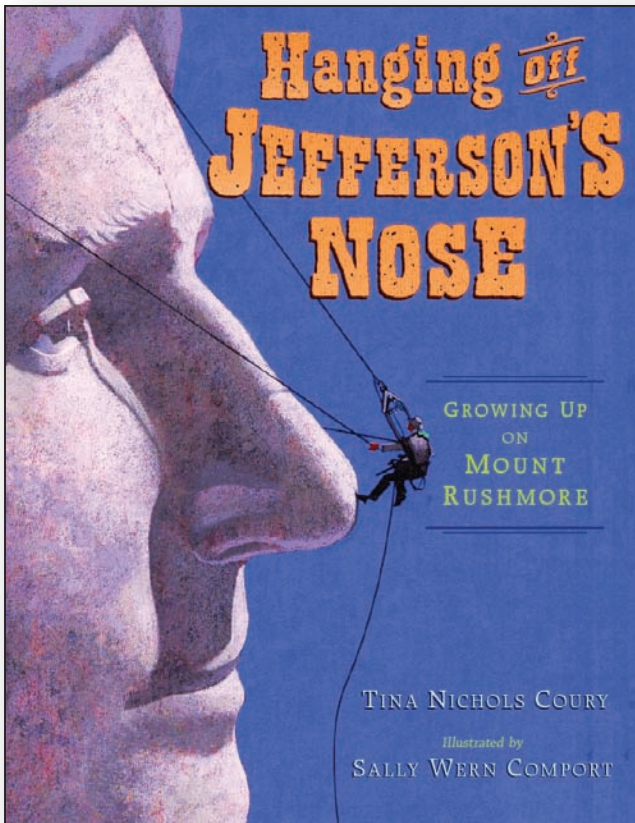


CURRICULUM GUIDE

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Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose Growing Up on Mount Rushmore

By **TINA NICHOLS COURY**
Illustrated by **SALLY WERN COMPORT**

LINCOLN BORGLUM WAS A YOUNG BOY when his father, the great sculptor Gutzon Borglum, suggested to a group of South Dakota businessmen that he should carve the faces of presidents into the side of a mountain as an attraction for tourists. But Mount Rushmore would never be finished by Gutzon. Young Lincoln would complete the fourteen-year task and present America with one of its most iconic symbols.

Tina Nichols Coury's engaging story of one boy's quest to finish his father's great work will captivate young readers as it reveals the fascinating details behind the creation of one of our most beloved national monuments.

LEARNING GOAL: Students will be able to identify the four presidents on Mt. Rushmore and know the history of the monument.

“Perfect for history units, this is a great piece of work about a great piece of work.”

—BOOKLIST

BEFORE READING

- What is a monument? The President of the United States and the Congress can establish monuments in the United States to protect historic landmarks, structures, or other historic or significant objects. Research the different types of monuments in the United States. What types of things are considered worth commemorating in our country?

AFTER READING

- Sculptor Gutzon Borglum and his son Lincoln selected three famous presidents to memorialize at Mount Rushmore: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. President Coolidge had Borglum also include Theodore Roosevelt with the other three presidents. Conduct a debate in class about which other presidents merit inclusion at Mount Rushmore. Give specific reasons for your opinion.
- The monument at Mount Rushmore features the faces of four important presidents of the United States. Where can other images of presidents be found? Are there similarities in which presidents were included at Mount Rushmore and the presidents that are featured in other places? Why do you think this is so?
- The process of carving the images of four presidents from the rock of Mount Rushmore required a great deal of time and effort. Both the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, and his son Lincoln dedicated a significant portion of their lives to the creation of the monument at Mount Rushmore. Borglum and his son exhibited a strong sense of perseverance to see the project through to its completion. What is perseverance? Cite examples from the story that depict the sculptors' trait of perseverance.
- If important figures of today were to be carved into stone to commemorate their accomplishments and contributions, who would they be for your school? For your town or city? For your state? Why would these people be deserving of this type of recognition?
- Borglum carefully selected the site in the Black Hills of South Dakota for the monument memorializing the four presidents. This area was home to the Lakota. How did Borglum interact with the Lakota as he worked on the monument?

ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGE ARTS I ♥ USA

Author Tina Nichols Coury wants to know what kids love about America. Visit her website, www.TinaNicholsCoury.com, and look for the “Why I Love America” link. Have your students submit paragraphs detailing why they love this country to be posted on the site. Detailed instructions can be found at the link.

MATH RATIO DRAWING

Gutzon Borglum created models as small as a breadbox and as large as two stories high to prepare for carving the large-scale figures of four presidents into the rock of Mount Rushmore. Borglum used a ratio of 1:12 to calculate the final dimensions of the monument. Using the same ratio as Borglum, design a drawing that grows 12 times bigger. Find a picture from a magazine or newspaper of someone you admire. Draw a grid of one-centimeter squares on the picture. Next, on a large piece of paper draw a grid of 12 x 12 centimeter squares. Using the picture with the smaller grid as a guide, copy the details of each small square into the larger corresponding squares. Display these “12 times bigger” drawings as your class's own Mount Rushmore of important people in your lives.

SOCIAL STUDIES “PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEXT GUEST”

Get to know the presidents of Mount Rushmore. Create a talk show with a host and the four presidents featured on the mountain: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. Select students to represent the presidents and choose a student to be the host of the show. Each “president” will work with a small group of students to learn about important facts and accomplishments in “his” life. The host will work to generate a list of questions for the show. The students not playing the role of president or host will be in the studio audience. Each audience member will have a record sheet (see ‘Get to Know’ worksheet) to record important information shared about each president during the performance of the talk show. The host may even want to field questions from the audience for the four presidents to answer.

SCIENCE WEATHER AND NATURE

Mount Rushmore is located in South Dakota where summers can be hot and the winters are long and cold. Gutzon Borglum carefully scouted out a mountain that seemed solid enough to withstand the massive project of carving faces of the presidents from stone. The stone on Mount Rushmore is granite. Even the toughest stone weathers over time. Conduct an experiment to study the effect of ice on granite. Find several different plastic containers. Some should have matching lids. Fill each container to the top with water. Place lids on some of the

containers and plastic wrap secured with a rubber band on the others. Next, place all of the containers in the freezer overnight. Take out the containers with frozen water the following day and observe and compare the increase in volume in the containers (water increases in volume by about 10% when frozen). How would frozen ice affect the granite of Mount Rushmore? What would this mean for preserving the monument? Explore your school and home environment for other signs of weathering and nature: paint peeling from direct sun exposure, sidewalks uprooted by trees, etc. Think how these types of natural forces would present issues in maintaining the monument at Mount Rushmore.

LANGUAGE ARTS VACATION DESTINATION

Local businessmen in South Dakota wished to hire sculptor Gutzon Borglum to carve huge Wild West figures for a tourist attraction. Borglum had his own idea and proposed to commemorate great presidents whose contributions helped to form our country. The sculpture that Borglum created did indeed become a tourist attraction. Design a travel brochure detailing why people should come to visit Mount Rushmore. What would tourists see? What would they learn? Include colorful illustrations that would entice visitors to come visit the monument at Mount Rushmore.

ART SCULPTURE

Like Lincoln and Gutzon, try your hand at sculpting. Supplies needed: self-hardening clay, newspaper, a wooden dowel attached to a wooden base, wood glue, screws, toothpicks, craft sticks, and masking tape. Attach a wooden dowel to a wooden base using glue and a screw so that the dowel is perpendicular to the base. Next, take the newspaper, ball it up, and create a head shape around the dowel. Tape the newspaper in place. Begin to add small bits of clay to the newspaper and form it. Continue down the wooden base to create a neck. If the clay starts to get a little dry, moisten it with water. Once the head and neck are formed, begin to add facial details—eyes, a nose, mouth, and ears. Use the craft sticks and toothpicks to help you design the features. Once your sculpture is complete, let it dry for several days to a week. Your clay sculpture can be painted or kept natural.

TINA NICHOLS COURY is commonly known as “The Rushmore Kid” because of her fascination with the story of Gutzon and Lincoln Borglum and the creation of Mount Rushmore. She lives in Oxnard, California, with her husband and pets. Learn more about her at www.TinaNicholsCoury.com

SALLY WERN COMPORT has received numerous international awards and her paintings are included in the permanent collection of the Museum of American Illustration. She lives with her family in Annapolis, Maryland.

The activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, PhD. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

The activities in this guide address the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies. For more information about these standards, visit www.corestandards.org.

Name: _____

GET TO KNOW THE PRESIDENTS OF MOUNT RUSHMORE

President's name	Birth date	Birth place	Political party	Place in presidential history (1 st president, etc.)	Major accomplishments

Name: _____

MOUNT RUSHMORE VOCABULARY

Define the following terms from *Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose: Growing Up on Mount Rushmore* in your own words. Can you locate each term in the Mount Rushmore word search?

• **Sculptor** _____

• **Statue** _____

• **President** _____

• **Monument** _____

• **Carve** _____

• **Dynamite** _____

• **Drill** _____

• **Granite** _____

• **Detonate** _____

• **Mountain** _____

Name: _____

MOUNT RUSHMORE WORD SEARCH

The key words from *Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose: Growing Up on Mount Rushmore* that are listed at the bottom of this page are hidden within the letters below. Words can appear backward, frontward, and diagonally. Can you find them all?

R C K P T J N L S F T N S L L N V E J P
G O Z X K U W B L T K F T V F Y H H T V
K W T M E V R A C I J E E E V U K P O Y
E R N P O Z S M W S R M P O N K Z K L O
E E L Y L U Z B T N E D I S E R P G P D
K A X I T U N R T D M R L J I X U L A J
D K G M N Q C T A P F L Q V S R E W U Z
Q R D X E L Q S A E E N Y X J E M G V M
S G H T M X C H P I D M F S B X M J E S
U R P F U P K X V J N R T T N O J F I T
C A J E N U Q D Y N S K V V Z S H L E O
E N P Y O U M X Q F F K S U T O H T F V
Z I M K M D E T O N A T E A D L I G G M
Y T J D G R N Y K Y U F T T R M M U J Z
G E N G E K I J R M H U T R A D M B Q C
K D D P E D D X W Q E F D N V B K K O K
Y D S I L N K A F N P C Y C U C X F E G
T A C N X X P V E T D D H R S E L O O S
F J U Y R O Q O T Z Q W D C X O Q X O L
T R H M H L G F M Z H G H E F E T I N O

CARVE
DETONATE
DRILL
DYNAMITE
GRANITE

MONUMENT
MOUNTAIN
PRESIDENT
SCULPTOR
STATUE

THEME SONG

Listen to the official theme song for *Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose* at the following website:
www.tinanicholscoury.com/tinabooktrailers.html.

Watch the "theme song" trailer or use the lyrics below to sing along!

UP TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

Music and lyrics by JACK CONRAD



Up to the mountaintop I go
Making a monument out of stone
Got a lot of work to do, hi ho
Nothing's gonna stop me now, look out below

Boom goes the dynamite, rill goes the drill
Four famous faces taking shape on that hill
Chip, chip, chipping away
Getting closer every day
To finishing Poppa's dream

Oh Daddy taught me well so the job I know
Hanging off the mountain where the cold winds blow
Thunder and lightning, hail, rain, and snow
Nothing's gonna make me stop, look out below

Boom goes the dynamite, rill goes the drill
Four famous faces looking down from that hill
Chip, chip, chipping away
Getting closer every day
To finishing Poppa's dream

Hey hey
Ho ho
Up to the mountaintop I go

Hey hey
Ho ho
Up to the mountaintop I go



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