Transportation, Resources & Growth

Pre-settlement visitors to Spearfish Canyon in the northern Black Hills of South Dakota faced a nearly impassable tangle of woods and brush growing wild along the fast-moving stream now called Spearfish Creek. The only way in was on foot or by horse or mule.

The discovery of gold in the Hills and rapid growth in mining, timber, and related industries brought the first railroad line through the Canyon in 1893. The line connected Spearfish to Lead and Deadwood via the little town of Savoy, home of the McLaughlin Tie and Timber Sawmill.

When the Mill closed in 1906, Glen Inglis purchased the small log cabin that served as the mill's office. In 1907 Inglis and his wife

Glendoris Inn, Savory, SD, early 1900s

Doris opened the Glendoris Inn and Spearfish Canyon had its first lodge and eatery. Business was good. The Inglis' built new rooms adjacent to the original structure and added cabins to the grounds. (Additional information about the Glendoris (Latchstring) Inn and photos)

During this activity your students will learn about the Glendoris (Latchstring) Inn, located in Spearfish Canyon. They will learn how the Inn changed over time, how available resources changed it and also how the transportation in and out of Spearfish Canyon changed.

Process:
Activity
- Introduce the activity by showing the "The Glendoris (Latchstring) Inn" video (Formats: DLL / Watch PBS) and the information/photos on the following website. In the early years, the only way into Spearfish Canyon was on foot or by horse or mule. The railroad passed through the Canyon in 1893. Dirt/gravel roads were constructed and eventually paved roads were built.
- The students should view the following video (DLL/ Watch PBS) from 1913 that shows different types of transportation, including walking and driving cars, wagons and a motorcycle.
- The students should research the different types of transportation that are found in their town. (May require out of school time) Have the students design a poster with all of the different types of transportation represented and approximate dates of development and demise (if applicable). (Example One / Two)