.
- evaluate how Clara, as one person, brought important changes to Colorado.

**Inquiry Questions, Activities and Strategies**

**Inquiry Questions:** (You may also wish to support students in reading the full article as it provides considerably more detail.)

- What contributions did Clara make to improve the lives of Black people wherever she lived?
- How did historical events of the times such as slavery, westward expansion, and the discovery of gold, etc influence Clara's life?
- What challenges did Clara face, beginning with her childhood? How did she respond to those challenges?
- How can one person's sense of purpose and generosity impact those around her?

**Activities and Strategies:**

- Introductory activity or hook: This link to a short clip about Clara Brown from PBS's *Colorado Experience* provides a nice overview of many interesting points referenced in the article: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=419fTxCSHpg>
- Watch the longer video, also from PBS, called *Clara: Angel of the Rockies* for a more in-depth look at Clara Brown's life. <https://www.pbs.org/video/-contrary-contrary-film-festival-clara-angel-rockies/>
- Using the primary sources provided, show how Clara's life reflected the historical events taking place throughout the country, such as slavery, etc.
- Make a list of challenges Clara faced throughout her life. Discuss how she overcame these challenges and contributed in positive ways to the lives of others and her community.

**Assessment Strategies**

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

**CO State History Grade Level Expectation 2:** The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes in Colorado history and their relationship to key events in the United States within the same historical period. (Fourth Grade)

Explain the relationship between major events in Colorado history and events in United States history during the same era.

## Teacher Resource Set

Create a double timeline with events in Clara Brown's life (1803 to 1885) and the events in the history of the United States during those years. Include illustrations (hand-drawn or photo-copied).

or

**CO State History Grade Level Expectation 1:** Analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context. (Fifth Grade) Students can:

Recognize how historical context can affect the perspective of historical sources.

Make observations and draw conclusions from a variety of sources when studying American history.

Write a creative story, using information from multiple primary and secondary sources, that shows how Clara Brown overcame a particular challenge in her life. You may write the story from Clara's point of view or as a narrator.

### Other Resources

#### Web Resources

Colorado Experience: Aunt Clara Brown. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=419fTxCSHpg> (3 minute overview of Clara's life and contributions.)

Award-winning documentary: "Clara - Angel of the Rockies," To the Contrary Film Festival, 2016. <https://www.pbs.org/video/-contrary-contrary-film-festival-clara-angel-rockies/>

Article: "Clara Brown: Angel of the Rockies," Colorado Virtual Library, August 26, 2016 <https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/digital-colorado/colorado-histories/beginnings/clara-brown-angel-of-the-rockies/>

Article: "Central City's Clara Brown," The Mountain Ear, February 17, 2022. <https://www.themtneer.com/articles/central-citys-clara-brown/>

Article: "Clara Brown: Angel of the Rockies," Front Porch, February 1, 2018 <https://frontporchne.com/article/clara-brown-angel-rockies/>



## Secondary Sources

Francetti, Suzanne. **Clara Brown: African American Pioneer. (Great Lives in Colorado History.)** Book written for young readers (3rd-5th grades) in English and Spanish. <https://www.filterpressbooks.com/s/search?q=clara%20brown>

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