<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. Title / Content Area:</strong></th>
<th>Mancos Common Press</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Historic Site:</strong></td>
<td>Mancos Times-Tribune Building and the Mancos Common Press</td>
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<td><strong>3. Episode</strong></td>
<td>Mancos Common Press</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **4. Developed by:** | Keith Jones, Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools |
| **5. Grade Level and Standards:** | Grade Level: 6th - HS  
Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards  
Prepared Graduate Competencies: Understand the nature of historical knowledge as a process of inquiry that examines and analyzes how history is viewed, constructed, and interpreted.  
Colorado Standards:  
6th: History Standard 1  
HS: History Standard 1  
C3 Standards in Social Studies:  
D2.His.1.6-8  
D2.His.2.6-8  
D2.His.3.6-8  
D2.His.2.9-12.  
D3.1.6-8.  
D3.3.6-8  
D2.His.3.9-12.  
D2.His.1.9-12. |
| **5. Assessment Question:** | How can forgotten primary sources (artifacts and buildings) be restored for a new purpose in the modern age? |
| **6. Contextual Paragraph** | The Mancos Common Press is a historic site set in the Mancos Times-Tribune building at 135 Grand Avenue in the small town in Southwestern Colorado. The Mancos Times began printing in 1893 and then moved to the location on Grand Avenue in 1910 when it acquired a local rival newspaper and became the Mancos Times-Tribune. The building is unique in that it never served any purpose other than |
the offices and printing space for the Times-Tribune, even after the newspaper went
digital in 1970. At that time the printing presses and materials, and the office itself,
were abandoned and left, seemingly untouched and forgotten, for over 40 years.
Then, in 2013, Frank Matero, a University of Pennsylvania professor of architecture
and chair of the graduate department of historic preservation, happened upon the
building; after getting access inside, he discovered that the building still had a
now-rare and complete Cranston Press. He proposed a unique partnership with the
town of Mancos. In this partnership, they would restore both the building and the
press to its near-original state and then use the space as an arts and education
center, in particular to revive the art of printmaking. The building itself was then
donated by its owner, the Ballantine family, and the restoration was funded by
numerous grants. As a final touch, a mural was commissioned by the Ballantine
Family Foundation to cover the western wall of the structure; created by local artist
Brad Goodell, it is titled “Yesterday’s News” and was finished in 2017.

7. Connection to Historic Preservation

The Mancos Times-Tribune building at 134 Grand Avenue in Mancos was built in
1910 specifically to be both the office and printing space for the weekly newspaper.
The building continued to serve that function until 1970, when the Cranston press
was abandoned in favor of new digital technology and the printing itself was moved
to Durango. The building then remained unused until it was re-discovered by
professor Frank Matero of the University of Pennsylvania, who recognized the
historic value of the building itself and of the printing presses and other materials
that remained inside. The building was the first historic building landmarked in
Mancos in 2014. After spearheading the restoration of the exterior and interior, and
after numerous grants including support from the History Colorado State Historical
Fund in 2018, the University of Pennsylvania then worked in cooperation with the
town of Mancos to reopen the building in 2019 as an arts and education center, with
a special emphasis on the arts of printmaking.

The Times-Tribune building itself is particularly unique in that it served only one
purpose - a newspaper office - for the entirety of its existence, which is rare for any historic property, but especially so for a commercial property. After painstaking research by University of Pennsylvania historic preservation graduate students, the building was restored to its original appearance, both on the exterior and interior. On the interior, the original Cranston Press from 1910 has also been restored to working condition. Original artifacts that were in the office over 100 years ago are also still present, including typesetter's benches, boxes of metal type, and image blocks. Additionally, an archive of over 100 years of weekly Times-Tribune papers were found in the offices; these are currently with the Denver Public Library being digitized.
### Document Based Question (DBQ)

**GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

1. How do you think this press might work to print newspapers?

2. What are some features of this press that might make newspaper publishers interested in buying it?

3. Looking carefully at the advertisement, do you think that the Cranston Press was marketed to newspaper publishers in small towns or in big cities? Why would you say this?

4. How could a press like this make a difference for a community?

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**Early 1900s advertisement for the Cranston's Country Press that was purchased by the Mancos Times-Tribune**

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https://mancoscommonpress.org/cranston-press/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Mancos Cranston Press today</strong></th>
<th><strong>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Image](https://the-journal.com/articles/136731#slide=0) | 1. Compare the picture of the press here to the picture in the advertisement above. What similarities and differences do you see?  
2. Does the picture of the press look like it was taken before or after its renovation? Explain why you say this.  
3. Using this picture and others in the Document Set, how large does this press seem to be (compare it to another object of a similar size)?  
4. What kind of space would be needed to house a press such as this if it was being used every day? |

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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Interior of the Mancos Times-Tribune building after its restoration</strong></th>
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| ![Image](https://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/work/mancos-common-press) | 1. Describe what you see in this room, and identify the purpose of as many objects as you can.  
2. This space is now used as an arts and education center in Mancos. How do you think this space would support arts? What education could be supported here, too?  
3. Even though the large press no longer prints the town newspaper, why do you think it may be an important object to the people who live in Mancos?  
4. In its day, the press printed many stories. How does the press tell a story of “preserving something important to tell about the past?” |
Early 1900s interior view of the Mancos Times-Tribune office, with the Cranston Press on the right

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe what you see in this picture.
2. Compare this picture (which is from 1911) to the picture above (taken in 2019). What similarities and differences do you see?
3. What evidence do you see that this is a newspaper office in a small town, and not in a large city?
4. When the renovation to the Times-Tribune building was planned, they wanted it to look like it did in this picture. Why do you think it was important to renovate the building in this way and preserve it in this manner?

https://mancoscommonpress.org/mancos-times/
The mural on the western exterior wall of the Mancos Times-Tribune building. The mural was completed in 2017 by artist Brad Goodell and is titled “Yesterday’s News.”

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<tr>
<td>1. Describe what you see in the mural.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. WPA (Works Progress Administration) mural design was common in the early part of the century, and murals in Colorado reflected many of the culturally significant places, trades, and economies of our communities. How does this mural do the same?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Look carefully at the mural and identify the values the artist presents to the viewer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. If you look closely, you’ll see the Cranston Press in the mural. Why do you think the artist included it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. How does this mural reflect the new purpose of the Times-Tribune building as an arts and education center?</td>
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**Extension:**

6. Complete some research into artistic styles of murals and identify which style this seems to be. Explain the elements of the mural that support your decision.

https://mancoscommonpress.org/the-mural/
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<tr>
<th>The exterior of the Mancos Times-Tribune building before its restoration</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Describe the building you see here. Include its size, shape, color, building material, and anything else you can identify.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. What evidence can you identify that would prove that this picture was taken before its restoration?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. This building is located in downtown Mancos. What clues do you see that Mancos is a small town and not a large city?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. What do you think is the value of restoring an old building like this? Why do you think the people of Mancos might think that it’s important to preserve this place?</td>
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https://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/work/mancos-common-press
GUIDING QUESTIONS: (Click on the source link to see a zoomable PDF of the newspaper)

1. Looking at the various stories, pick one that seems interesting. Explain why you chose this story.
2. Find an advertisement for something that is still sold today and describe it.
3. Find an advertisement for something that is not still sold today and describe it. Is there something similar that would be sold today?
4. Why do you think this newspaper was important to the people of Mancos?

https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=MTT19120524.2.30.2&srpos=42&e=30--1910-----en-20--41--img-tn%7ctxCO%7ctxTA-mancos+times%252Dtribune-ADVERTISEMENT-----0--Mancos
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