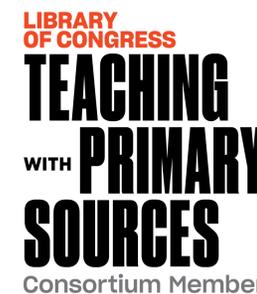


1. Title / Episode Link:	Sheep and Cattle Wars
2. Historic Site:	Spring Creek Raid Historical Marker and Trial in Big Horn County
3. Episode :	https://www.pbs.org/video/sheep-cattle-wars-q4imr0/
4. Developed by:	Laura Israelsen, Denver Public School Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 School District
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<i>Grade Level:</i> 3 rd – 5 th <i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4 <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i> Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards 3 rd : PGC 1-5, 7 4 th : PGC 1-5, 7 5 th : PGC 1-5, 7
6. Assessment Question:	How do the 40 years of range land war between sheep herders and cattle ranchers shape land use, laws, justice, family, and community in Colorado?
7. Contextual Paragraph	Ride into the “bloody grass” battlefields of the Old West’s longest feud over grazing and water rights and witness the gunfights, court cases, and massacres that gave rise to the classic American contest of cowboy versus sheepman. For more than forty years Colorado sheep herders and cattlemen waged war over the rights to two of the most sought after sources in the American West: water and land. The days of the “Sheep and Cattle Wars” came to an end with the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 that became the law of the modern West and attempted to protect public lands by regulating their private uses and abuses. This case study is based on an article from the Wyoming Historical Society documenting the Sheep and Cattle Wars. Article linked here.
7. Connection to Historic Preservation	Sometimes there is nothing left of a historic event or place and all we can do is mark the event with an historic sign. These signs and commemorations preserve the knowledge of places and remind us of the people and events that came before us.



Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Spring Creek Raid



Site of the Spring Creek Raid today. Celia Davis photo.

1. What do you learn about the cattle and sheep wars from this sign?
2. What dates and names are listed? Is it important to create signs and mark historic events?
3. Identify the characteristics of this tract of land. Why would this land be worth fighting over?

Text on Sign Reads:

SPRING CREEK RAID

APRIL 2ND, 1909

Cattlemen of the Big Horn Basin dominated the range for many years and set up boundaries or "deadlines" where sheep were forbidden. Fierce animosity grew between the opposing sheep and cattle ranchers as several sheep camps were raided during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In late March, 1909, Joe Allemand, a French sheepman, and Joe Emge, a cattleman turned sheepman, left Worland headed for Spring Creek with 5000 head of sheep. They were accompanied by Allemand's nephew, Jules Lazier, and two shepherders, Bounce Helmer and Pete Cafferall. Talk spread like wildfire across the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains as the deadline was crossed and plans were soon made to head off this intrusion. On the moonlit night of April 2, 1909, seven masked riders approached the sheep camp's two wagons where the herders slept. Gunfire lit the night as rifles blazed. Emge and Lazier were killed in their wagon and both wagons were set afire. Allemand emerged from the flames, but was quickly shot down. The monument on this side of the road is situated at the site of the south wagon. The monument on the north side of Spring Creek is near the location of the wagon where the sheepmen were killed. Five of the perpetrators were convicted and sent to prison. Public reaction against this brutal and tragic act left no doubt that violence on Wyoming's open range would no longer be tolerated.

Spring Creek Raid Trial



Wyoming militia camped at the Big Horn County courthouse in Basin, November 1909. Washakie museum photo.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What do you notice in this picture?
2. What are the architectural features of the building?
3. Who are the people? What can you identify by looking closely at the way they are dressed?
4. What does this image tell you about the Spring Creek Raid Trial?

Spring Creek Raid Trial



*. Defendants in the Spring Creek Raid case.
Clockwise from top left: Herb Brink, Ed Eaton,
George Saban, Tom Dixon, Milton Alexander.
Washakie Museum photo.*

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What do you notice about the clothing?
2. What architectural features are evident?
3. What does this image reflect about the Spring Creek Trial?

Assessment Question

How do the 40 years of range land war between sheep herders and cattle ranchers shape land use, laws, justice, family and community in Colorado?

Response