

# Road Trip...to the West!



For this project you will be assuming the role of a traveler heading West in the 1800's. Follow the steps below for your project. The goal of this project is to learn about a specific group of people traveling westward, their travels, experiences, problems, and lifestyles.

**Step 1: Pick your travel companions.** There were many groups who traveled west during the early to mid 1800's. You should choose a group that you are traveling with out of the various groups listed below. Choose one of the options below and circle it.

1. Pioneer man/woman traveling to Oregon Country on the Oregon Trail.
2. A member of the Louis and Clark exploration to Oregon.
3. A fur trapper or traveling west in search of game to trade.
4. A forty-niner who traveled to California for the gold rush.
5. A Cherokee traveling on the trail of tears to Indian Territory.

**Step 2: Research your travels.** You will spend one day in-class in the library researching your group and their travels. Be sure to document the path they took as well as any struggles/experiences they had. This is time to collect what you need to put your project together.

**Step 3: Chart your course on your map.**

You will create a map that includes all of the following plus anything else that is important to your travels west.

1. A legend and a title. Also, label your map.
2. Geographical landforms like mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.
3. "Jumping-off" locations...these are locations where you choose to break and stay awhile to either wait out poor weather or illness.
4. The course you took westward. This includes your starting point and end point.

**Step 4: Travel time and rate.** Calculate your rate of travel and the total time it will take for you to travel to your destination. You will calculate the time it takes to travel based on your transportation means. So are you walking, on a wagon, or on a mule, etc. This speed will be your **RATE of TRAVEL!** You also need to figure in rest breaks, eating breaks, jump-off breaks, etc to come up with your **TOTAL TIME** it will take to travel there.

**Step 5: Start your journal.** This can either be hand-written to look like it is from the actual trail or you may type it. You need minimally **20 entries** over the course of your journey. This journal tells your stories of triumph, people you met along the way, losses, struggles, weather, stories, etc. Your journal will help make your travels come alive!

Lastly, you may also wish to include drawings, pictures, artifacts, etc. Anything you feel will help your overall project or best illustrate your experiences moving west!

Your project is due on **March 13<sup>th</sup>**