



Accommodation on the National Road

Accommodations along the National Road varied depending upon how a person traveled and the traveler's needs. The wagoners and animal drovers stopped at taverns that catered to them called wagon stands. The stagecoaches stopped at stagecoach taverns.

There was a wagon stand every 2 to 5 miles along the National Road. These stands provided large enclosures for the drover's livestock and level yards for the wagons staying overnight. At the end of the day drovers penned their animals and bought feed for them. Each evening the wagon horses were unharnessed, groomed, and fed. The feed trough was unhooked from the back of the wagon. It was attached to the long pole that extended forward from the front axle to which the horses were harnessed when pulling the wagon. This was called the wagon's tongue. The wagoner bought grain and hay for the horses and tied them to the feed trough for the night. Inside, the taverns served inexpensive meals and drinks. The wagoners and drovers liked to stop at taverns that had fiddlers so they could enjoy a "hoe-down" before going to bed. At wagon stands the wagoners slept on the barroom floor with their feet to the fire or outside if the weather was nice. They carried their own blankets and quilts with them.

Like wagon stands, the stagecoach taverns served many functions. The stagecoach horse teams were changed every 12 to 15 miles at taverns. The teams were kept at specific taverns associated with individual stagecoach lines. In the tavern's barn the stagecoach horses were fed, groomed, and stabled. Some taverns even had a blacksmith shop where horses could be shod.

For the passengers, the stagecoach taverns provided food and lodging.

Stagecoach drivers approaching a tavern blew their coachman's horn to announce their arrival. If the stagecoach was scheduled for a meal stop, the passengers disembarked, freshened up if they chose, and waited until the meal was served. Men congregated in the barroom to drink, chat, and read the newspaper. Women who cherished their reputations stayed away from the barroom. They gathered in the parlor with the children to read, rest, and talk.

With the ringing of the dinner bell, guests quickly moved to the dining room. All the diners sat together at big long tables. Although there was no menu, there were plenty of choices. Everything from the soup to the dessert was already on the table. Guests ate very quickly. Sometimes they were finished in 10 to 12 minutes. The long tables and quick eating discouraged conversation. Europeans found this rude and commented on the diners being "mute at the table" and eating with "astonishing rapidity." Breakfast was the main meal. The noontime meal, called dinner, was another big meal and often included leftovers from breakfast. Supper, the evening meal, was often served cold. Meals usually cost 25 cents.

Stagecoach taverns also provided lodging. If a traveler stayed for the night, he or she might socialize in the barroom or parlor before retiring for the evening.



Accommodation on the National Road

Purchasing a night's stay meant paying for a place to sleep on a bed or pallet. Men and boys slept in rooms separate from women, girls, and small children. The cost was generally 25 cents per person. Each room contained two or more double beds. Two adults were expected to share a double bed. For privacy and security of personal possessions, travelers usually slept with most of their clothes on.

Frequently the stagecoaches left the tavern before daybreak. Travelers were roused and

loaded on to the stagecoach. They would travel for a couple of hours before stopping to eat breakfast.

Many travelers opted to ride the stagecoach around the clock until they reached their destination. They tried to sleep as the galloping horses carried them forward.

The stagecoach taverns were fancier and more expensive than the wagon stands.

Additional Information

1. The following **Biography Cards** provide additional information:
 - James Sampey
 - Rebecca Sampey
2. The following **Occupation Cards** provide additional information:
 - Stagecoach Tavern Keeper
 - Stagecoach Tavern Keeper's Wife
3. The following **Historic Site Card** provides additional information:
 - Mount Washington Tavern

Supplemental Activities

1. Have students bring a snack from home, or provide one that comes from the list of foods offered at National Road taverns. Read a story about the National Road from one of the sources listed in the bibliography while the students eat their "National Road Food."
2. Provide a checker board and checkers for students to play (tavern entertainment).



Student Reading: Meals and Places to Stay Along the National Road

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **Meals and Places to Stay Along the National Road**.

Objectives

After reading the student reading and answering the thought questions, students will be able to

- List two things a person could buy at a tavern.
- List two differences between a wagon tavern and a stagecoach tavern.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 A
- 8.2.3 C

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.3.3 B



Procedures

1. Make a copy of the reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students read and answer the thought questions.
3. Discuss the thought questions.

Thought Question Answers

- Many answers would be correct.
- Any games that use electricity, electronics, or batteries.

Meals and Places to Stay Along the National Road



Have you ever taken a trip and had to spend a night away from home? People who traveled the National Road needed places to sleep and eat. So taverns were built to serve the travelers.

Drovers and wagoners stopped at wagon taverns. These taverns had pens for the drovers' animals and a flat area for parking the wagons. The tavern sold feed for the horses and other animals. Inside the tavern, the drovers and wagoners were served meals and drinks. The men carried their own blankets and quilts. Each night they would use them to sleep on the tavern floor in front of the fireplace.

Stagecoaches taverns were fancier and more expensive. The stagecoach driver blew his coachman's horn before he got to the tavern so the tavern keeper could be ready for the guests. Often, tired travelers stopped only to eat. Most taverns had long dining room tables. There was no menu. All the food was put on the table before the travelers



Meals and Places to Stay Along the National Road

came in, even the desserts. When everything was ready, the door to the dining room was opened and the travelers sat down. They served themselves and ate as much as they liked. They ate very quickly. Soon they were back on the stagecoach. Meals cost about 25 cents for each person.

There were two rooms where a traveler could rest. Men relaxed in the barroom. The barroom sold drinks. Men talked, read, and played games in the barroom. Generally, women and children did not go in the barroom. The parlor was like a living room. That is where the women and children relaxed.

The stagecoach taverns also had rooms for people to stay overnight. Men and boys slept in some rooms, and women and girls slept in others. The rooms had several beds, and two people shared each bed. There was not a lot of privacy. Usually travelers slept with most of their clothes on. People paid about 25 cents for each night they stayed at a stagecoach tavern.

Many mornings the stagecoach left before daybreak to travel for another day. The passengers would travel for a couple of hours before they stopped for breakfast.



Thought Questions:

1. Write two things you would like or not like about eating or staying at a National Road tavern.
2. The National Road taverns did not have electricity. List two games we have today that the travelers did not have.



Student Activity: Food Along the National Road

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **Food Along the National Road**.

Objectives

After completing the student activity, the students will be able to

- List five foods that were served at National Road taverns.
- List three foods that we eat today that were not served.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 A

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.1.3 C



Procedures

1. Copy reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students follow the directions.

Activity Answers

- Any 10 would be fine. Travelers often mentioned the large amounts of food, and it probably would not have been unusual to have more than 10 dishes served at breakfast and dinner.
- Any two.
- Some foods that were not eaten: cold breakfast cereals, anything with tomatoes (pizza, spaghetti), anything frozen (ice cream, popsicles), hamburgers, hot dogs, Mexican foods, Chinese foods, tropical fruits (citrus, pineapples, bananas), yogurt, soda, juice.

Food Along the National Road

The tavern staff spent many hours preparing large amounts of food for the hungry guests. They needed to start early in the morning. There were no electric stoves or microwaves. Food had to be cooked using the heat from fireplaces or cast-iron cooking stoves.

Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. Pretend you are a tavern keeper in the 1840s along the National Road. Using the following list of food often served in taverns, decide what you would serve to your guests for breakfast or dinner. Circle 10 or more choices below.

ham	corn cakes	cabbage	pudding
beef	bread	turnips	maple syrup
turkey	oatmeal	squash	ginger bread
sausage	waffles	pumpkin	nuts
bacon	biscuits	sauerkraut	raisins
chicken	potatoes	baked beans	fruit pie
stew	peas	apples	coffee
fish	carrots	berries	milk
eggs	corn	peaches	tea
cheese	beans	preserves	cider
butter	beets	pickles	
buckwheat cakes	onions	cake	



Food Along the National Road

2. Are some of your favorite foods on this list? List two or more.

3. What foods do we eat today that are not on this list? List three or more.



Student Activity: Objects Now and Then

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **Objects Now and Then**.

Objectives

After completing the student activity, the students will be able to

- List three objects that travelers used on the National Road.
- Explain how the objects were used.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 A
- 8.1.3 B

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.4.3 G



Procedures

1. Copy reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students follow the directions.

Activity Answers

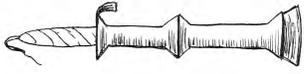
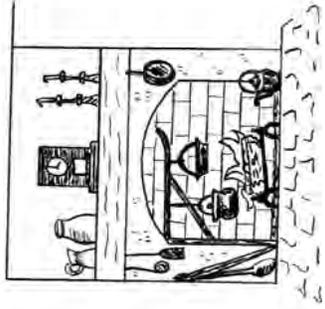
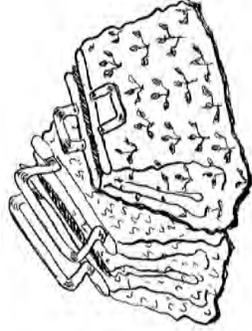
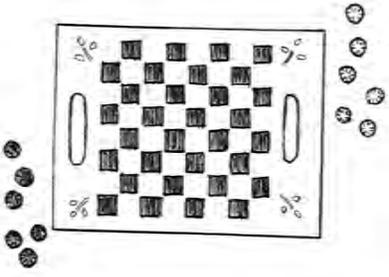
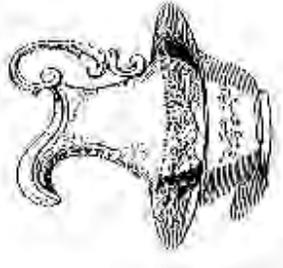
- Candle, light, lamps/flashlights.
- Carpet bag, carry possessions, luggage/backpacks.
- Checkers, amusement, TV/computer games/swimming pools.
- Fireplace, warmth/cooking, heater/stove/oven/microwave.
- Quill pen/ink well, writing, pens/pencils/computer printers.
- Wash basin and pitcher, washing hands and face, sinks and faucets/shower.



Objects Now and Then

When people travel today, they often stay at hotels or motels and eat in restaurants. Many travelers on the National Road in the early 1800s stayed at taverns where they could sleep and eat.

All of the objects below were used by National Road travelers to help make their trip and tavern stay more enjoyable.





Objects Now and Then

Directions: Write the following three things under each picture.

1. Write the name of the objects. Use the Objects Glossary for help.
2. Write what the object was used for.
3. Write the name of one object we use today that serves the same purpose as the object above.

Candle

Checkers

Quill pen and ink well

Carpet bag

Fireplace

Wash basin and pitcher



Objects Glossary

Candle: A cylinder shaped object made of fat or wax with a wick through its center, which gives light when it is burned.

Carpet bag: A bag made from carpet or rug used by travelers on stagecoaches to carry clothes and belongings.

Checkers: A game played on a checkerboard by two players, each with 12 pieces to move.

Fireplace: A place for a fire, especially an open place, built in a wall, at the base of a chimney.

Quill pen and ink well: A writing tool made from a feather. The quill of the feather was sharpened, dipped in ink, and used for writing.

Wash basin and pitcher: A wash basin is a large bowl used to hold water for washing face and hands. The water is poured from a pitcher.