



Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park

OPEN

10AM-4PM

WED & SAT

14907 W 87th ST PKWY LENEXA KS 66215

Trails Teaching Trunks & Resources

1850s-1890s

Thank you for your interest in local history! Items in these kits have been approved for careful handling. Please ask children to be careful with items and clean hands prior to use. This program guide focuses mainly on the Santa Fe Trail, which ran through present-day Lenexa. It is not a complete lesson plan, rather ideas and activities to supplement your curriculum.

Inventory List- Artifacts

Please make sure all items are returned to the box and wrapped as you found them. Check next to the line as you repack the box.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| _____ Slingshot (2374) | _____ Candle |
| _____ Jar of marbles | _____ Curling Iron (3663) |
| _____ Soft doll | _____ Lye soap |
| _____ School bell | _____ Wooden spoon (06.061.3) |
| _____ Slate board | _____ Tin cup (2337) |
| _____ Noisemaker | _____ Tin plate/tray |
| _____ Crochet example | _____ Blue enamel bowl (3664) |
| _____ Baby dress | _____ Corn feed sack (1499) |
| _____ Coffee grinder | _____ Wooden mallet |
| _____ Butter mold (w/ daisy on the bottom) | _____ Hardtack |
| _____ Butter paddle | _____ Grater – check to see |
| _____ Flour sifter | _____ Curry comb |
| _____ Flour scoop (2238) | _____ Oxen shoe |
| | _____ Horseshoe |

Furs

- _____ Rabbit

Teacher's Guide

This teaching trunk focuses on the human experiences shared by overland pioneers who moved west in the nineteenth century. Many trails became historic and some of them were famous enough to be named. Some do not have names and were not used by large numbers of people. Many trails began as animal paths. Native Americans and later colonists used and expanded the existing paths. Trails had different purposes. Some led to food, water, or other resources and others connected communities.

Following the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trail, over 300,000 pioneers emigrated to the West during the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s.

Covered wagons, generally pulled by oxen or horses, carried cargo, and supplies on a 2,000-mile journey to a new land. Pioneer families organized wagon trains at trail heads and pushed forward. A successful overland journey depended upon the cooperation of everyone involved.

Major Trails and their major uses:

1. Oregon Trail- Immigration, land acquisition
2. Chisholm Trail- Move cattle to market
3. California Trail- Gold fields, later immigration
4. Trail of Tears- Forced removal of indigenous peoples to reservations
5. Military Trail- Connect forts and outposts
6. Santa Fe Trail- Furs and trading
7. Mormon Trail- Religious freedom and immigration

Map Link

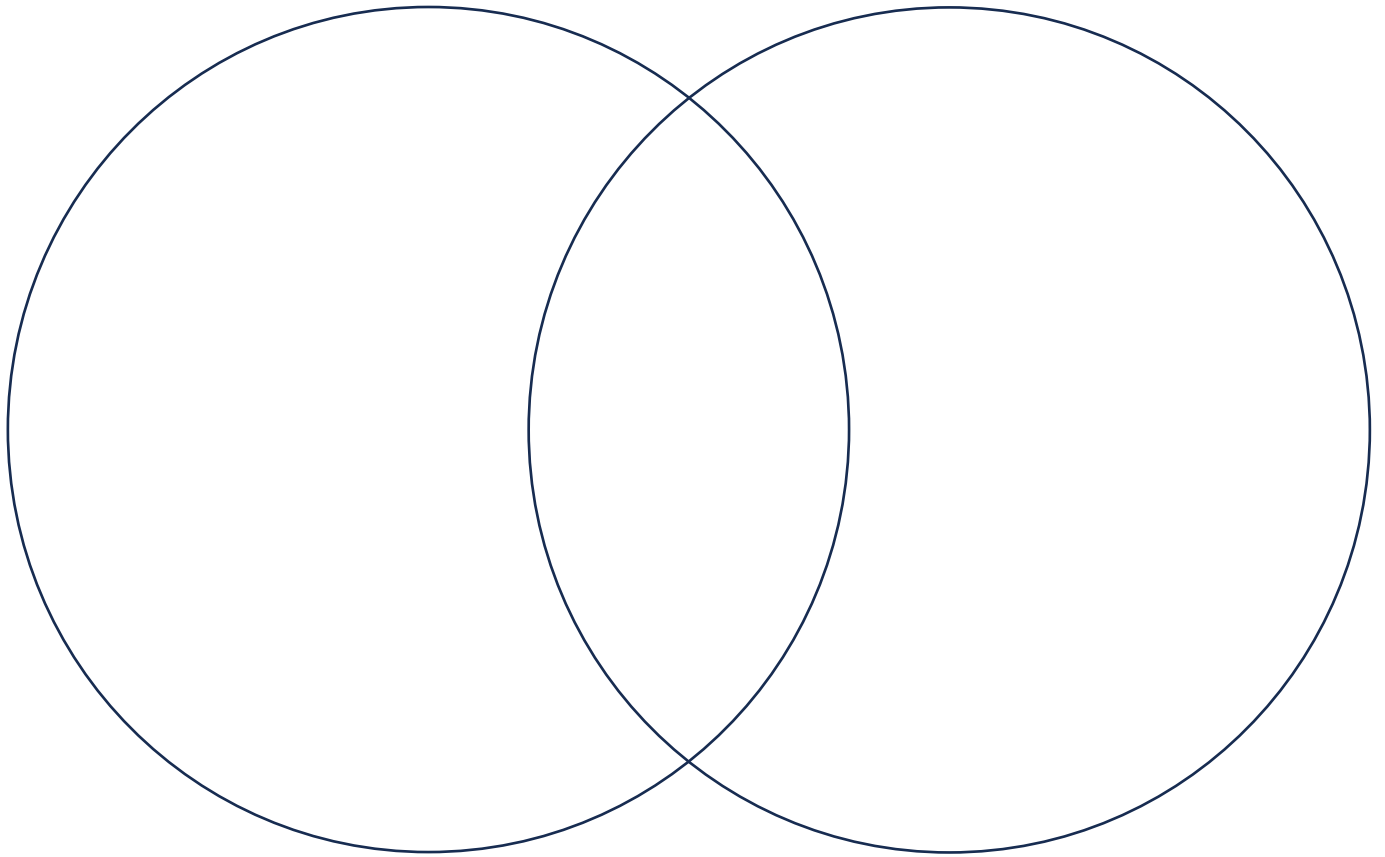
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/maps.htm>

Compare and Contrast

Why do people leave their homes?

Today

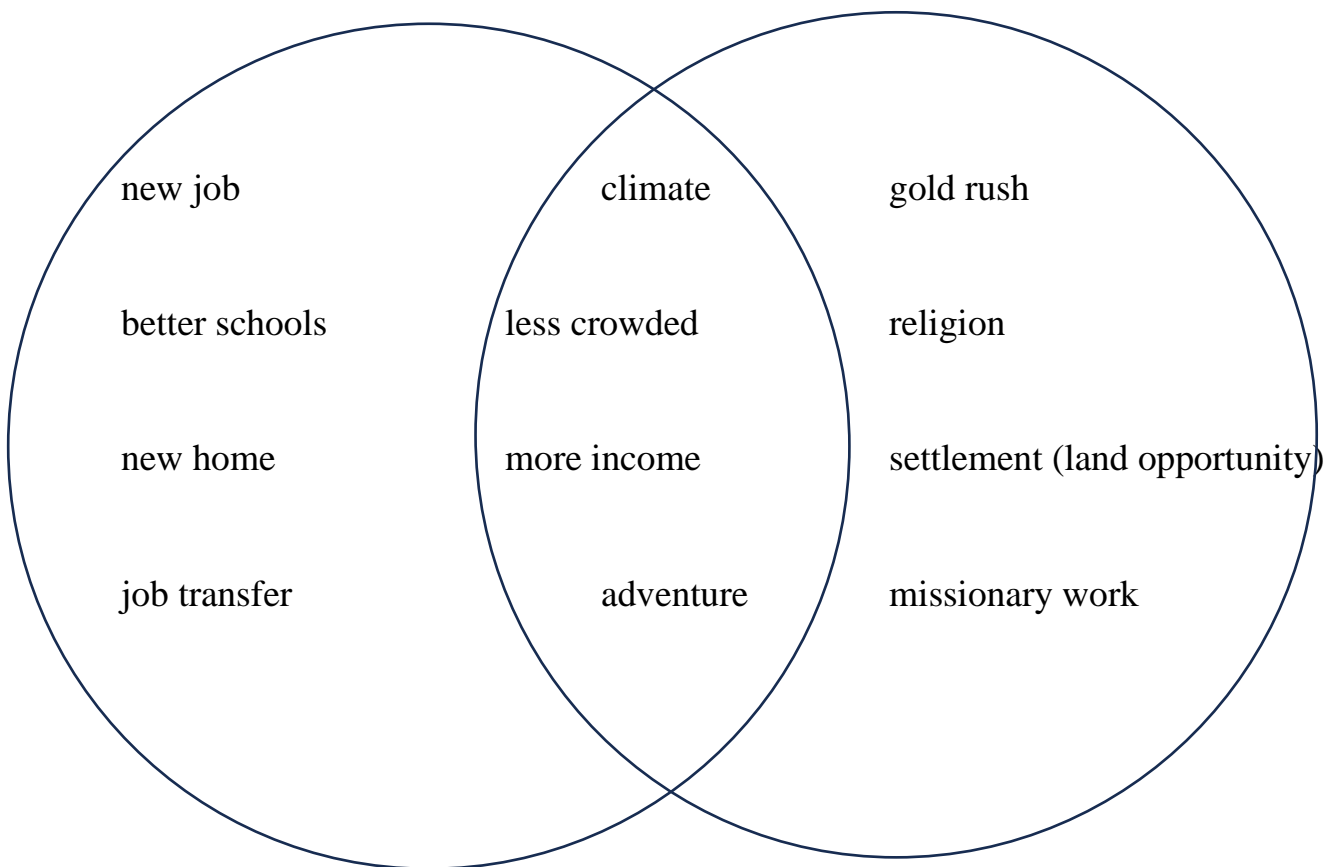
Past



Possible answers

Today

Past



Teacher Notes

1. Change jobs, want a better job, more opportunities
2. Lost property/home because of crop failure, natural disaster, or government bought their land
3. Get to a better climate for health
4. Want adventure—dangerous trip glorified, sounds exciting
5. Look for gold, furs, or free land
6. Home city/country is too crowded or landlocked

Many people in the 1800s are like we are today with the same goals of working for a better life and exciting new opportunities.

Activity: Role Play and Conflict Resolution

Divide the class into small groups. Copy and cut apart the following scenarios and present them to each group. Have each group evaluate the pros and cons of each situation and collectively decide if they should travel the trails based on the information presented. Give each group an opportunity to report their findings.

The year is 1840. We have heard of great opportunities in the fur trade. We have heard of some of the dangers of traveling the trail. We may get sick from drinking bad water. Many people have encountered friendly natives, but some natives are pushing travelers off their land.

Should we go? Why or why not?

The year is 1847. We have thought about going to Oregon where we hear of wide-open spaces and rumors of no sickness. We also hear that it is 2,000 miles away, and we must walk to get there because our wagon will be filled with the supplies, we need for the six-month trip.

Should we go? Why or why not?

The year is 1852. Our family has never traveled very far. We hear about a “paradise” called Oregon where farmland is plentiful, and crops are bountiful. If we go to Oregon, we will have to sell our farm in Illinois and most of our personal belongings. We will say goodbye to our family and friends whom we may never see again.

Should we go? Why or why not?

The year is 1855. The farm crops in Ohio have failed due to the long summer droughts. We hear about the new land opportunities in Kansas. We also hear stories about the difficult journey to Kansas. Bad storms are sometimes encountered on the journey.

Should we go? Why or why not?

Learning about the Santa Fe Trail

The Santa Fe Trail ran through present-day Lenexa. For many years, this trail was used mainly for trading. Prior to 1854, the land in Johnson county was under the ownership of the Shawnee Nation. After the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, settlement was open to all Americans.

Some of the early Euro-American settlers took the trail from Westport through this area in the 1860s. By the mid 1870s, rail travel replaced the need for the trails.

Fur Trade

Furs were among the first items traded, furs were important for use in coats, making hats and other clothing items.

Allow the children to touch the furs in the trunk. Lay the fur on the table: Do not allow the children to remove the fur from the backing.

Please have children wash their hands before touching the furs and other items in the trunk.

Furs in this trunk: red fox and rabbit

Other furs traded in the 1800s: coyote, beaver, raccoon, and muskrat

During the 1800s, which of these furs were most important?

Beaver- was used to make felt hats

Traveling the Trail: Hardships

Inquiry – Put yourself in their shoes!

- 1. What is the furthest distance you have ever walked?**
 - a. Can you imagine walking 10-15 miles every day for about 4-6 months?**

Contrary to popular belief, most of the people walked most of the trails. The wagons were used for supplies. If you were sick, you may have been able to ride in the wagon (on top of the supplies).

- b. What kinds of problems might come up from walking that much?**
- 2. Have you ever slept outside? How would you like to for 4-6 months?**

There were few towns along the trail, and even fewer hotels or inns.

- 3. Have you ever been hunting? How would you like to cook over an open fire every meal? What are some of the challenges of hunting for your food?**

Some dried meats were carried on the wagon, but whenever the chance arose, they would hunt for their food.

Primary Sources to Explore Hardships

“July 2. Passed Independence Rock. This rock is covered with names. With great difficulty I found a place to cut mine. Twelve miles from this is Devil’s Gate. It is an opening in the mountain through which the Sweetwater River flows. Several of us climbed this mountain—somewhat perilous for youngsters not over fourteen. We made our way to the very edge of the cliff and looked down. We could hear the water dashing, splashing, and roaring as if angry at the small space through which it was forced to pass. We were gone so long that the train was stopped and men sent out in search of us. We made all sorts of promises to remain in sight in the future.” *

Sallie Hester- age 14, 1849

“When we reached the first crossing of the stream, all stood aghast. It seemed impossible that any wagon could cross over the rocks, but what could we do? We just had to cross over, so the men mustered up courage and made the attempt. I watched one wagon cross. As many men could get hold of the wagon went into the stream and literally carried the wagon over the rocks. The poor oxen fell down time and again before they reached the other side. Each wagon went through the same trial until all had crossed. It took us the whole day to go four miles.” *

Mary E. Ackley, 1852

Activity: Preparing for the Journey

A successful overland journey required much planning. Before heading west, a family had to sell their home or farm. Many bought guidebooks, which included lists of necessary supplies as well as alerted pioneer families to the routines and hazards of the journey.

As a class or in groups, plan an imaginary trip to some distant location. Have the students create a timeline reflecting planning details for this trip. The following questions will help guide this activity.

- ◆How far in advance should you plan for this trip?
- ◆When will you go on this trip and for how long?
- ◆What special arrangements will need to be worked out for this trip?
- ◆What will be your daily itinerary on this trip?
- ◆What other details should be considered in advance?

Activity: Needs vs. Wants

1. Make a list of items you would take on the journey. Sort those items into needs and wants.

<u>Needs</u>	<u>Wants</u>

Which of your items would have made the cut?

What types of things would you have to leave at home?

Would all your needs make it in the wagon?

Activity: Nutrition on the Trails

The pioneers were extremely limited in the types of food they could carry on their journey. Their diets were unbalanced. Meat, milk, and fresh produce were rare. Have students investigate these foods and discover why they are an important part of a balanced diet.

What specific nourishment do they need?

Show the students the **hardtack** included in the trunk.

More information on hardtack:

<https://www.nps.gov/mana/learn/kidsyouth/hardtack-during-the-civil-war.htm#:~:text=During%20the%20Civil%20War%20one,Manassas%20National%20Battlefield%20Park%20today!>

Activity: Sort the items into categories

Students will explore the artifacts and supplies, a weight limit, and a budget.

Set the items in the trunk out on a table. Let students explore the items.

- ◆What do the items have in common?
- ◆How are they different from many of our items? How are they similar?
- ◆Can the students find a theme in the items?
- ◆What types of items are related to each other? How are they related to each other?

Examples:

Items used to make food. Items used by children.

Butter mold and butter paddle are both used for making butter.

Vocabulary

barter - to pay for goods with other goods or services instead of money; to trade

bison - a wild animal with a shaggy mane and curved horns; another name for bison is the American buffalo

canvas - a strong, heavy cloth of hemp, cotton, or linen

cholera - a deadly disease that spreads quickly, especially in places with poor sanitation

Conestoga wagon - a large freight wagon used for hauling heavy loads, such as on the Santa Fe Trail

emigrant - a person who leaves one region to settle in another

ferry - a boat used to take a person or vehicle across a river or body of water

gold - a precious, yellow, metallic element; something valuable, used in coins and jewelry

Great Plains - the broad, level land that stretches eastward from the base of the Rocky Mountains for about 400 miles in the United States and Canada

hazardous - dangerous or risky

Independence, Missouri - Located near Kansas City, Missouri, it is considered one of the trail heads of the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

Westport, Missouri—developed as a trail head after Independence MO.

journal - a daily record of what happens, such as a diary

pioneer - a person who goes before, opening up the way for others to follow as an early settler or a scientist doing original work

prairie - a large area of level or rolling grassy land with a few trees

prairie schooner - name given to covered wagons used by overland pioneer emigrants on the trails West. They thought the wagons looked like boats, or schooners, sailing across the prairie.

provisions - supplies or materials that are needed

settler - a person who makes a permanent home in a new place

territory - a large division of a country that does not have the full rights of a state; any large stretch of land

PACKING THE WAGON FOR OREGON

An average covered wagon measured four feet wide and twelve feet long. Necessary cargo must be packed inside this space for the five to six month trip to Oregon, covering approximately 2,000 miles.

Pioneer Family Name: _____

What we must take to Oregon City in 1849:

(Helpful hints - necessities, protection, survival.)

What we would like to take to Oregon City in 1849:

(Helpful hints - luxuries, comfort, memories.)

(Continue lists on a separate sheet of paper.)

(copy/cut)

EXPLORATION AND ENRICHMENT

Supplies were sometimes available on the trail. Fort Laramie National Historic Site, which was located near the base of the Rocky Mountains, was established as a fur trading post, but evolved into a place where westward bound pioneers rested and resupplied. For contact information see page 26 in the Appendix.



CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

Use the following questions to stimulate a class discussion:

- ◆ With a full wagon, how would the family travel to Oregon?
- ◆ How might the wagon be packed?
- ◆ Will we be able to get the wagon and its load over the mountains?

Resources

American West Photographs

https://www.archives.gov/research/american-west?_ga=2.51108320.871914326.1720618521-1851597873.1719346675

National Historic Trails

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-historic-trails.htm>

KS Tourism

<https://www.travelks.com/things-to-do/history-and-culture/forts-and-trails/>