



1

Begin by moving to the statue of Thomas Jefferson at the entrance to the museum. Jefferson was a man of vision. Follow his gaze to the back of the museum. We see his eyes fixed on the mural of the Pacific Ocean, imagining the day the United States would stretch from sea to sea. To learn more let's begin.



Look to the ceiling and write the numbers you see on the first ring of the ceiling and the last ring of the ceiling. 1800 1900. How many years does the museum cover?

**100 years**

Find the wooden map near the beginning of the American Indian Wall. When President Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France, the American Indians were already living there and had for thousands of years. These native people had a very different view of the land. Read Tecumseh's quote on the Indians Wall which begins "Sell a Country!"

What do you think Tecumseh meant? Do you agree? Why or Why not?

*Sell a country! why not sell the great air, the great sea, as well as the earth. did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?*

**Tecumseh's quote was in response to the Treaty of Greenville which ended the Northwest Indian War. The treaty was signed on August 3, 1795, between a coalition of Native American leaders and the United States. The Native Americans turned over to the United States large parts of the old Northwest (modern-day Ohio) in exchange for goods such as blankets, utensils, and domestic animals, valued at \$20,000.**

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2

Next, move to the large white map of the United States on the far left side of the museum. The bright red line represents Lewis and Clark's journey to the Pacific and the dark red line represents the return trip. What river did they follow for the greatest part of their journey?

### The Missouri River

To the right of the map is a list of participants in the Lewis and Clark expedition. How many traveled with Lewis and Clark to the Pacific?

**33 traveled to the Pacific including Lewis and Clark + Seaman the dog**



Lewis and Clark set the stage for further exploration of the west. Turn back to the Explorers' Wall and find two other nineteenth century explorers of the west. Write their names below.

**John C. Fremont, Stephen Long, JW Powell, Thomas Moran, Zebulon Pike, Clarence King**

List three skills or qualities you think a nineteenth century explorer had to have.

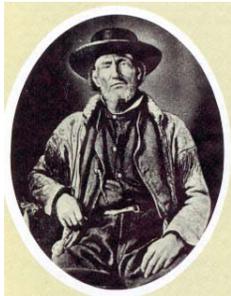
**courage, hard worker, independence, survivor, hunting skills, outdoorsman, etc.**

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3 After the earliest explorers returned, they told stories of the tremendous resources found in the west. Follow the 1820 ring on the ceiling. The first wall you come to will be the Mountain Men Wall. These men headed west in search of furs. One animal in particular was highly valued at the time. The fur of that animal is stretched on a frame and hanging on the wall. What kind of animal is it?

**beaver**

Name some of the tools you think a mountain man may have used for his job.



**trap, knife, bait, awl,**

The Mountain Men learned to work and live among the Native Americans and both grew to respect each other. Unfortunately those good feelings would not last forever.

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4 Move to the back of the museum. To the right of the beaver exhibit is another popular animal exhibit. What animal is it?

**buffalo**

The American buffalo or bison was essential to the Plains Indian life. They used every part of the animal for something and wasted nothing. The most obvious part used was the skin. List some items you think they would have made out of buffalo skin

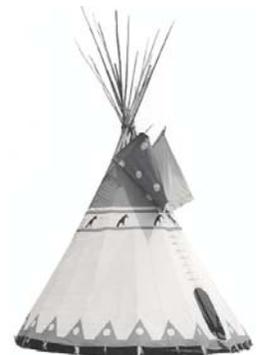
**tipis, clothes, shoes, bags, blankets - tanned skin  
bowls, shields, (rawhide)**

5 Did you include a house or tipi in your list? Move to the center of the museum and find the Plains Indian tipi. This tipi is made of nine buffalo skins. The opening and flaps at the top of the tipi serve an important purpose, what is it?

**The flaps, when open, allow smoke out. The flaps can be adjusted so the wind coming from behind creates a vacuum and pulls the smoke up and out.**

Without touching look inside the tipi and list some of the items you see.

**furs, back rest, clothing, doll, kettle, shield, etc.**





Take time to study the Indian Wall. Look at the faces and read some of the quotes. What can you say about their situation? Use the space below to record your thoughts.

**Photos which appear on the Indian Wall: Young Red Cloud, Old Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Chief Joseph, Ghost Dance, Baby in a Cradleboard, Indian Burial, Navajo Indians on Horseback, Indian Encampment, Tipi Lodging, Sioux Pictograph of Battle**

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6

As news of the west grew, it attracted more explorers, trappers, and pioneers. To maintain order in the west the U.S. Government built forts and stationed soldiers on the western frontier. Find the Soldiers' Wall beginning between the 1850 and 1860 rings. Find one of the images on the Soldier's Wall, describe it and what you think it represents.

**Photos which appear on the Soldiers' Wall: Cavalry Troops, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Gen. William T. Sherman, Treaty at Fort Laramie, Salped Hunter, Gen George Custer, Gatling Gun Battery, Fort Garlans Family at Christmas, General Custer's Black Hills Expedition, Infantry in Buffalo Coats, Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Snelling, Mrs. LT. G. Gale, Lieutenant G. Gale, Return of Scouts from Battle of Wounded Knee, Wounded Knee Inspection, A Young Trooper on Horseback**

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7

People living east of the Appalachian Mountains began streaming west as early as the 1840s. These early pioneers were interested in the far west, land that would eventually become Oregon and California. At first they were drawn to the far west for its fertile farm ground. By 1849, reports from California brought people out in search of

**gold**



As families traveled west they often passed through St. Louis. Find the St. Louis Levee exhibit under the 1840 ring. What are some of the items you see sitting on the levee? Consider both the exhibit and the large photo.

**barrels, chairs, wooden crates & can goods, wooden crates & whiskey, wrapped packages, horse and wagon, steamboats, etc.**

What sounds do you think you would you hear on the nineteenth century riverfront?

**horses, steamboat whistles, loud voices, singing, music, dogs, etc.**

8

Continue through the museum along the 1850 ring walking in front of the tipi. This stretch of the museum is entitled, The Way West. It symbolizes the thousands of pioneer families that left established homes and loved ones for a better life in the far west. You will find the following quote on one of the mirrored panels in The Way West area. Read the quote.

How do you think William Johnston, Overlander, was feeling when he wrote it. Record your thoughts in the space below.

*I...turning about in my saddle took a farewell look in the direction from which we came, conscious of having reached the dividing line between the east and the west.*

William Johnston, Overlander

**Some examples: excited, overwhelmed, scared, adventurous, challenged, eager**

9

Continue along The Way West until you see the overland wagon. Take a minute to walk around the wagon. Think about what it was like to pack up your home and travel 2000 miles to an unfamiliar place where you would start a new life? What items do you think a pioneer family would have packed in their wagon? Include supplies they would need along the way, as well as things they would need to settle into a new home?



**extra clothing, dry and non-perishable food supplies, carpentry tools, guns & ammunition, cooking utensils, oxen, fresh water, seeds, household items**

The trip often took six months, from early spring to early fall. Teams of oxen pulled the wagons which were filled to the top with supplies for travel and homesteading. Rather than ride in the bumpy, crowded wagon, people walked across the prairies and the mountains. What other difficulties do you think the pioneers faced on the trail? List them below.

**flooded rivers, drought, mud, extreme weather, broken wheels and wagons, sickness, buffalo herds, boredom, accidents, lost children**

Between the 1840's and 1860's it is estimated that more than 300,000 people traveled the Oregon and California Trails in hopes of a better life. It was the coming of the Civil War (1861-1865) put a halt to expansion in the west.

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10

Soon after the war, came the rise of the cattle industry. Find the Longhorn exhibit on the far side of the covered wagon, at the 1880 ring. Longhorn steers were left in the southwest by early Spanish explorers. By the nineteenth century their numbers increased greatly and they became an excellent resource for meat hungry Americans. The job of the cowboys was to move the cattle from the southwest to the midwestern railheads where they could be shipped north and east.



Why do you think the era of the cowboys and trail drives was so short lived, from 1865 through 1890? Write your answer below.

**The first transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869, connected Omaha, Nebraska with Sacramento, California. By linking with the existing railway network of the Eastern United States, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts were connected by rail for the first time. Over the next 20 years, rail lines stretched south, eliminating the need for the trail drive.**

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11

The last area of the United States to be settled was the Great Plains. Early explorers and settlers crossed the Plains and were not impressed. They named it the Great American Desert, because of its lack of trees and water. Try to name at least three states in the Great Plains region.

**North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas**

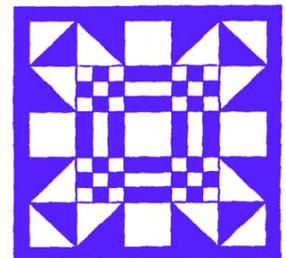
Find the sod house exhibit between the 1870 and 1890 rings. Study the house. In your own words write a definition for a sod house

**The prairie lacked standard building materials such as wood or stone; however, sod from thickly-rooted prairie grass was abundant.[1] Prairie grass had a much thicker, tougher root structure than modern landscaping grass. Construction of a sod house involved cutting patches of sod in rectangles, often 2'x1'x6" (600x300x150mm) long, and piling them into walls.**

Why do you think the homesteaders of the Great Plains built their homes of sod? (Hint: Why did Inuits build their homes of ice?)

**As mentioned above, the prairie lacked trees and wood for construction.**

Look at the small photos of sod buildings on both sides of the Farmers' Wall. Use the space below to sketch or describe your favorite photo and tell what you like about it.



**Photos on the Farmers' Wall include: Many families posed standing in front of their sod houses and pictures of farming in progress. Most of the pictures taken by nineteenth century photopographer, Solomon Butcher who specialized in documenting the nineteenth century Great Plains region.**

If you had a chance to go back in time and visit with someone your age who went to school in a sod school house, what three questions would you ask them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

12

Move to the front of the museum, near the Appaloosa horse) to complete your scavenger hunt and wait for instructions from your leader. Consider the following questions.

This scavenger hunt provided highlights of America's nineteenth century westward movement. Which exhibit/story did you enjoy the most and why?

Do you think you would have made a good nineteenth century pioneer? Why or why not?

The Gateway Arch and this museum are taken care of by the National Park Service. The purpose of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect special places and stories from our country's past. Do you believe it's important for people to know their history? Why or why not?

Thank you for participating!