

TRAILS WEST

This map shows some of the trails that took pioneers, explorers and traders westward. Over the 3,000 miles from coast to coast, there was a vast wilderness to cross. The topography was varied: there were rivers, plains, mountains and deserts. Some routes took people to start new lives, and other routes were used for commerce and trading. By looking at the current day boundaries, shown here in gray line, you can see exactly where these trails were. Although some state boundaries were in place in the east at the beginning of the westward movement, it took many years before the vast western territories were established as states.

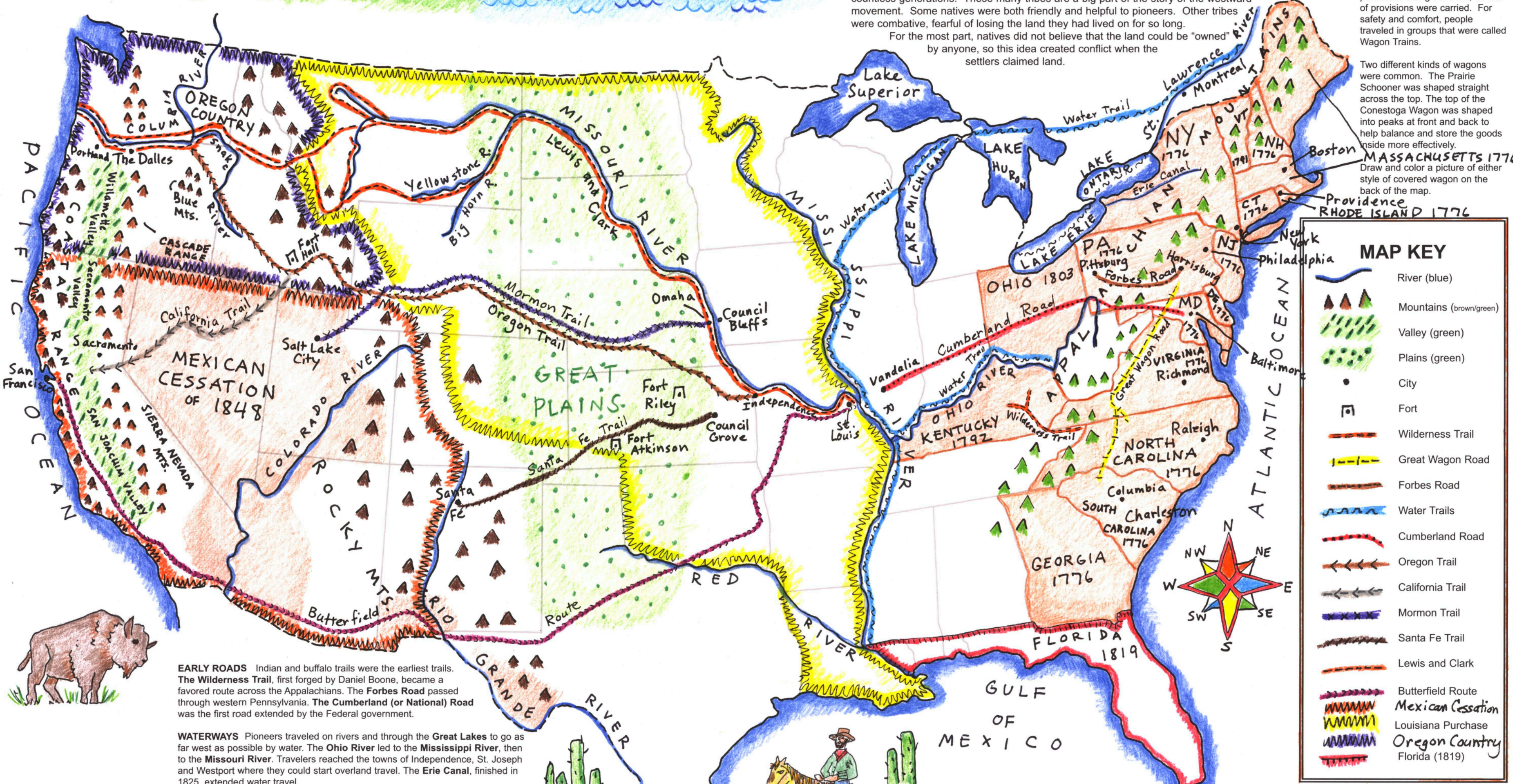
A famous means of transportation in the early American west was the covered wagon. Wagons had large wheels and rib-like hoops covered with a heavy fabric. Wagons were often pulled by mules or oxen.

Long before the time of the trailblazers, native American settlements had been in place for countless generations. These many tribes are a big part of the story of the westward movement. Some natives were both friendly and helpful to pioneers. Other tribes were combative, fearful of losing the land they had lived on for so long.

For the most part, natives did not believe that the land could be "owned" by anyone, so this idea created conflict when the settlers claimed land.

Wagons were used to transport belongings, not to live or sleep in. There were rarely places to make purchases along the trails, so lots of provisions were carried. For safety and comfort, people traveled in groups that were called Wagon Trains.

Two different kinds of wagons were common. The Prairie Schooner was shaped straight across the top. The top of the Conestoga Wagon was shaped into peaks at front and back to help balance and store the goods inside more effectively. Draw and color a picture of either style of covered wagon on the back of the map.



MAP KEY

- River (blue)
- Mountains (brown/green)
- Valley (green)
- Plains (green)
- City
- Fort
- Wilderness Trail
- Great Wagon Road
- Forbes Road
- Water Trails
- Cumberland Road
- Oregon Trail
- California Trail
- Mormon Trail
- Santa Fe Trail
- Lewis and Clark
- Butterfield Route
- Mexican Cession
- Louisiana Purchase
- Oregon Country
- Florida (1819)
- Desert area (brown)

EARLY ROADS Indian and buffalo trails were the earliest trails. The Wilderness Trail, first forged by Daniel Boone, became a favored route across the Appalachians. The Forbes Road passed through western Pennsylvania. The Cumberland (or National) Road was the first road extended by the Federal government.

WATERWAYS Pioneers traveled on rivers and through the Great Lakes to go as far west as possible by water. The Ohio River led to the Mississippi River, then to the Missouri River. Travelers reached the towns of Independence, St. Joseph and Westport where they could start overland travel. The Erie Canal, finished in 1825, extended water travel.

OREGON TRAIL Thousands traveled the dangerous journey from the Missouri River over the Rockies to Oregon Country. Fertile land, like the Willamette Valley between the Coastal Range and the Cascades, was the goal.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL This trail was the same as the Oregon Trail to the Rockies. Here the route headed over the Sierra Nevada Desert and Mountains, a difficult passage. People headed to California for fertile land, later for the Gold Rush.

MORMON TRAIL The Mormons were a well-organized religious group. The trail they blazed led them to their chosen destination, Salt Lake City.

SANTA FE TRAIL This trail was commercial, used primarily by traders.

BUTTERFIELD ROUTE This long trail was short lived, used for mail delivery.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION President Thomas Jefferson chose Lewis and Clark to explore the Northwest Passage. From 1804 to 1806 the members of their group traveled to explore the west, studying the topography of the land as well as plants and animals.

OTHER ROUTES Other explorers like Zebulon Pike, Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith and Robert Gray also explored unknown parts of the West from the Mississippi all the way to Alaska.

MAP ACTIVITIES

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES
Label and shade the following bodies of water shown on the map:
 Atlantic Ocean Pacific Ocean Gulf of Mexico
 Saint Lawrence River Mississippi River Missouri River
 Rio Grande River Colorado River Columbia River
 Snake River Lake Superior Lake Michigan
 Lake Huron Lake Erie Lake Ontario

With a blue pencil, draw in the Erie Canal, which was used for travel.

Some of the Appalachian Mountains and the Rocky Mountains have been drawn in. Using the symbol in the MAP KEY, complete these ranges and label them.
 Draw and shade these other mountain ranges:
 Coastal Range Cascade Range
 Sierra Nevada Mountains Blue Mountains of Oregon

TRAILS
Refer to the trail lines in the MAP KEY to locate and label each trail. Shade each a different color. Add the approximate dates that each trail was being used.

LAND AREAS
The boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase (1803) and Florida (acquired from Spain in 1819) are already drawn in on the map (see outlines in MAP KEY). Label and date these areas. Shade their boundaries with colored pencils.

Using the territory outline (same outline as for Louisiana Purchase) in the MAP KEY, draw, label and shade the following areas with different colored pencils:
 Oregon Country (acquired in 1846)
 The Mexican Cession of 1848

Fill in and shade these areas with the valley symbol in the MAP KEY. Label these fertile areas which were settled:
 Willamette Valley Sacramento Valley

STATES
Label the states east of the Mississippi River at the time of the Louisiana Purchase.

CITIES
Label these cities marked on the map:
 Montreal St. Louis Boston
 Providence Baltimore Richmond
 Columbia San Francisco Salt Lake City
 Pittsburg Harrisburg Vandalia
 Independence Council Grove Council Bluffs
 The Dalles Portland (OR) Santa Fe

FORTS
Using the symbol in the MAP KEY label some forts that aided travelers moving west, and add others if you like:
 Fort Atkinson Fort Riley Fort Hall

DECORATION:
Complete the intermediate points of the Compass Rose and color it. Label the cardinal and intermediate directions. Color the map title and various illustrations.

TROUBLES ON THE TRAIL!

The pioneers faced many difficulties as they moved westward. Turn this map over and write about this topic, using these vocabulary words, and others!

emigrants	wagons
trail	provisions
river	diseases
frontier	maps
settlement	gold
seasons	Thirteen Colonies
valley	Great Lakes
desert	mountains
plain	Native American
predators	Continental Divide