

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

The state animal is only found in the Rockies, usually in rugged mountain areas.



Lark Bunting

The state bird migrates to Colorado in April each year and flies south in September.



Rhodochrosite

The state mineral is only found a few places on earth, including the Sweet Home Mine in Park County, Colorado.



Stegosaurus

The state fossil was discovered in northwestern Colorado. The stegosaurus was made the official state fossil after a two-year letter writing campaign by 4th-grade students.

Western Painted Turtle

The state reptile is the largest and most intricately patterned type of painted turtle.



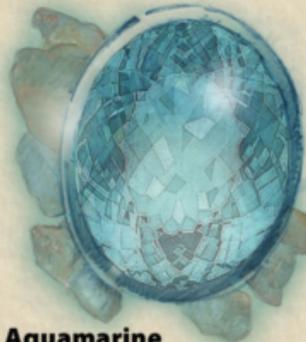
Colorado Hairstreak Butterfly

The state insect can be found in and near oak trees on the eastern and western slopes. The adults feed on tree sap.



Aquamarine

The state gemstone can be found near the summit of Mount Antero, one of the highest mountain peaks in Colorado.



Yule Marble

The state rock is only found near the town of Marble, Colorado. It was used in the construction of the first state museum building.

Western Tiger Salamander

The state amphibian is found in all 64 Colorado counties. It is the largest terrestrial salamander in the world.



COLORADO STATE SYMBOLS

Blue Spruce

The state tree was first discovered on Pikes Peak in 1862.



Shelter Pets

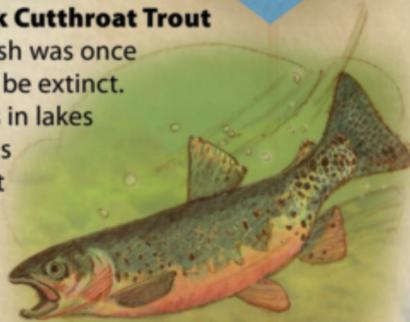
The state pets are dogs and cats adopted from Colorado animal shelters and rescues.

Adopt Shelter Pets



Greenback Cutthroat Trout

The state fish was once thought to be extinct. It now lives in lakes and streams throughout the state.



White and Lavender Columbine

The state flower is sometimes called the "Rocky Mountain Columbine."



Claret Cup Cactus

The state cactus grows in elevations from 490 feet to 9,850 feet. Its fruit is edible.



Blue Grama Grass

The state grass helps control erosion because it has dense, shallow roots.

Pack Burro Racing

The state summer heritage sport celebrates Colorado's history of gold mining.



Skiing and Snowboarding

The state winter recreational sports attract tourists from around the world and contribute to the state's economy.



Where the Columbines Grow & Rocky Mountain High

Colorado has two state songs. The first state song was written in 1896 and the second was written in 1972.



State Flag

Colorado Day

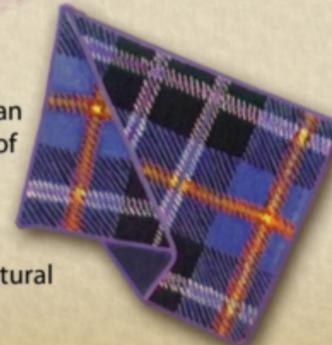
Square Dance

The state folk dance traces its ancestry to the English country dance and the French ballroom dance.



State Tartan

The state tartan is comprised of a pattern and colors that symbolize Colorado's natural beauty.



State Seal



How an Idea Becomes a Law in Colorado

H!!
I'm a hairstreak butterfly, and I'm a Colorado native.

I had an idea!

Wouldn't it be great if I could be the state insect? My State Representative agreed!

1 My representative wrote a bill and introduced it in the State House of Representatives.

2 The bill was assigned to a House Committee, where members of the public, like you and me, came to speak about it. The committee approved the bill.

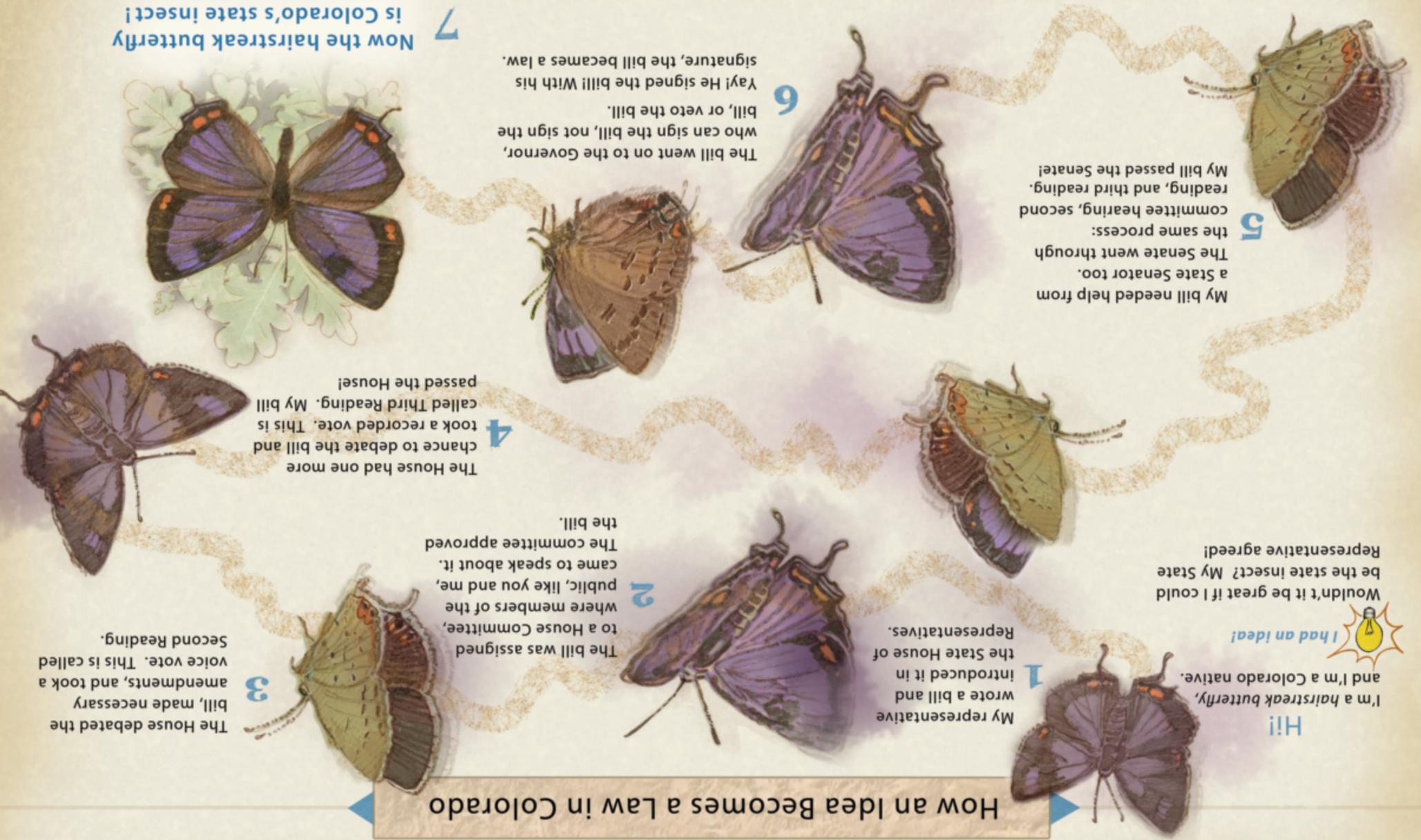
3 The House debated the bill, made necessary amendments, and took a voice vote. This is called Second Reading.

4 The House had one more chance to debate the bill and took a recorded vote. This is called Third Reading. My bill passed the House!

5 The bill went on to the Governor, who can sign the bill, not sign the bill, or veto the bill. Yay! He signed the bill! With his signature, the bill becomes a law.

6 My bill needed help from a State Senator too. The Senate went through the same process: committee hearing, second reading, and third reading. My bill passed the Senate!

7 Now the hairstreak butterfly is Colorado's state insect!



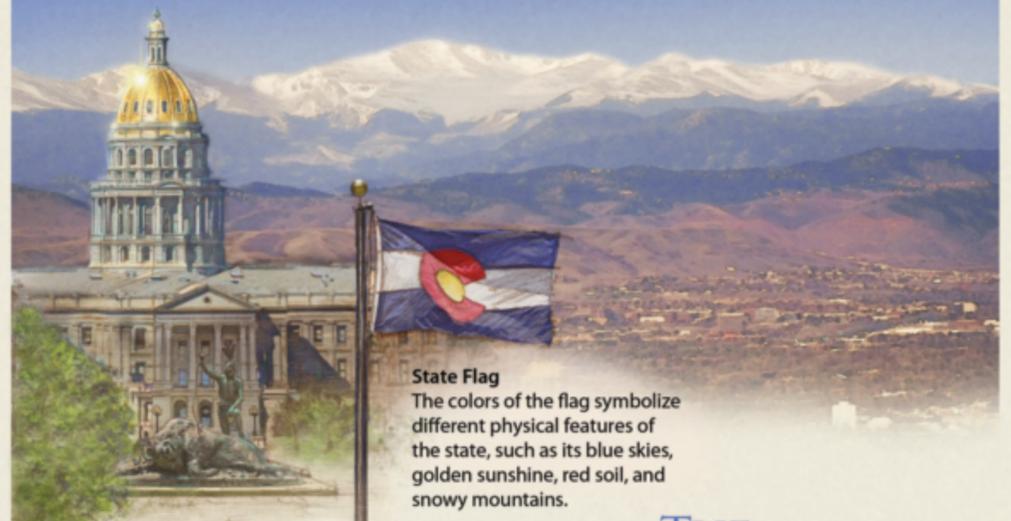
State Symbol Search and Find



Can you find . . .

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the state animal | <input type="checkbox"/> the state reptile | <input type="checkbox"/> the state flower | <input type="checkbox"/> the state mineral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the state bird | <input type="checkbox"/> the state amphibian | <input type="checkbox"/> the state cactus | <input type="checkbox"/> the state rock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the state fish | <input type="checkbox"/> the state tree | <input type="checkbox"/> the state fossil | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the state insect | <input type="checkbox"/> the state grass | <input type="checkbox"/> the state gemstone | |

COLORADO



State Flag
The colors of the flag symbolize different physical features of the state, such as its blue skies, golden sunshine, red soil, and snowy mountains.

THE CENTENNIAL STATE



Colorado Day
August 1st is "Colorado Day." Colorado became the 38th state on August 1, 1876.



State Seal
The state seal is used in official state business and is shown on important documents. It was drawn to show mountains, mining tools, and symbols of leadership. The state motto, Nil Sine Numine, means "nothing without providence."