

## Document Based Question (DBQ)

1. Title / Content Area:	Colorado Coined/Denver Mint/Economic History of West	    
2. Historic Site	Denver Mint	
3. Developed by:	Adams 12 School District	
4. Grade Level and Standards:	6-8 6 <sup>th</sup> : History 1.1, 1.2 7 <sup>th</sup> : history 1.1, 1.2, Geography 2.2 8 <sup>th</sup> : History 1.1, 1.2	
5. Assessment Question:	Why was Denver referred to as the Washington of the West? What was the importance of Denver as an economic hub and how did the establishment of an assay office then the Mint contribute to the recognition of Denver as a financial center?	
6. Contextual Paragraph	<p>In the 1850's, 50,000 fortune seekers came to Colorado in search of gold. The miners would take their gold dust into town to purchase goods and services and merchants would take a pinch of gold out of the bags. The pinch was worth \$.25. But what would happen if you wanted to purchase something for \$.05 or if they dropped gold dust between the slats? Colorado needed a reliable measure for gold. In 1890 ground was broken for the Denver Mint and it was finished in 1904. In 1906 they printed their first gold piece which was a \$5.00 coin. The Denver Mint filled a need in the middle of the country. With San Francisco and Philadelphia Mints on the east and west coast, the US needed a mint in the middle of the country. Coin operated vending, parking and other machines that held coins created a need for more coins to be printed. During WWII, women replaced men at the Mint and increased the production of coins. The D on the coins printed in Denver creates civic pride. Coins represent things that we value. The images embedded are mementos of our national history and value.</p>	
7. Historic Preservation Connection	The Denver Mint's beautiful architecture is based on a Renaissance palazzo built by a powerful Florentine banking family. It contributed to the Denver City Beautiful Movement by complementing the Capitol and Civic Center. The Denver Mint helped the nation take Denver seriously and consider it a center of commerce.	

## Document Set

Denver Mint 1906



<https://www.loc.gov/item/det1994011857/PP/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What does the architecture of the mint represent?
2. How did this building contribute to the beautification of downtown Denver?
3. What does the size and location of the building say about its importance of Denver as an economic hub in the west?

Act to provide for coinage at branch mint in Denver, Colorado, 1895.

FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS. Sess. III. Ch. 105-107. 1895. 673

**CHAP. 105**—An Act to provide for coinage at the branch mint at Denver, Colorado.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter there shall be carried on at the branch mint of the United States at Denver, in the State of Colorado, the coinage of gold and silver.*

**SEC. 1.** That the provisions of sections thirty-four hundred and twenty-six and thirty-four hundred and ninety-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States are hereby made applicable to the mint of the United States at Denver, Colorado, and that so much of sections thirty-five hundred and fifty-eight, thirty-five hundred and fifty-nine, thirty-five hundred and sixty, and thirty-five hundred and sixty-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States as relates to the mint at Denver, Colorado, are hereby repealed; and that the compensation of the officers of said mint shall be the same as those of the mint at Carson City, Nevada.

**SEC. 2.** That all laws and parts of laws in force in relation to the mints of the United States, and for the government of the officers and persons employed therein, shall be applicable to the mint at Denver.

Approved, February 29, 1895.

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/53rd-congress/session-3/c53s3ch105.pdf>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. How did this act establish Denver as an important federal economic center?
2. Why was coinage created with silver and gold? Which was more prevalent in Colorado?
3. What are the images on US coins and what do they represent?



Colton's Intermediate Railroad Map of the United States c. 1882



<https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71000840/>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Denver a prime geographic location for a mint?
2. What role did the railroad play in the expansion of Denver as a Federal Center?
3. Was Denver the best location for a Federal Mint?

Clark and Gruber Historic Building Marker



<http://www.theclio.com/web/entry?id=21948>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What role did Clark and Gruber play in the early establishment of the US Mint in Denver?
2. Why was it so easy for Clark and Gruber to produce their own minted coins in Denver?
3. How did their foresight help advance the economy of Denver and make them profitable in their business as well?
4. What are several purposes for this historic marker located in Denver?

Clark and Gruber Ad- Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection



<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/cgi-bin/colorado?a=d&d=RMD18600920.2.22&srpos=7&e-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-mint+clark+and+gruber-----0-Denver#>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why would an ad like this be run in the newspaper?
2. What would a negative consequence of an ad such as this appearing in a newspaper?
3. Why do you think Clark and Gruber were successful with this business?

### Assessment Question

Why was Denver referred to as the Washington of the West? What was the importance of Denver as an economic hub?

Response

This project was paid for in part by a History Colorado State Historical Fund grant.