

1. Title / Content Area:	Camp Hale
2. Historic Site:	Between Red Cliff and Leadville, Camp Hale was a WWII ski troop training site
3. Episode	Episode: Camp Hale
3. Developed by:	Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools Sally Purath, Retired Educator, Poudre School District
4. Grade Level and Standards:	Grade Level: 3rd – 5th Standards: Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4 Prepared Graduate Competencies: Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards 3rd : PGC 1-2, 7 4th : PGC 1-2, 7 5th : PGC 1-2, 7
5. Assessment Question:	How does the geography of Colorado play a role in the establishment of Camp Hale?
6. Contextual Paragraph	<p>When the USSR invaded Finland in 1939, 150,000 ski troops initially held off one million invading Germans so Charles “Minnie” Dole, the founder of the National Ski Patrol lobbied the army for 2 years to create American ski troops. After Pearl Harbor three regiments of ski troops were activated creating the 10th Mountain Division. Camp Hale was created at 9200 feet above sea level in a valley that offered practice slopes to ski down and rock cliffs to climb up a thousand feet carrying 90 lb packs, weapons, and 7’ skis. One thousand buildings went up to train 15,000 troops, some who had never seen snow before. Inventions were needed such as snow tractors the precursor of snowmobiles, packs, stoves, sleeping bags for minus 50 temperatures.</p> <p>After Italy was invaded in 1943 it took until 1945 to drive the Germans north out of it, and Hitler ordered his troops to fight to the death on the German “Gothic Line” which was the high ground of the Apennine Mountains running along the top edge of Italy. With only a few troops the Germans could massacre any invaders in the narrow</p>

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	<p>passes and keep the allies out of the rest of Europe. But in the Battle of Riva Ridge 700 ski troops climbed over 2000' in the dark to surprise the sleeping Germans and 3000 more ski troops attacked the Germans under fire on Mt. Belvedere while resisting seven counter-attacks. After six days the Gothic Line fell and the 10th drove north into the Alps and beyond, liberating villages and attacking the Germans in Italy who surrendered on May 2, 1945. In 114 days of combat, they suffered 992 dead and 4,154 wounded. The 10th Mountain Division was recalled to the USA to train for the coming November invasion of Japan but the Japanese surrendered August 15.</p> <p>After the war about 260 10th Mountain Division soldiers started about 2/3rds of Colorado's ski resorts, ski schools, and ski patrols, building the industry for the first time. In 2015 the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated snow sports contributed \$1.7 billion annually to Colorado's economy.</p> <p>In March 1945 4000 German POWs took Camp Hale apart since ski and climbing training was not needed for Japan. In 1994 the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Eagle River Headwater Restoration Project worked to restore the ecology, provide recreational opportunities, and historical interpretation. Unfortunately, restoring the wild flow of the river would wash away Camp Hale's history so there is much debate between environmentalists, historians, recreation entrepreneurs, and veterans over whose interests should prevail.</p>	
7. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>In 1994 the site was placed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Eagle River Headwater Restoration Project worked to restore the ecology of the area, provide recreational opportunities for visitors, but also create historical interpretation and appreciation of the veterans who were trained at the historic site. The site is significant under Category A as the location where the only American trained division to fight in snow and mountain conditions was located.</p>	

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

10th Mountain Division troops had heavy casualties in Apennine Mountains, Italy combat



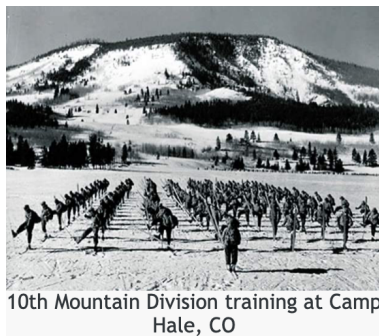
The 10th suffered heavy casualties during some of World War II's most brutal fighting.

[LINK](#)

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the 10th Mountain troops able to defeat the Germans on the high mountain ridges when the Germans believed it was impossible?
2. What kinds of special equipment was needed to fight effectively in snowy freezing mountains?
3. How could training in the Colorado mountains help Americans to be prepared?

10th Mountain Division troops learning to about face in unison wearing 7' skis



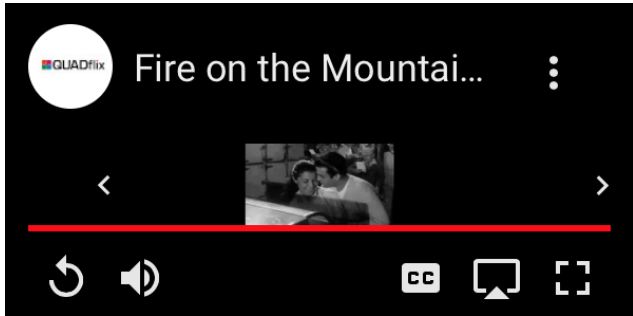
10th Mountain Division training at Camp Hale, CO

[Denver Public Library LINK](#)

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Looking at the image, why would a flat as well as mountainous area be of benefit to the military?
2. Why would an entire camp be built in this location?
3. What skills for winter combat were taught in the Colorado Rockies?
4. Where is the 10th Mountain Division based in the US today?
5. Where are the 10th Mountain historical papers, photos, artifacts officially being preserved in Colorado?

Movie trailer of the history of the 10th mountain division called “fire on the mountain”

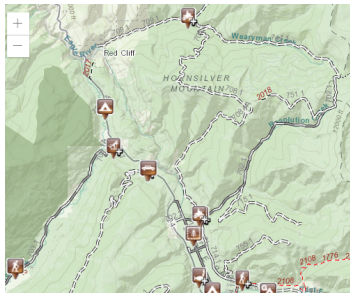


[LINK](#)

GUIDING QUESTIONS:


1. What were the two reasons that made skiing down Mt. Rainier was so difficult?
2. How was skiing downhill as a combat unit different from sport skiing?
3. How could Colorado help people learn how to ski in this way?

Topographical Map of the Location of Camp Hale



[LINK](#)

1. Examine the map and zoom in and out. How does the geography (topography) of this area help the camp provide various areas to train?
2. How could the area make it challenging to train as well?
3. Looking at this map, what types of buildings do you imagine should be built on the site for those training there?
4. Where would the camp, and the buildings likely be constructed?

Camp Hale	<p>GUIDING QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did the 10th Mountain ski troops affect Colorado history after the war? 2. Examine the image. How are the military troops dressed differently? 3. Examine the structures in the background. What makes them well suited for the winter months? 4. Why would it be important to preserve these structures? 5. How can the preservation of this site and these structures tell a unique story about Colorado?
	
Colorado Encyclopedia LINK	

Assessment Question

How does the geography of Colorado play a role in the establishment of Camp Hale?

Response