

WAGON'S HO!

PRE & POST VISIT PACKET



3rd – 8th
grade students

WAGON'S HO!

PRE & POST VISIT PACKET

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Supplemental Math and Science activities can be found on the Mahaffie website: www/mahaffie.org

– “Miles and Meals”



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PRE-VISIT PACKET

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PRE-VISIT LESSON PLAN



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PRE-VISIT LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVES

- 1.The student will analyze the causes of Westward Expansion in the 19th century.
- 2.The student will identify the trails used during Westward Expansion in the 19th century.
- 3.The student will compare and contrast past and current forms of transportation.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- 1.Why did Americans travel west during the 19th century?
- 2.How did Americans travel west during the 19th century?

STANDARDS

Kansas Benchmark:

- 1.1 The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices made by individuals, communities, states, and nations that have impacted our lives and futures.
- 2.1 The student will recognize and evaluate the rights and responsibilities of people living in societies.
- 4.1 The student will recognize and evaluate continuity and change over time and its impact on individuals, institutions, communities, states, and nations.

Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3-5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3, 4, & 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.



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LESSON OVERVIEW

Lesson 1:

Vocabulary (all grades)

Lesson 2:

Little House on the Prairie Reading Activity (grades 3-5)

Moving Then and Now Worksheet (grades 3-5)

My Trip to Oregon as I Remember It Reading Activity (grades 7-8)

Lesson 3:

Santa Fe Trail Visual Thinking Strategy Activity (all grades)

Name That Trail! Worksheet (all grades)

Lesson 4:

Covered Wagon Vocabulary Race (all grades)

Pack Your Own Wagon (all grades)



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LESSON 1 INSTRUCTIONS

Review the provided vocabulary list with your students. The list contains vocabulary about the trails and settling the west that will be discussed throughout this lesson and the tour.

Choose one of the three options for reviewing the vocabulary list.

1. As a class through recitation
2. In small groups, have students quiz each other on the terminology
3. Have students work individually and create a sentence for each of the vocab words.

The vocabulary review activity should take about 45 minutes to complete.



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VOCABULARY

1. **Conestoga Wagon** – type of covered wagon used in the 1800s
2. **Axle** – part on a wagon that made the wheel turn
3. **Oxen** – large draft animals used to pull wagons and farm equipment
4. **Pioneers** – those who are the first to explore or live in a place
5. **Traders** – those who set up stops to trade goods with travelers
6. **Independence, MO** – the starting location for the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails
7. **Santa Fe, NM** – the ending location for the Santa Fe Trail
8. **Fording** – crossing a river at a shallow point in a wagon
9. **Yoke** – a wooden beam put between two oxen so they can pull together
10. **Caravan** – a group of people traveling together
11. **Homestead** – a house with land, usually a farm
12. **Fort Hall** – location where the California Trail split from the Oregon Trail
13. **Sutter's Fort** – the ending location for the California Trail
14. **Oregon City** – the ending location for the Oregon Trail
15. **Forty-niners** – nickname for the people who went to California in search of gold in **1849**
16. **Cholera** – one of the main diseases people caught while on the trail
17. **Gold Rush** – the mass movement of people to an area where gold has **been discovered**
18. **Transcontinental Railroad** – railroad that connected the eastern half of the country to the western half
19. **Territory** – an area or region of land that belongs to and is governed by a country but has not become a state yet



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LESSON 2 INSTRUCTIONS

GRADES 3 - 5

Students should read the selected excerpts from Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* to see what it was like for a child to travel by covered wagon in the 1800s. To promote public speaking skills, have the class read together by selecting one student at a time to read the excerpts out loud.

After the class has finished reading *Little House on the Prairie*, have students work individually to complete the worksheet "Moving: Then and Now." Students should read what it was like to move in Laura's day on the left of the worksheet and fill in what it would be like to move today on the right of the worksheet. After each student has finished the worksheet, ask for volunteers to read what they wrote under the different sections.



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LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE READING ACTIVITY

"A long time ago, when all the grandfathers and grandmothers of today were little boys and little girls or very small babies, or perhaps not even born, Pa and Ma and Mary and Laura and Baby Carrie left their little house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. They were going to the Indian country.

The path that went by the little house had become a road. Almost every day Laura and Mary stopped their playing and stared in surprise at a wagon slowly creaking by on that road. Everything from the little house was in the wagon, except the beds and tables and chairs. They did not need to take these, because Pa could always make new ones.

Ma and Laura and Mary ate bread and molasses in the wagon, and the horses ate corn from nose-bags, while inside the store Pa traded his furs for things they would need on the journey. They could not stay long in the town, because they must cross the lake that day.

Pa drove the wagon out onto the ice, following those wagon tracks. The horses' hoofs clopped with a dull sound, the wagon wheels went crunching. The town grew smaller and smaller behind, till even the tall store was only a dot. All around the wagon there was nothing but empty and silent space. Laura didn't like it.

Next morning Pa said, 'It's lucky we crossed yesterday, Caroline. Wouldn't wonder if the ice broke up today. We made a late crossing, and we're lucky it didn't start breaking while we were out in the middle of it.'

It was a long, long way to Indian Territory. Almost every day the horses traveled as far as they could; almost every night Pa and Ma made camp in a new place. Sometimes they had to stay several days in one camp because a creek was in flood and they couldn't cross it till the water went down. They crossed too many creeks to count. They saw strange woods and hills, and strangers country with no trees. They drove across rivers on long wooden bridges, and they came to one wide yellow river that had no bridge.

That was the Missouri River. Pa drove onto a raft, and they all sat still in the wagon while the raft went swaying away from the safe land and slowly crossed all that rolling muddy-yellow water.

After more days they came to hills again. In a valley the wagon stuck fast in deep black mud. Rain poured down and thunder crashed and lightning flared. There was no place to make camp and build a fire. Everything was damp and chill and miserable in the wagon, but they had to stay in it and eat cold bits of food.

Next day Pa found a place on a hillside where they could camp. The rain had stopped, but they had to wait a week before the creek went down and the mud dried so that Pa could dig the wagon wheels out of it and go on.

They had come in the covered wagon all the long way from the Big Woods of Wisconsin, across Minnesota and Iowa and Missouri. Now they set out to go across Kansas. Kansas was an endless flat land covered with tall grass blowing in the wind. Day after day they traveled in Kansas, and saw nothing but the rippling grass and enormous sky. In a perfect circle the sky curved down to the level land, and the wagon was in the circle's exact middle.

Next day the land was the same, the sky was the same, the circle did not change. Laura and Mary were tired of them all. There was nothing new to do and nothing new to look at. The bed was made in the back of the wagon and neatly covered with a gray blanket; Laura and Mary sat on it.

The rushing sounds of the water filled the still air. All along the creek banks the trees hung over it and made it dark with shadows. In the middle it ran swiftly, sparkling silver and blue. 'This creek's pretty high,' Pa said. 'But I guess we can make it all right. You can see this is a ford, by the old wheel ruts. What do you say, Caroline?' 'Whatever you say, Charles,' Ma answered.

'I'll tie down the wagon-cover,' Pa said. He climbed down from the seat, unrolled the canvas sides and tied them firmly to the wagon box. Then he pulled the rope at the back, so that the canvas puckered together in the middle, leaving only a tiny round hole, too small to see through.

Mary huddled down on the bed. She did not like fords; she was afraid of the rushing water. But Laura was excited; she liked the splashing.



The wagon went forward softly in mud. Water began to splash against the wheels. The splashing grew louder. The wagon shook as the noisy water struck at it. Then all at once the wagon lifted and balanced and swayed. It was a lovely feeling.

The wagon lurched; there was a sudden heavy splash beside it. Laura sat straight up and clawed the blanket from her head. Pa was gone. Ma sat alone, holding tight to the reins with both hands. Mary hid her face in the blanket again, but Laura rose up farther. She couldn't see the creek bank. She couldn't see anything in front of the wagon but water rushing at it. And in the water, three heads; Pet's head and Patty's head and Pa's small, wet head. Pa's fist in the water was holding tight to Pet's bridle.

If Pa had not known what to do, or if Ma had been too frightened to drive, or if Laura and Mary had been naughty and bothered her, then they would all have been lost. The river would have rolled them over and over and carried them away and drowned them, and nobody would ever have known what became of them. For weeks, perhaps, no other person would come along that road.

Pa made camp as usual. First, he unhitched and unharnessed Pet and Patty, and he put them on their picket-lines. Picket-lines were long ropes fastened to iron pegs driven into the ground. When horses were on picket-lines they could eat all the grass that the long ropes would let them reach.

Pa set the wagon-seat near the fire. He and Ma sat on it. Mary and Laura sat on the wagon tongue. Each of them had a tin plate, and a steel knife and a steel fork with white bone handles. Ma had a tin cup and Pa had a tin cup, and Baby Carrie had a little one of her own, but Mary and Laura had to share their tin cup. They drank water. They could not drink coffee until they grew up.

Ma said she didn't know whether this was Indian country or not. She didn't know where the Kansas line was. But whether or no, the Indians would not be here long. Pa had word from a man in Washington that the Indian Territory would be open to settlement soon.

Laura was very happy. The wind sang a low, rustling song in the grass. A buzzing came faintly from all the trees in the creek bottoms. But all these sounds made a great, warm, happy silence. Laura had never seen a place she liked so much as this place. 'Here we are, Caroline!' Pa said. 'Right here we'll build our house.'

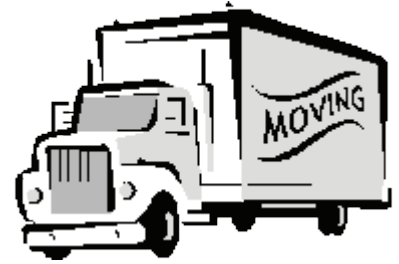
**Wilder, Laura Ingalls and Garth Williams. "Little House on the Prairie."
New York: Harper and Bros., 1953**



MOVING: THEN AND NOW



Just like the Ingalls, families today often have to move. But moving today is a lot different from the days when Laura and her family moved. The sentences on the left describe moving in Laura's day. On the right, write sentences that describe moving today.



Moving in Laura's Time	Moving Today
1. The Ingalls family didn't know exactly know where they were headed and had to build their own house when they got there.	
2. The family traveled by covered wagon.	
3. The family had to leave furniture and many of their belongings behind.	
4. Traveling on the trails could take weeks or months.	
5. The family camped at night, sleeping near or in the wagon.	
6. The family carried or hunted their food and cooked it over a campfire	
7. Some of the dangers the family faced were wild animals, flooded creeks, Indian attacks, and horse thieves.	
8. The trails were rough, and creeks and rivers had to be crossed for fording or floating the wagons.	

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LESSON 2 INSTRUCTIONS

GRADES 7 - 8

Students should read the selected excerpts from “My Trip to Oregon” to get an understanding of what it was like to travel back in the 19th century. To promote public speaking skills, have the class read together by selecting one student at a time to read the excerpts out loud.

After the class has finished reading, have students work individually to answer the questions found after the reading



MY TRIP TO OREGON AS I REMEMBER IT BY CALVIN GEER

"In the spring of 1847, my Father and Grandfather and Uncle John Grim had a chronic case of Oregon fever and the only cure was a trip across the plains to that far off country, Oregon.

So my Grandfather corresponded with one Joel Palmer who was getting up a company to cross the plains to Oregon, and agreed to meet him at St. Jo where we were to cross the Missouri river. So they sold the farms and bought ox teams and wagons, two wagons for each family and three yoke of oxen on each wagon. We had some cows and I had one mare that I was to ride. About the first of May we bid good-bye to our neighbors and started for St. Jo.

Our first drive was to Knoxville, and my father was acquainted with a blacksmith and he gave Father a little cannon he made to celebrate a democratic victory. It only weighed sixteen pounds and Father called it the young Democrat and we brought it to Oregon.

The next town that I remember was Quincy where we crossed the Mississippi and was then in Missouri. I don't remember how long it took us to get to St. Jo but we were there in time. We had to wait two or three days before we could cross the river, but when we got across, we were not long in making up the company and starting out. We had a hundred wagons, lots of loose stock and we had traveled several days, a week or more, when Cpt. Palmer called a meeting and thought it best to divide the train and elect another Captain, which they did.

We stayed with Cpt. Palmer and the first stream that we came to, that I remember, we camped. There was lots of walnut trees and we picked up walnuts that had layed all winter but they were sound and good.

The next stream was either Blue river or Green river, I don't remember which one we came to first. I remember we saw lots of Indians and they were camped close to the road. We had to block up the wagon beds to cross the river. The next place I think was Ash Holler. Mother wanted some greens so bad but couldn't find anything that she thought would do, so she sowed some mustard and years after a lady who crossed the plains told Mother that she got mustard greens at Ash Holler.



"I think it was the next day that we were nearing camp when Uncle John Grim's mare came running into the train with the picket flying in the air and stampeded the train that had not formed in the corral. A man ran up to me as I was driving one of our teams and said, "Give me your whip." He ran ahead of our team and stopped them. I ran off to one side and looked back and could see teams running and an ox fell and broke his leg, one team ran against Father's wagon and broke a wheel. They finally got them all stopped but didn't form as good a corral as usual.

The next day we put most of the load in one wagon and left three men to fix the wheel and four horses to bring the wagon on, they did not overtake us until nearly the next morning. They had a long hill to go down but it was dark and they did not think of a hill but it was more of a hill than they thought and the team had to run, and they ran a mile on the bottom before they could stop. That was in the Bear River country, but the wagon was fixed and everything ready for the next day. When we got in to the buffalo country we could see buffalo heads and the emigrants would write on them and set them up beside the road so we could hear from the trains ahead of us and our company would write to the trains back of us.

One man in our company was hunting for the company and we had fresh meat, every few days. His name was Post. He and Uncle John Grim started out after some buffalo and rode quite a distance in the hills and as Post had a fine mare, she could outrun a buffalo. He ran up to a big one and jumped off his mare and shot it and they skinned out as much as they could carry on their horses. After they started back, they discovered that they were lost and did not know which way to go. Father fired the little canon and Uncle Grim said it was at their backs. He said that is the young Democrat and turned around. He said they would fire it again, and when they fired it again they were riding right toward it, and did not get in until after midnight, but we had buffalo meat for breakfast, and wasn't it good!

Cpt. Palmer told us when we got in the buffalo country there would be places where there was no wood and we would have to burn buffalo chips. The women said they could never cook with them but when we had traveled several days in that part of the country we could see the women out gathering up aprons full of buffalo chips and they made a good fire. We were traveling up Platte River. I think we were in the Pawnee or Sioux nation and we got some buffalo robes off them and I got a pair of moccasins made of buffalo hide with the fur on the inside, they were the finest things I ever had.



"While we were in that nation they formed across the road and were sitting down. There were quite a lot of them and Cpt Palmer ordered the train to halt and the men to take their guns and they drove up within a hundred yards of them. The old Chief got up and threw up his hands to show he had no arms and Cpt. Palmer done the same. They walked up together and the Indians wanted one dollar a wagon for crossing their country. Palmer told the Chief we were not going to stop in their country but that we were going to the big water, so the Chief lit his pipe and gave it three puffs and handed it to Cpt. Palmer who did the same and the Chief motioned his hands and the Indians were gone in less than no time.

We were traveling up Flat River. I remember that we traveled one whole day in sight of chimney rock and camped opposite it that night. Several of the men and some of the girls started to go out to it, but only one man got there. R.V. Short, I think got to it but did not get back until after dark.

We had to cross Platte River and Cpt. Palmer told them when they started in to keep moving or they would not get through, as it was quite sandy. It was not deep and we had no trouble. The next place that I remember was Independence Rock and we were there... [Note: one line of text was lost.] Stars and Stripes and fired the little cannon and then we camped on Sweet Water. At one of the crossings one boy got his leg broke, but he got along pretty well as they set it and he got well before we got through.

I don't remember where we crossed the Snake River the first time, but I remember we came to Salmon Falls and there were lots of Indians there fishing and we got some salmon from them. They had lots of dried salmon and would come up to us and say "me one shirt, you two salmon swap" and cross their hands.

I think there was another falls on Snake River called American Falls. After we crossed the river we drove one day and the next day turned off to the right of the road to a spring where there was fine clover and we layed by one day to rest the teams and do some washing. They had a dance and the ground got so wet that they called it the swamp dance. I think that was where Cpt. Palmer's horses were stolen by the Indians. I think three men started after them, but the company took part of the load out of Palmer's wagon, put a yoke of Oxen on his wagon and went on. The men tracked and found them tied in the willows a long ways from camp, but they did not see any Indians.

"I remember we came to the Boise River near where Boise is now. There was an old French trader living there with the Indians. I don't remember much about the road from there until we got to the Three Islands on Snake River. The day we got there was a long drive without water. We came to a road that turned to the right down a canyon and it went to Snake River, so George Dimick and I took a coffee pot and started down that road to get some water, but it was farther than we thought. We got to the river and got a drink and a man hollered to us from across the river and wanted to know if our train was coming there. We told him they were going to the Three Islands, so he told us we could follow a trail up the river and it would take us to the Three Islands. So we started up the river and it was getting late. When we got to where we could look down on the valley we could see some firelight. George wanted to turn back, he thought it was Indians, but I said we could go on and see. When we got near enough we could see the covered wagon, and it was Cpt. Palmer. He had gone on and was camped. He came out when we rode up and he says where did you come from. We told him how we went down the road that went to the ferry and followed the trail to the Three Islands. He sent his man out with our horses and the girl got us something to eat. He said that the train would not get in until midnight. One of our men was drown, he went swimming and got into one of the whirlpools, they got an Indian to try to get him but he swam out to where he had went down and came back and told how it had happened. He said it would be five or six days before he would come out.

We had to hitch six yoke of oxen on a wagon and men would go on each side to keep them straight, but we got across that day. The next day we went near where Ontario is now, from there we went to the Hot Springs where Vale is now. From there we went across to Willow Creek and crossed the hills to Burnt River where Huntington is now. We went up Burnt River quite a ways and then crossed into a valley where Baker City is now. From there we went over into Grand Round valley and we thought it was a beautiful country and some of the company had a notion to stop there but finally went on. We crossed the valley and started up the Blue Mountains. I remember we camped at what was called Lee's encampment. It is called Meham now, and Cpt. Palmer told us it was the summit of the Blue Mountains. From there we went down to the upper Yumatilla River and then we crossed a range of hills to what they called Lower Yumatilla. I think that is where Pendleton is now. We laid by there one day for the folks to do their washing. Marcus Whitman met us there. He had been to the Willamette valley and he gave us a little talk that night and told us what we could expect when we got to the Cascade Mountains. He had come through there. It was the Barlow road, the first road that was ever built across the Cascades.



"From Yumatilla we went over in to John Day and from there we went to the Dechutes and where we had to cork two wagon beds, and ferry that stream. We had to take the wagons to pieces and it took all day to cross, and it took another day to put them together. Then we took the stock down the river and they swam over. The first day they sent me and George Dimick up on the hill to herd the stock. There was a spring up there where the stock could get water, and we were there all day without anything to eat. We got a few coke cherries. They never came to relieve us until after sundown and it was dark before we got to the river, but they pulled us over. Mother and Mrs. Dimick were worrying about us as they did not know where we were. When the wagons were all put together we started for the Tye valley.

I don't remember much about the road or how long it took us to go to the Tye valley but when we got there we were near the Cascade Mountains. The next morning we started into the mountains and it commenced to rain and the roads were awful with mud. The rainy season had set in and the emigration ahead of us had cut the roads up until our wagons would go down to the hubs. When we got to Laurel Hill it was terrible. They would drag trees to the hind end to hold the wagons and that plowed up the ground. I think that was where Uncle Cary met us and he saw how it was and rushed out to the valley to fetch in some fresh cattle and put one yoke on each wagon and then we made better time. We were in the mountains fourteen days and only had two messes of bread.

We had some dry peas that we got from the Indians at Grand Round and mother had saved the bacon rinds and she would cook the peas and season them with the bacon rinds and they were pretty good. We lost all of our cows at or near Laurel Hill. The company found a steer that had been lost out and was full of grass and they killed him and we ate it and called it good.

We traveled every day but only made a few miles a day. We finally got through and when we got to Oregon City we could not get any flour as the Emigration ahead of us had taken all of the flour and the French from French Prairie had not brought down their wheat. Mother had a little sheet iron stove and she traded it to the Hudson Bay Store for three hundred pounds of shorts and a keg of molasses, we had pancakes and 'lasses for supper and they were good enough to set before a King. Father only had three bits when we got to Oregon City. That was the financial standing of the Geer family at that time and I think they have just about held their own ever since.

"The next morning we drove over on Moleba Prairie and camped, the next morning Grandfather and Uncle John Grim left us. John Grim went on to French Prairie and Grandfather went to Butteville where Uncle Fred lived. We started for the Waldo Hills where Mother's Uncle David Culver had settled. The first night we camped all alone on or near Butte Creek and the next day we crossed the Abiqua. In the morning, we drove up to a house where a man by the name of Brown lived and he told us where David Culver lived and told us how to go to get there. We crossed Silver and Brush Creek and came to another little creek and camped. Next morning, we drove to Drift Creek and Brown told us that after we crossed Drift Creek and got on the hill in the open ground to go east between Drift Creek and another little creek and we would pass a house and keep up the ridge and we would see the Culver cabin on a little hill. We drove up to it, but there was nobody there. We unyoked the cattle and made ourselves at home, and the old oxen was filling themselves with the big bunch grass that waved like a grain field. I remember my Good Old Mother stood in the cabin door looking across the little valley toward Drift Creek. It was as fine a landscape as the eye could wish to see and she said we are happy now we have found the promised land, and she never gave up but what the Waldo Hills was one of the finest places on God's green footstool.

Now we have crossed the planes from Knox County, Illinois to Marion County, Oregon, the fever is broke and so are we.

And now as I have plenty of paper I will tell you how we wintered in the little cabin. There was no floor in the cabin, just a few clapboards laying on the sleepers, but there was a fireplace and Mother could bake pancakes and we could eat lots of them. Uncle David was not at home but we made ourselves at home just the same."

Geer, Calvin. "My Trip to Oregon as I Remember It." 1925

MY TRIP TO OREGON AS I REMEMBER IT

1. Who is the narrator of this story? _____

2. Where did his journey begin? _____

3. What did his mother plant in Ash Holler? _____

4. What large animal did Post and Uncle Grim hunt? _____

5. What material did they have to use for a campfire since there was no wood? _____

6. What river did they stop at to rest and do some washing? _____

7. What happened to Cpt. Palmer's horses? _____

8. Where did they end their journey? _____

9. Name three things that happened on the trail _____



MY TRIP TO OREGON AS I REMEMBER IT ANSWER KEY

1. Calvin Geer
2. Illinois
3. Mustard
4. Buffalo
5. Buffalo chips
6. Snake River
7. Stolen by Indians
8. Oregon
9. Answers can include any of the following:
 - a. Horses got loose after the corral broke
 - b. Wagon wheel broke
 - c. Trading with the Pawnee or Sioux for buffalo robes and moccasins
 - d. Got salmon from Indians at Salmon Falls
 - e. One of the men drowned in the river
 - f. Took the wagons apart to ferry a stream
 - g. Stuck in mud in the Cascade Mountains



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LESSON 3 INSTRUCTIONS

Students will utilize a new interpretation technique employed by museums called Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) to strengthen their critical thinking skills when discussing the Santa Fe / California / Oregon Trails.

The photograph is available on our website to display digitally so the image is large enough for the entire class to see.

The teacher will act as the facilitator to ask their students only three questions to interpret the painting of the Santa Fe Trail:

1. What's going on in this picture?
2. What do you see that makes you say that?
3. What more can we find?

Make sure students know there are no wrong answers. This is a completely student-led activity, so the teacher should not offer any clues or suggestions to the students on how to interpret the image. This is a whole-class activity. The VTS activity should take between 15-30 minutes.

After students are no longer able to come up with any more responses to the picture, read the brief Traveler's Guide of the travels on page----- about the Santa Fe / California / Oregon Trail.

The second activity for Lesson 3 is a Santa Fe / California / Oregon Trail map interpretation activity titled "Name That Trail!" Have students work in small groups to complete the worksheet and, once everyone is done, ask for volunteers to answer the questions out loud.



THE SANTA FE TRAIL



“Wagon Train” by Granger. 1923

<http://fineartamerica.com/featured/2-wagon-train-granger.html>

1. What's going on in this picture?
2. What do you see that makes you say that?
3. What more can we find?

TRAVELERS GUIDE TO THE SANTA FE / OREGON / CALIFORNIA TRAILS

People traveled west for many reasons: land was opened up for settlement, gold was discovered in California, and the frontier was an adventure. People would travel in caravans, because it was safer to travel in large groups than alone. Wolves and Indians were less likely to approach large camps. Often, soldiers would accompany caravans to offer extra protection.

Traveling on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails was not easy. The journey was long, sometimes taking multiple months to complete. Although previous wagons had created trails to guide the path, there were no paved roads. Travel was bumpy over rocks and holes. There were no bridges over rivers, so wagons had to go over fords or float in deeper waters.

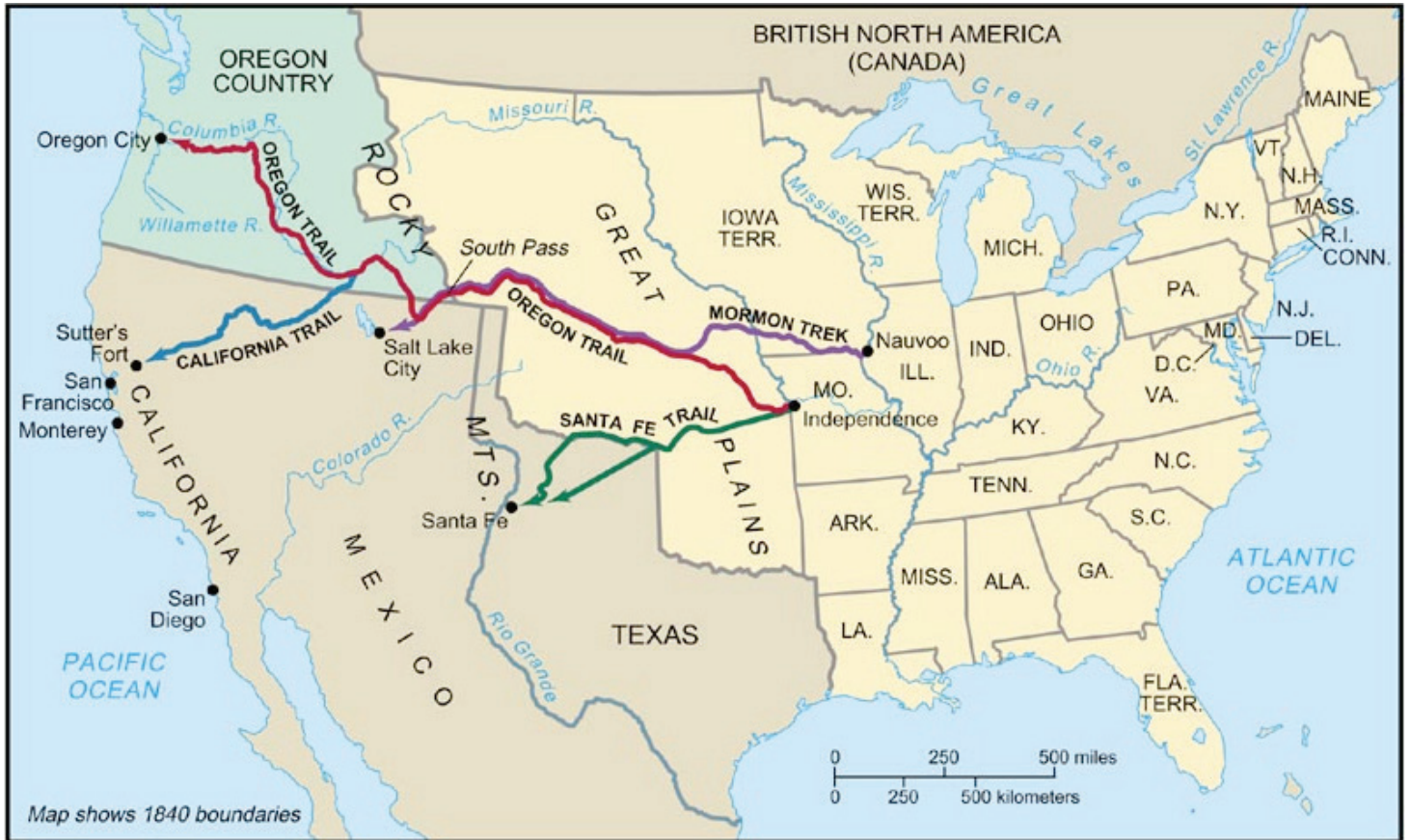
The trails often followed along rivers because they were easy to follow and made sure that travelers and their animals had access to water for drinking, washing, and keeping cool. If a wagon had a broken wheel or axle, travelers had to manually repair it. There were no mechanics to fix it for them. Sometimes travelers would have to wait many days before they could continue on their journey.

When camped at night, travelers had to keep watch for wolves or Indians. Indian attacks were very rare though. Most encounters show that the Indians were friendly and willing to trade with and help the travelers. For children, the journey was very boring. They would be stuck inside the wagon all day long for days, weeks, and months.

When travelers needed supplies, they would stop at forts or small towns. Here they could trade buffalo robes for flour, horses, oxen, or wagon parts. Forts were also good places to safely rest for a day or two.



NAME THAT TRAIL!



<http://segonku.unl.edu/~mhuelman/images/map.jpg>

NAME THAT TRAIL!

1. Which trail(s) originated in Independence, MO? _____

2. Which river did you cross on the Santa Fe Trail? _____

3. Where did the California Trail start? _____

4. What modern day states did the Oregon Trail go through? _____

5. What modern day states did the Santa Fe Trail go through? _____

6. What states did the California Trail go through? _____

7. Which trail took the longest to travel? _____

8. Which trail took the shortest to travel? _____

9. What mountain range was by the Oregon and California Trail? _____

10. What route on the Santa Fe trail went through Colorado? _____



NAME THAT TRAIL

ANSWER KEY

1. Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails
2. Arkansas River
3. Fort Hall in modern day Idaho
4. Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon
5. Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico
6. Idaho, Nevada, and California
7. Oregon Trail
8. California Trail
9. Rocky Mountains
10. Mountain Route



WAGON'S HO!

LESSON 4 INSTRUCTIONS

Students will finish the pre-visit activities by completing two assessment games. The first is the Covered Wagon Vocabulary Race.

1. Split class into three teams and name each team Santa Fe, Oregon, and California.
2. Print off three covered wagons from the Supplemental Items folder on our website
3. Have each group color and decorate their wagon and write their team name on it.
4. Draw a long horizontal line on the white board with six bisecting lines.



5. Use a piece of tape to put each wagon at the starting line.
6. Give a vocabulary definition and have the teams raise their hands to answer with the correct term.
7. Call on the first group that raises their hand.
8. If they get the question right, move that team's wagon one slot further.
9. If they get the question wrong, read one of the lines for that team and inform them that they cannot give another answer for that term.
10. The first team to the finish line wins.

After the vocabulary activity, students will complete the Pack Your Wagon worksheet. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to decide what items they would need to pack for a three month long trip on the trail in the 1800s.



WAGON'S HO!

COVERED WAGON VOCABULARY RACE

SANTA FE:

1. You broke an axle on your wagon. You lose one day while you fix it.
2. Wolves got into your camp and ate all of your food. You lose three days while you hunt for more food.
3. Indian attacks are reported nearby. Lose one day while you stop at Fort Dodge for protection.
4. Someone in your party gets sick. You lose two days while you care for them.
5. You have to cross the Arkansas River. You lose one day to float your wagon across the river.

CALIFORNIA:

1. You get trapped in a snowstorm on Donner Pass. You lose three days while you wait for the storm to pass.
2. Green River is flooded. Lose two days while you wait for the water level to drop.
3. Your mules are sick. Lose one day to set up camp along the Humboldt River while they get healthy.
4. You broke a wheel on your wagon. Lose one day while you fix it.
5. Indian attacks are reported nearby. Lose one day while you protect your wagon and family.

OREGON:

1. You have to cross the Snake River. Lose one day to float your wagon across the river.
2. You get trapped in a snowstorm on South Pass. Lose three days to wait out the storm.
3. Stop at Fort Hall to trade Buffalo skins for food. Lose one day while you make the trade.
4. Indian attacks are reported nearby. Lose one day while you stop at Fort Laramie for protection.
5. Wolves get into your camp and eat all of your food. Lose two days to hunt in the Grande Ronde Valley.



WAGON'S HO!

POST - VISIT MATERIALS



WAGON'S HO!

POST-VISIT ASSESSMENT

To ensure that students understand the material from the pre-visit lesson and the tour, they will complete a post-visit assessment.

Have students write a short story of what it would be like to travel on the trails.

They should include:

1. Where they're starting from
2. Where their destination is
3. What trail they're traveling on

Suggestions on what to write about include:

1. Why they're traveling
2. Who they're traveling with
3. What they packed in their wagon
4. What they encountered on the trail
5. What it was like once they got to their destination



WAGON'S HO!

PACK YOUR WAGON

Now that you have visited Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, use what you have learned and figure out what you would take with you if you were traveling the trails in the 1800s.



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