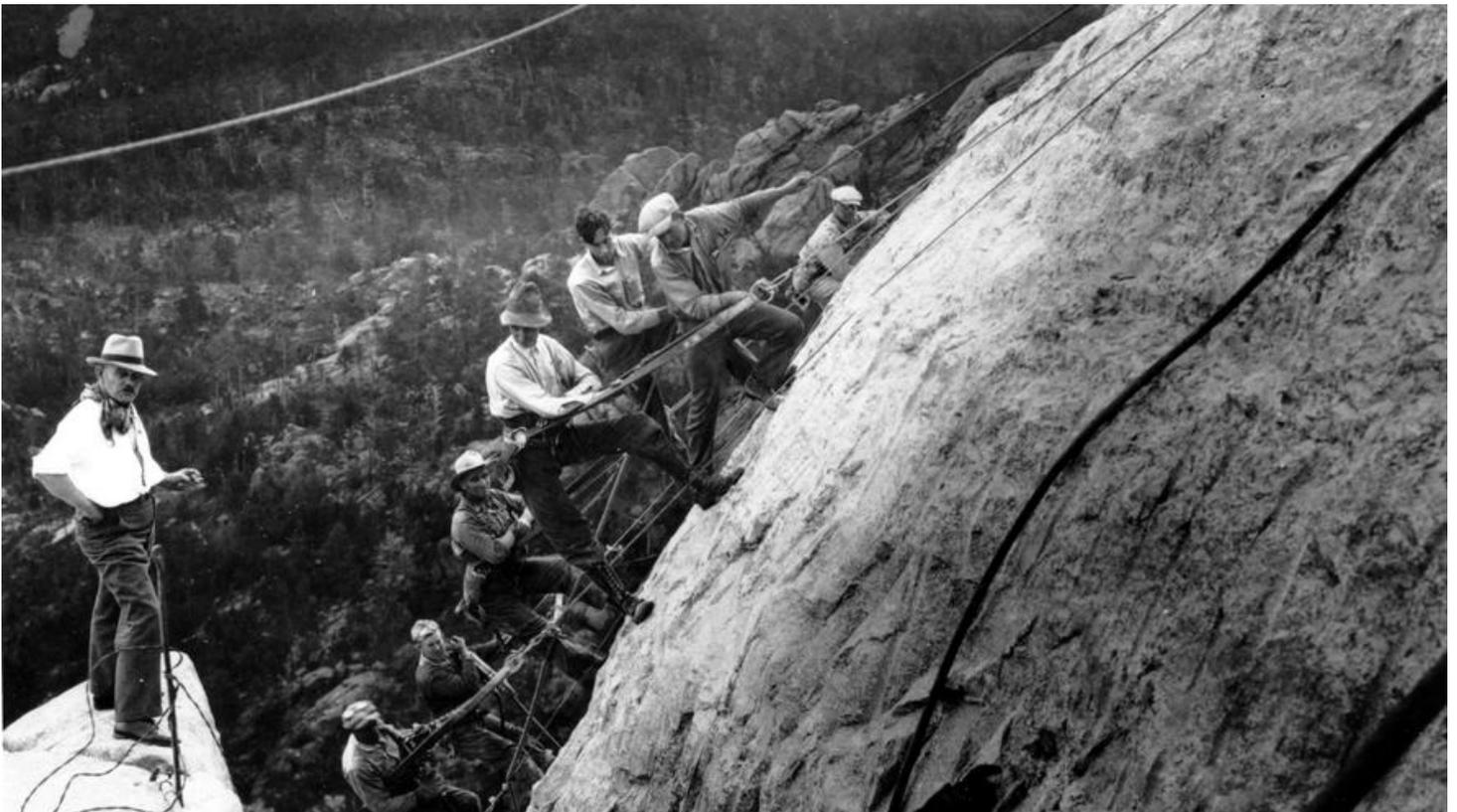


Even after 75 years, Mount Rushmore continues to attract visitors

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.26.16

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In this July 22, 1929, file photo, sculptor Gutzon Borglum (left) directs drillers suspended by cables from the top of the mountain as they work on the head of President George Washington at the Mount Rushmore Memorial in the Black Hills area near Keystone, S.D. AP Photo/File

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Mount Rushmore National Memorial has ended up in movies and TV shows and on U.S. money. Next month is its 75th birthday.

Mount Rushmore is a large sculpture, or a piece of art carved out of stone. It shows the faces of four U.S. presidents. Before it was made, a historian had the idea to carve into the granite peaks of the Black Hills of South Dakota. He suggested using significant people from Western history. Some of his ideas included Lewis and Clark, Buffalo Bill Cody, Fremont, Red Cloud and Sacagawea.

South Dakota Department of History Superintendent Doane Robinson wrote to an artist in Georgia in 1924. He told him about the opportunity for a great sculpture near Harney Peak. Harney Peak is the highest point in South Dakota.

Artist Had His Own Idea

The artist, Gutzon Borglum, had a different idea for the project. Using jackhammers and dynamite, he began in 1927. He first sculpted President George Washington, then Thomas Jefferson, followed by Abraham Lincoln and finally Theodore Roosevelt.

"Borglum told Robinson, 'You are not thinking big enough. Western figures? That's not going to attract enough people. You need to think bigger,'" said Maureen McGee-Ballinger, Mount Rushmore's chief of interpretation and education.

Robinson was looking for ways to encourage people to visit the state, particularly the Black Hills, McGee-Ballinger said. Borglum's plan surely has served that purpose. About 3 million people visit South Dakota every year.

Mount Rushmore Featured In Movies And On Coins

Along the way, Mount Rushmore has shown up everywhere.

Alfred Hitchcock had always wanted to shoot a chase scene over Mount Rushmore. He got his wish in "North by Northwest." The 1959 movie stars Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint. A chase scene in the movie included a suspenseful climb over the presidents' faces. Some scenes were filmed at the memorial, but the climbing of the faces used models of the mountain on a movie set.

T-shirts with the faces of superheroes instead of the presidents can be found at Target and elsewhere. The memorial is a never-ending subject for cartoonists, and in 2016, there's been plenty of altered images, or memes, of the monument.

The memorial has also been featured on several coins. In 2013, a quarter was released that shows men adding the finishing details to Jefferson's face. The four faces have also been highlighted on postage stamps, and they are in the background of South Dakota's license plates.

To celebrate the event, the National Park Service held events during the summer. It's also the National Park Service's own 100th birthday.

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that Mount Rushmore has become a popular tourist attraction?
- (A) Mount Rushmore National Memorial has ended up in movies and TV shows and on U.S. money.
 - (B) About 3 million people visit South Dakota every year.
 - (C) A chase scene in the movie included a suspenseful climb over the presidents' faces.
 - (D) The memorial has also been featured on several coins.
- 2 Select the sentence from the section "Mount Rushmore Featured In Movies And On Coins" that BEST demonstrates how well-known Mount Rushmore is.
- (A) Alfred Hitchcock had always wanted to shoot a chase scene over Mount Rushmore.
 - (B) Some scenes were filmed at the memorial, but the climbing of the faces used models of the mountain on a movie set.
 - (C) The memorial is a never-ending subject for cartoonists, and in 2016, there's been plenty of altered images, or memes, of the monument.
 - (D) To celebrate the event, the National Park Service held events during the summer. It's also the National Park Service's own 100th birthday.
- 3 According to the article, how was Mount Rushmore crafted?
- (A) A sculptor carved the faces one by one onto the Black Hills using jackhammers and dynamite.
 - (B) A historian designed the sculpture and sold the plans to the National Park Service.
 - (C) Granite from the Black Hills was mined and shipped out of the state to be sculpted.
 - (D) Different artists created each of the four faces, which were then joined together at the monument in South Dakota.
- 4 The author MAINLY explains Mount Rushmore's importance by:
- (A) describing what the monument looks like
 - (B) illustrating how a model of Mount Rushmore was made for a movie
 - (C) showing how the monument is a well-known memorial to U.S. presidents, with its image on money, stamps, cartoons and license plates
 - (D) discussing how the four U.S. presidents were selected to be featured on the monument