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A view of Cold Mountain, the highest peak in the [Shining Rock Wilderness](#) area of Pisgah National Forest in the American state of North Carolina.

The [real Cold Mountain](#) is not a town. It is the highest peak in the Shining Rock Wilderness section of [Pisgah National Forest](#), North Carolina. At 6,030 feet it is an [awesome](#) sight - especially in the fall - as one travels along the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) southwest of [Asheville](#).

To really appreciate the mountain's grandeur, and that of the general area, one must do what Inman did - hike it. Flowers, like gorgeous rhododendron, bloom in season now - replacements for old-growth trees which have been cut down. This image, from the U.S. Forest Service, depicts the natural gardens of Catawba rhododendrons growing near a high ridge known as Roan Mountain.



The State of North Carolina has a live web cam which allows interested people to [view the mountain](#) before nightfall. Sometimes it is shrouded in fog; other times it sparkles like an Appalachian gem.

As featured in the movie version of *Cold Mountain*, people who lived in the area during Civil War times sang hymns in the [Shape-Note](#) tradition. First published in "The Sacred Harp" hymnal, in 1844, these four-part songs [feature](#) unusual sounds and harmony. The notes themselves are written in different shapes instead of circles.

C major scale

Fa Sol La Fa Sol La Mi Fa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Today, often while sitting in a kind of hollow square, men and women still harmonize their voices - without instruments - in the old style. It is most common in America's Southeast, although there are clubs throughout the country, including at universities.

What does Shape-Note singing sound like? Where did it begin? A Georgian named B.F. White originally compiled the hymnal which, in an updated version, is still used today. Examples of Shape-Note singing are available on the Internet, and the Sacred Harp Singers at Liberty Church are featured on the *Cold Mountain* soundtrack.

Today, Cold Mountain doesn't look exactly like it did during the Civil War. Because modern life has caught up with both the mountain, and the surrounding area, the movie was filmed in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania.

But, then again, who really knows...maybe off the beaten path, somewhere, one might still encounter a Goat Woman who can once again help a wandering hiker find the way home.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-REAL-COLD-MOUNTAIN-Cold-Mountain>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-REAL-COLD-MOUNTAIN-Cold-Mountain>

Media Stream



Cold Mountain

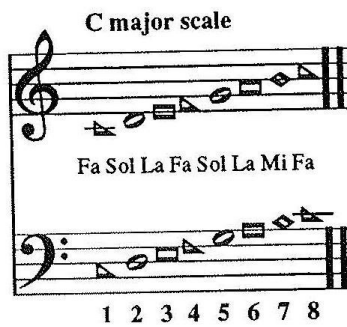
Image online, courtesy the main.nc.us website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cold-Mountain1>



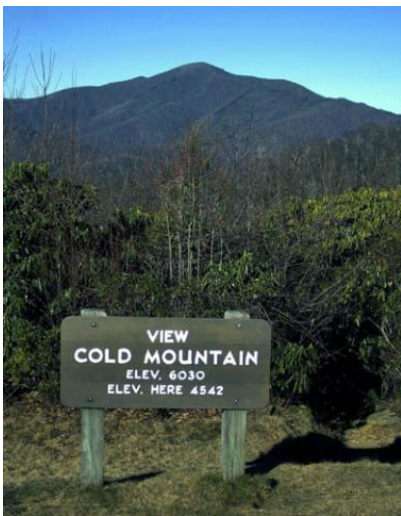
Rhododendrons at Roan Mountain, N.C.

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Shape Notes

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THE REAL COLD MOUNTAIN

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Cold Mountain - Film Trailer

This video clip is one of the trailers for Cold Mountain, a 2003 film directed by Anthony Minghella, based on the book by Charles Frazier.

Renée Zellweger won an Academy Award for "Best Actress in a Supporting Role" for her work in this [Miramax](#) film.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cold-Mountain-Film-Trailer>