

Name:

Class: Colorado History—Pahs

## State Songs

"Where the Columbines Grow" was adopted as the official state song on May 8, 1915, by an act of the General Assembly. The words were written and the music composed by A.J. Fynn. Traveling by horse and wagon to visit Indian tribes in the San Luis Valley in 1896, Fynn received inspiration to write the song after he came across a beautiful Colorado mountain meadow which was covered with columbines. He dedicated the song to the Colorado pioneers. If you missed hearing this song in class, click here: [listen to the state song](#) or go to <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/symbols/song.htm> to listen to it.

### "Where the Columbines Grow" by A.J. Fynn, 1915

#### Verse One

Where the snowy peaks gleam in the moonlight,  
Above the dark forests of pine,  
And the wild foaming waters dash onward,  
Toward lands where the tropic stars shine;  
Where the scream of the bold mountain eagle  
Responds to the notes of the dove  
Is the purple robed West, the land that is best,  
The pioneer land that we love.

#### Chorus

Tis the land where the columbines grow,  
Overlooking the plains far below,  
While the cool summer breeze in the evergreen  
trees  
Softly sings where the columbines grow.

#### Verse Two

The bison is gone from the upland,  
The deer from the canyon has fled,  
The home of the wolf is deserted,  
The antelope moans for his dead,  
The war whoop re-echoes no longer,  
The Indian's only a name,  
And the nymphs of the grove in their loneliness  
rove,  
But the columbine blooms just the same.

#### Verse Three

Let the violet brighten the brookside,  
In sunlight of earlier spring,  
Let the fair clover bedeck the green meadow,  
In days when the orioles sing,  
Let the golden rod herald the autumn,  
But, under the midsummer sky,  
In its fair Western home, may the columbine  
bloom  
Till our great mountain rivers run dry.

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*What did you think of this song?*

*Do you think this song represents Colorado? Explain your answer.*

## **"Rocky Mountain High" by John Denver (lyrics) and Mike Taylor (music) 1973**

"Rocky Mountain High" was adopted as another State Song with the passage of SJR07-023 on March 12, 2007. After the song's release in 1973 there was some controversy as some people thought that it encouraged drug use. Denver, in 1985, responded by saying that these people had obviously never experienced the beauty and wonder of the Rocky Mountains. Denver's real name was Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. but his stage name came from the capital city of Colorado. If you missed hearing this song in class, search Youtube.com to hear it.

### **Verse One**

He was born in the summer of his 27th year,  
coming home to a place he'd never been before.  
He left yesterday behind him  
you might say he was born again,  
might say he found a key for every door.  
When he first came to the mountains  
His life was far away  
on the road and hanging by a song.  
But the string's already broken  
and he doesn't really care,  
it keeps changin' fast, and it don't last for long.

### **Chorus**

It's a Colorado Rocky Mountain High,  
I've seen it raining fire in the sky  
The shadows from the starlight are softer than a  
lullabye.  
Rocky Mountain High, ...in Colorado....  
Rocky Mountain High.

### **Verse Two**

He climbed cathedral mountains, he saw silver  
clouds below,  
saw everything as far as you can see.  
And they say that he got crazy once and that he  
tried to touch the sun,  
and he lost a friend, but kept the memory.  
Now he walks in quiet solitude, the forest and the  
stream,  
seeking grace in every step he takes,  
his sight is turned inside himself, to try and  
understand, the serenity of a clear blue mountain  
lake.

### **Chorus**

And the Colorado Rocky Mountain High,  
I've seen it raining fire in the sky  
You can talk to God and listen to the casual reply.  
Rocky Mountain High, ....in Colorado....  
Rocky Mountain High.

### **Verse Three**

Now his life is full of wonder,  
but his heart still knows some fear,  
of the simple things he can not comprehend.  
Why they try to tear the mountains down  
to bring in a couple more.  
More people, more scars upon the land.

### **Chorus**

It's the Colorado Rocky Mountain High,  
I've seen it raining fire in the sky  
I know he'd be a poorer man if he never saw an  
Eagle fly  
Rocky mountain high  
It's the Colorado Rocky Mountain High,  
I've seen it raining fire in the sky.  
Friends around the camp fire and everybody's  
high....  
Rocky Mountain High, Rocky Mountain High,  
Rocky Mountain High,  
Rocky Mountain High.

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*What did you think of the song?*

*Do you think this song represents Colorado? Explain your answer.*