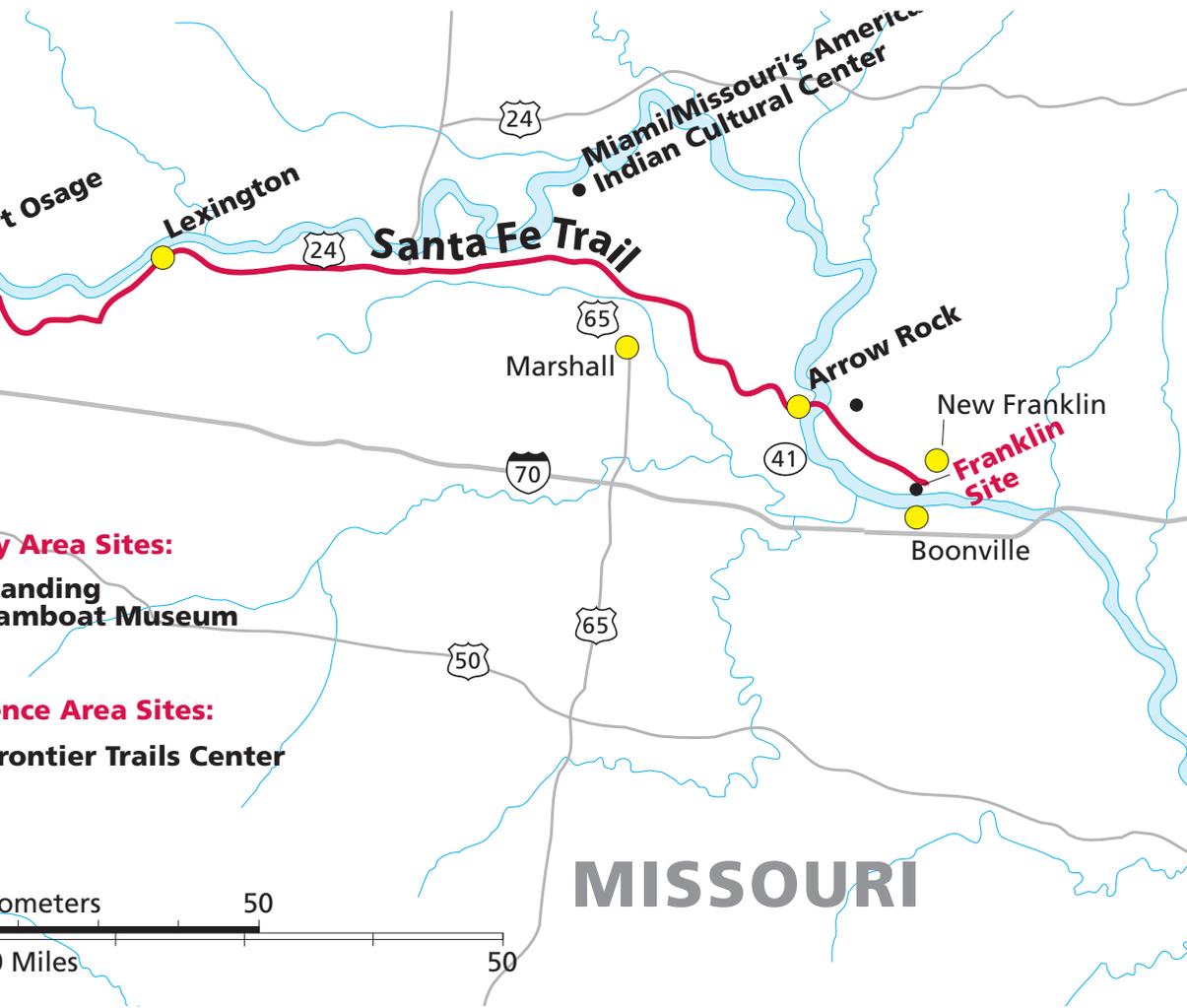


The Eastern Terminus





.....OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL.....

SINCE 1542 THE SPANISH HAD claimed most of North and South America. Many of these new lands were rich in gold and silver, which the Spanish mined and sent back to Spain. The Spanish kept tight control over all trade, refusing to let non-Spanish traders sell to the villagers. The Spanish brought trade caravans to these far away villages once every two or three years. A few Americans did attempt to sell items in Santa Fe, only to end up in a Spanish jail.

Missouri was the furthest west territory of the United States. Most of its population was located in and around St. Louis. However, more and more people had been moving up the Missouri River. The largest settlement was Franklin, Missouri, two hundred miles west of St. Louis. In 1817, the first steamboat made its way up the Missouri

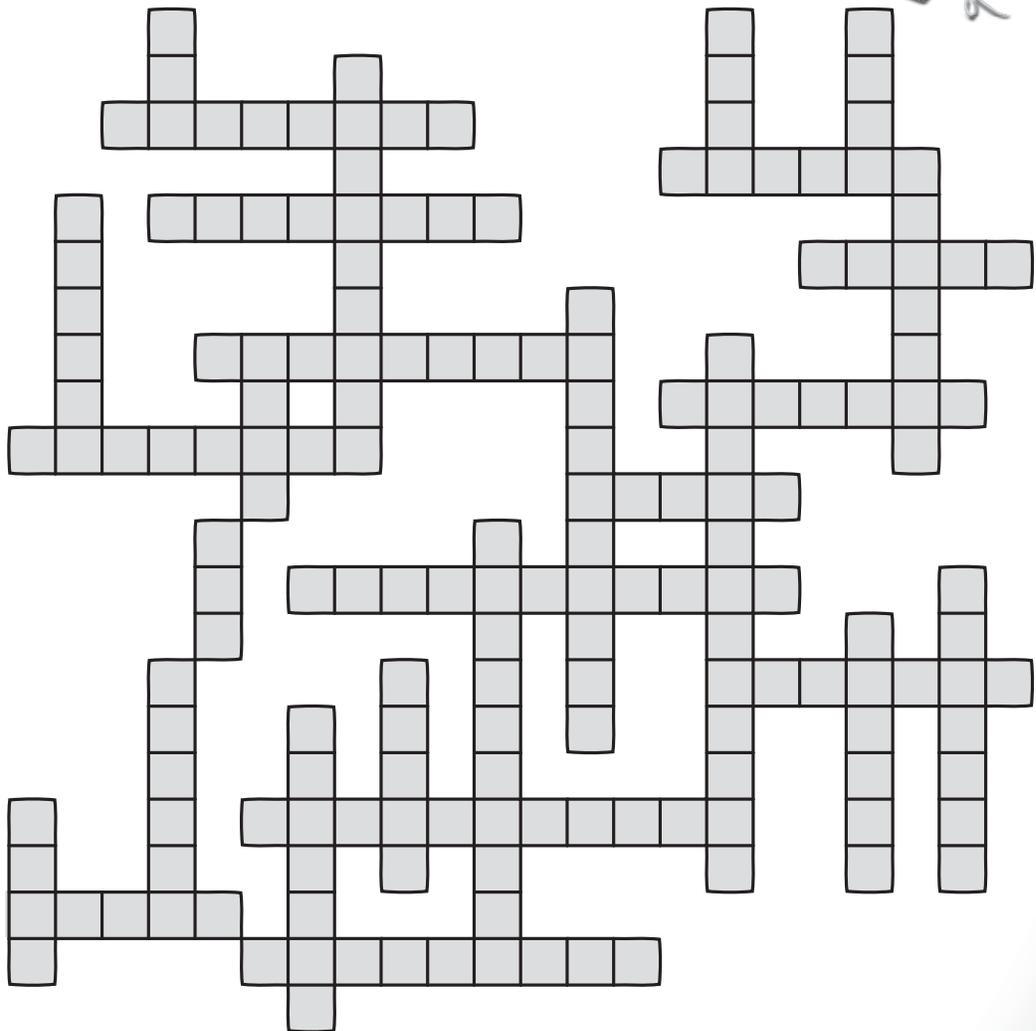
River as far as Franklin. Life in this area of Missouri was not easy because a great depression affected the whole nation. Farmers and merchants alike were deeply in debt.

The year 1821 brought great changes. Missouri became part of the United States. Mexico achieved its freedom from Spain. **William Becknell**, one of these Missourians who was in debt, recognized the opportunity for trade and struck it rich selling goods to the villagers of Santa Fe. He found routes to Santa Fe that others soon followed. Because of his courage and his independent spirit, William Becknell became known as “The Father of the Santa Fe Trail,” a trail that would change the way of life not only for the citizens of Santa Fe, but also for the people of United States and for the peoples of many tribes of American Indians.

WAGON MASTER

CHALLENGE

Complete the puzzle using the word bank below. Spaces are left out of two-word terms.



- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3 LETTERS | 4 LETTERS | 5 LETTERS | 6 LETTERS | 7 LETTERS | 8 LETTERS | 9 LETTERS | 10 LETTERS | 11 LETTERS |
| keg | yoke | nails | Larned | caravan | soldiers | greenhorn | wagon train | wagon master |
| axe | oxen | cloth | knives | traders | landmark | conestoga | blacksmith | wheelwright |
| | camp | mules | tongue | buffalo | Becknell | teamsters | | 12 LETTERS |
| | span | bacon | calico | prairie | | | | bullwhackers |
| | | | | shovels | | | | |

WAGON MASTER

C · H · A · L · L · E · N · G · E

On this map of the Santa Fe Trail, label

- ▶ the states through which the Trail passed
- ▶ Label the jumping off points of Franklin and Santa Fe

Which state had the most trail mileage in it?

Which state had the least trail mileage?





OLD FRANKLIN & NEW FRANKLIN

MISSOURI



To OLD FRANKLIN: Leave I-70 at exit 101, Boonville, Missouri. Drive north through the center of town, and cross the Missouri River. You are on US 40. Just north of the bridge, MO 87 intersects from the west. Go west ¼ mile on MO 87 to a small park that is the site of the Old Franklin terminal for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad ("Katy"). Here you will find a marker. **Continue to NEW FRANKLIN:** Return to the intersection of MO 87 and US 40; turn left (north toward New Franklin). Turn left on MO 5. It intersects with Broadway, turn right and proceed ½ block to the intersection of Missouri Street and East Broadway. Here you will find a plaque designating the relocation of the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail.

In 1821, Missourian **William Becknell** must have heard rumors that Mexico had gotten its independence from Spain. He came up with a plan to get rich and get himself out of debt. He placed an ad in the Franklin newspaper, the *Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser*, looking for men to join him in search of "wild horses." It seems obvious today that Becknell didn't really want to catch wild horses, but rather he planned to go across unknown lands to Santa Fe—a trip of 900 miles. Once there, he planned to sell highly-prized trade goods to the people.

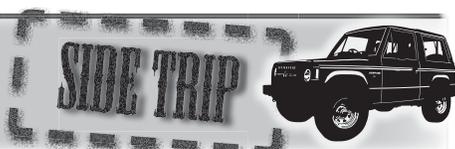
Becknell's plan worked out. He became the first American trader to successfully take goods to Santa Fe and return with a profit. His trip from Franklin, Missouri, opened the important **international** trade route. That is how Franklin

became the birthplace of the Santa Fe Trail and its first **jumping-off** point. That is also how William Becknell became known as "The Father of the Santa Fe Trail."

The trail was traveled for more than 60 years.

A few years after Becknell's first trip, the town of Franklin was destroyed by a flood and the townspeople moved to higher ground. Their new town was called New Franklin. The few remains of the original town were referred to as Old Franklin. The jumping-off point of the Trail continued to move further west as steamboats made their way up the Missouri River. Soon Boonville, with its steamboat landing, would become the starting place. The landing made it easier to take cargo off the steamboats coming from St. Louis and place it in freight wagons bound for Santa Fe.

Boonville Steamboat Landing: **see Page 30**



READING BETWEEN THE LINES: OLD FRANKLIN

You are standing near the site of the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail. The town of Franklin was the birthplace of the Trail. However Old Franklin doesn't exist today because of a flood.

Locate the stone plaque (marker) that describes the *Missouri Intelligencer* newspaper. This newspaper was the first to be printed west of St. Louis. It was in this newspaper that **William Becknell** advertised for a company of men to join him on a trip to round up wild horses and mules. This actually became a trading trip to Santa Fe. Because of this first successful trading trip, Becknell is called the "Father of the Santa Fe Trail."

After reading the plaque answer these questions:

1. How many feet west of this mark was the newspaper office? _____

2. The office was in what town? _____

3. A newspaper was published here. What was its name? _____

4. The first issue was printed _____

5. Why is the newspaper important to the history of the Santa Fe Trail? _____



ARROW ROCK

MISSOURI



Going west on I-70 from Boonville, Missouri, exit at Arrow Rock/MO 41. Turn north on MO 41 and proceed 12 miles to Arrow Rock. You will be approaching Arrow Rock from the south. Continue past Big Soldier Lake Road and turn right on the next road, which is Visitor Center Drive. Park your car in the Arrow Rock Historic Site Visitor Center parking lot and enjoy a walking tour of the town.

4th Street, Arrow Rock, Missouri 65320

660-837-3330

IN 1821, WILLIAM BECKNELL LEFT Franklin on his first trip to Santa Fe. He crossed the Missouri River by ferry and arrived at a landing below the tall **bluff** overlooking the river. The traders then climbed the bluff and filled their water barrels at the spring. The next day they headed overland following the **Osage Trace** through the Prairie of the Arrows. Although Becknell said he was hunting wild horses, he had brought trade items to sell. These were manufactured cloth such as muslin, broadcloth, calico, and linen. He may have also included buttons, buckles, razors, hoes, shovels, axes, and other tools. The villagers of Santa Fe yearned for these manufactured goods and were willing to trade silver pesos for the products.

The landmark in the Missouri River that guided Becknell to this place was called “**Rock of the Arrows.**” The Osage and other Indian tribes of the area used the **fragments** of the large flint rock to make their arrowheads and other tools. Eight years after Becknell’s first trip to Santa Fe, a town was started on the bluff south of the Arrow Rock

Ferry. The town got its name, Arrow Rock, from the landmark. Many freighters traveled through Arrow Rock on their way to Santa Fe.

As you walk down Main Street of Arrow Rock you can see its stone gutters. These were built by slaves. Prior to the Civil War many slaves lived on plantations and farms in this area. In Old Franklin, in a gutter that looked like this one, Becknell supposedly showed off how much money he made on his trade trip by slitting open bags of Mexican silver coins and letting them fall into the stone gutters. Whether the story is true or not, it became clear that a lot of money could be made on the Santa Fe Trail.

There are many interesting places to visit in Arrow Rock. In fact, the entire town has been named a National Historic Landmark. One of the most familiar landmarks in Arrow Rock is the Huston Tavern which was owned by Joseph Huston. In trail days many well-known travelers stopped here.

Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site:
see Page 29



STONES AND STORIES

As you walk down the main street of Arrow Rock look for the stones that are shown in this picture.



1. What is this? _____

2. What was its purpose? _____

3. When was it made? _____

4. Who did the work? _____

5. According to the **legend** William Becknell cut open leather bags filled with silver and let them drop into the stone gutters of Arrow Rock. Name two reasons this legend does not fit the town of Arrow Rock.

6. In what town did this probably happen? _____



MISSOURI'S AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

MIAMI, MISSOURI



From I-70 turn north at the Marshall, Missouri, exit 78B onto Hwy 41, continue to the intersection of Hwy 41 and MO 122, turn west (left).

Van Meter State Park
32146 N. Hwy. 122
Miami, Missouri 65344
660-886-7537

THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE Santa Fe Trail passed through the hunting grounds and homelands of many American Indians. Nine separate groups lived throughout this portion of the Trail. They are the Otoe-Missouria, Osage, Delaware, Iowa, Illini-Peoria, Kanza, Kickapoo, Sac and Fox, and Shawnee. They hunted throughout the land, planted their crops along the rivers, and built their homes of native materials. Ancestors of these people had lived here for centuries before the arrival of European explorers and American traders. The first mapping of this area took place nearly 150 years before the Santa Fe Trail.



By the trail era, not all of these tribes still lived here. The Osage was the largest group of people in this part of Missouri in trail times. In fact, portions of the Santa Fe Trail actually follow the **Osage Trace**. This was a hunting trail that the people used to get to the buffalo lands to the West. As the number of traders crossing Osage lands increased, conflict between traders and Indians increased. One example is conflict over the theft of horses. In the Cultural Center, the displays interpret Missouri's Indian history. The park also has burial mounds from these ancient people.

LEGENDARY HISTORIES

As you view the exhibits in the museum find the section that tells **legends** of the American Indian tribes in the region. One of these legends is from the Kansa (Kaw) who lived in this area during the time of Lewis and Clark in 1804. Eventually this tribe was moved further west by the U. S. Government as settlers moved into this region in Missouri. During the time of the Santa Fe Trail, the Kaw Indians were living on a reservation near Council Grove, Kansas.

1

Listen to the legend of the Kansa (Kaw) Indians. What part of the proud bird became the nagging wife?

2

List the nine American Indian tribes featured in this museum. Circle the ones that were impacted by the Santa Fe Trail.

Hint: If you need help answering this question ask museum personnel when these tribes were removed from this area and where they went. Remember the beginning date of the Santa Fe Trail and the lands through which it passed.

a. _____

d. _____

g. _____

b. _____

e. _____

h. _____

c. _____

f. _____

i. _____



BATTLE OF LEXINGTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

LEXINGTON, MISSOURI



From I-70 go north at exit 41, take MO Hwy O to Lexington. Continue north on 13th Street; the Lexington site, on Delaware, is on the left.

1101 Delaware, Lexington, Missouri 64067
(660) 259-4654

LARGE COMPANIES SOON BEGAN SUPPLYING the goods for wagons that traveled the Santa Fe Trail. One of these trading companies was formed by the Aull Brothers. Their first large warehouse was here at Lexington. They soon had stores in many locations and became the first chain store in Missouri. (Walmart is an example of a modern day chain store.) By 1847, they had even opened a store as far south as Chihuahua, Mexico.

The Lexington steamboat **wharf** was a center of activity as steamboats arrived carrying goods from factories on the east coast, as well as foreign items from Europe, all bound for Santa Fe. In the 1850s, Lexington was headquarters for a large freighting firm—Russell, Majors, and Waddell. The freighting business won the government contracts to provide the man-power and wagons to haul both military and commercial goods along the Trail. By 1860, the company had expanded to deliver mail by horseback from

St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. The short-lived Pony Express crossed the central part of the nation in a matter of days.

The Civil War disrupted trade along the Santa Fe Trail. At Lexington the Confederates were after the money in the town's banks. A large group of Confederates led by Confederate Major General Sterling Price participated in the fight that became known as the "Battle of the Hemp Bales."

The battle involved 18,000 Missouri State Guard troops and 3,000 Northern troops. The Southern troops found **hemp** bales in a nearby warehouse. They soaked the bales in water from the river and rolled them forward to fight from behind them. Bullets could not go through the wet hemp. For a time, because of the battles along the western border of Missouri, the **jumping-off point** of the Santa Fe Trail moved to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

BATTLE COVER

1. What is hemp? _____

2. During the battle how did the soldiers use the hemp bales to their advantage? _____

3. What kept the hemp bales from catching on fire when the bullets hit them? _____

4. What made this battle unique? _____



Civil War kepi cap

5. Why would hemp have been valuable to the *freighters* on the trail? _____



HISTORIC FORT OSAGE

SIBLEY, MISSOURI



From I-70, take exit number 24, and travel north on Route BB/FF to Buckner, Missouri. Then proceed three miles north of Buckner on Route BB. Upon reaching Sibley, Missouri, follow the road signs to Fort Osage.

105 Osage Street
Sibley, Missouri 64088
(816) 650-3278

THE BUILDING OF FORT OSAGE began in 1808 under the direction of William Clark (of Lewis and Clark fame). Built on a **bluff** overlooking the Missouri River, it was the western most outpost in the Louisiana Territory. The fort was used as a trading post for the Osage Indians and housed soldiers to guard the territory. In the 1820s the fort was an important **rendezvous** point for the Santa Fe Trail traders. **Major George C. Sibley** was a trader and an Indian agent.

In 1825, the United States government decided to survey the Santa Fe Trail marking it as the “Road to Santa Fe.”

Sibley was appointed as one of the commissioners for this project. The surveyors and commissioners started marking the Trail from Fort Osage. Many things went wrong with the survey, but the intention was to use compass directions and chains of specific lengths to mark the distance. They also built earth mounds along the Trail to mark the road for future travelers. The project didn't produce the road that had originally been intended.

By 1827, Fort Osage had been closed and the new fort across the Missouri, **Fort Leavenworth**, was opened.



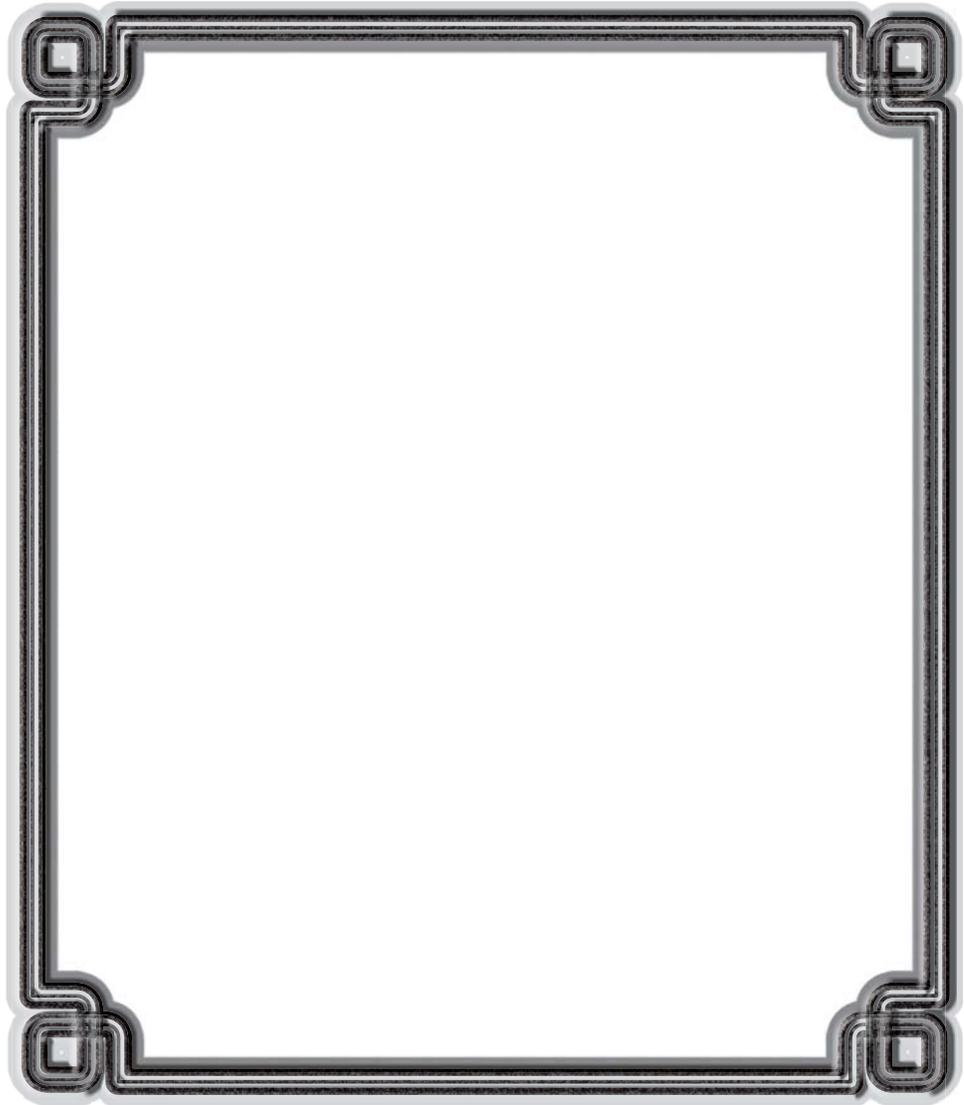
RE-FORTIFYING THE PAST

1

Why would this fort have been important to the traders on the Santa Fe Trail?

2

Imagine you were with Becknell on his trip to Santa Fe. Pick a spot to sit and sketch what you would have seen while waiting on Becknell to finish his business here. Include things that you might have heard or smelled.



***Use Senses to
Relive History***





NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



From Fort Osage return to U.S. Hwy 24 and turn right, or west. Travel approximately 11 miles, then turn left onto North Noland Road. Next, turn right onto East Walnut Street, and then turn left on to South Osage Street. Finally, turn right onto West Pacific Avenue (south of Independence Square).

318 W. Pacific Ave.

Independence, Missouri 64050

816-325-7575

THE NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS CENTER is located in Independence, Missouri. It honors the heritage of the overland trails. Independence was known as an important outfitting point for both the Santa Fe Trail and Oregon-California Trail. Because of its close position to the Missouri River, the town of Independence prospered as steamboat traffic moved further up the river.

Trade goods arriving from St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York, and even Europe would be unloaded from the boats and loaded into the large Murphy freight wagons bound for Santa Fe. These wagons, made by Joseph Murphy in St. Louis, could carry a reported 7,000 pounds of freight. Because Mexico had imposed a \$500 per-wagon tax upon arrival in Santa



Fe, freighters avoided paying extra fees by loading up one large wagon, instead of using two or three smaller wagons to carry the same amount of cargo, and so only paid the wagon tax once.

Wealthier emigrants traveling the Oregon-California Trail often came from the East traveling by boat; they headed down the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, until they arrived at Independence.

They would then buy wagons, animals, and other supplies they needed for the trip. These animals had to be trained to pull wagons and Independence was the place to do that. Thousands of traders and emigrants with their mules, oxen, horses, and wagons crowded the streets of the small village. The Santa Fe traders were prominent in the town from 1830 to 1850. The Oregon-California Trail emigrants began to appear in the 1840s.

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Missouri River Outfitters Chapter

PACKING YOUR WAGON

Both the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon-California Trail are featured here.

Walk around the museum until you find the “Pack Your Wagon” activity. Follow the instructions provided.



a. For which trail did you pack? _____

b. After packing your wagon, ask a museum employee or other adult for a personal autograph, to confirm that your wagon would be ready to embark on one of the trails!

SIGNATURE—NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS CENTER



c. List some items that would have been packed for the Santa Fe and Oregon-California trails:

SANTA FE TRAIL WAGON

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL WAGON

d. Why is there such a difference in the items packed? _____

e. What difference would this make in the size of the wagon? _____



ARABIA STEAMBOAT MUSEUM

..... KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



The Steamboat Arabia is located near downtown Kansas City, Missouri, in the City Market. Get off I-70 at exit 2D. Turn a slight left onto West 6th Street. Turn left on Grand. The museum is on the left.

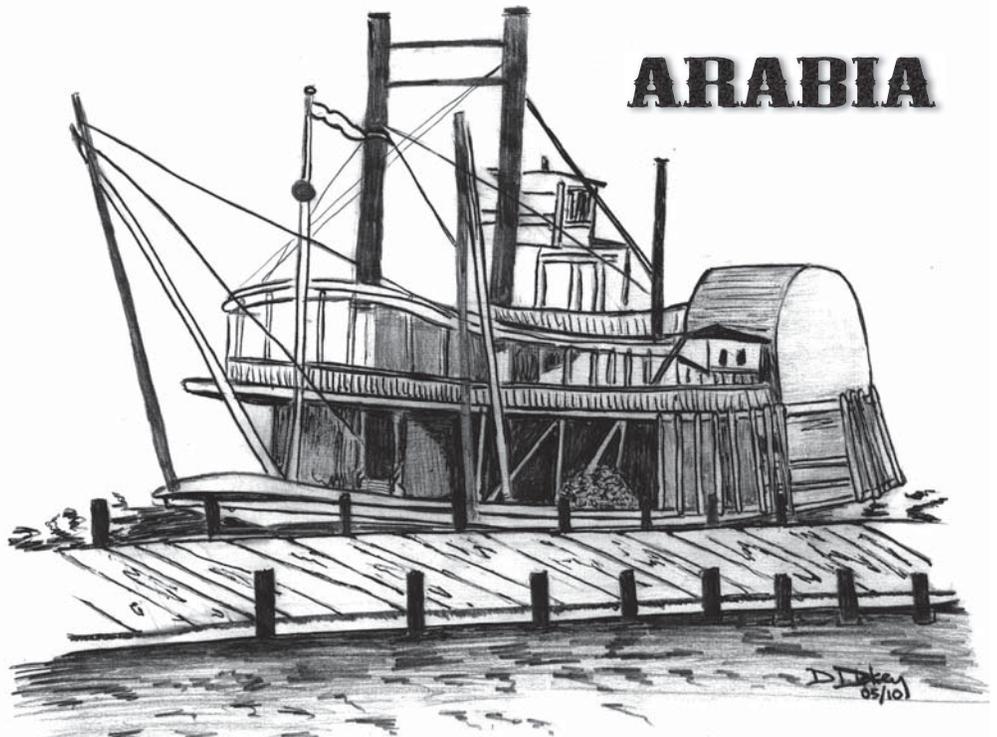
400 Grand Boulevard

Kansas City, Missouri 64106-1111

(816) 471-4030

THE STEAMBOAT ARABIA TRAVELED THE Missouri River in the 1850s. The steamboat's speed on the Missouri River was 5 miles per hour. It carried a combination of passengers preparing for a journey west and merchandise to be delivered to merchants.

On August 30, 1856, the *Arabia* left St. Louis bound for pioneer settlements. The *Arabia* carried 200 tons of freight when it hit a snag just north of present-day Kansas City that caused the boat to sink. Its treasures lay buried for 132 years. Today visitors can see a video that tells the story of finding the old steamboat and saving the trade



items that it carried. Visitors will get a good idea of the freight that traveled the Santa Fe Trail.

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Missouri River Outfitters Chapter



MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP & FARM

..... OLATHE, KANSAS



Located west of I-35 in Olathe, Kansas, take exit 218 onto Santa Fe Street, which is also labeled as Hwy 150. Turn north on Ridgeview Road. Turn west on Kansas City Road after crossing the railroad tracks.

1200 East Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061

(913) 971-5111

THE MAHAFFIE HOUSE AND FARMSTEAD is a registered National Historic Landmark. Mahaffie Farmstead is the only stage stop on the Santa Fe Trail that is still open to the public.

After the Santa Fe Trail had been going for several years, people began to travel the trail for reasons other than transporting freight. Some of these people traveled by stagecoach arriving in Santa Fe much quicker than going with a wagon train. The farmhouse was the first stage stop after leaving Westport, Missouri. This is where the passengers would eat their lunch.

Stagecoaches transported mail across the prairie. They could also carry six passengers inside the carriage and more on top.



Most trips were run night and day with only stops for food and changing horses.

The ride was not like it would be today in the comfort of an automobile. The roads were not paved, the coaches didn't have shock absorbers, and the seat cushions could become very hard. Passengers often sat very close with people they didn't know. Railroads soon replaced the need for stagecoaches, just as they replaced the Santa Fe Trail.

The Mahaffie House has many activities throughout the year that will show you what life was like in the 1860s. Among these are stage coach rides, farming with horse and plow, oxen training, frontier cooking, and other living history experiences.

TALK TO THE ANIMALS

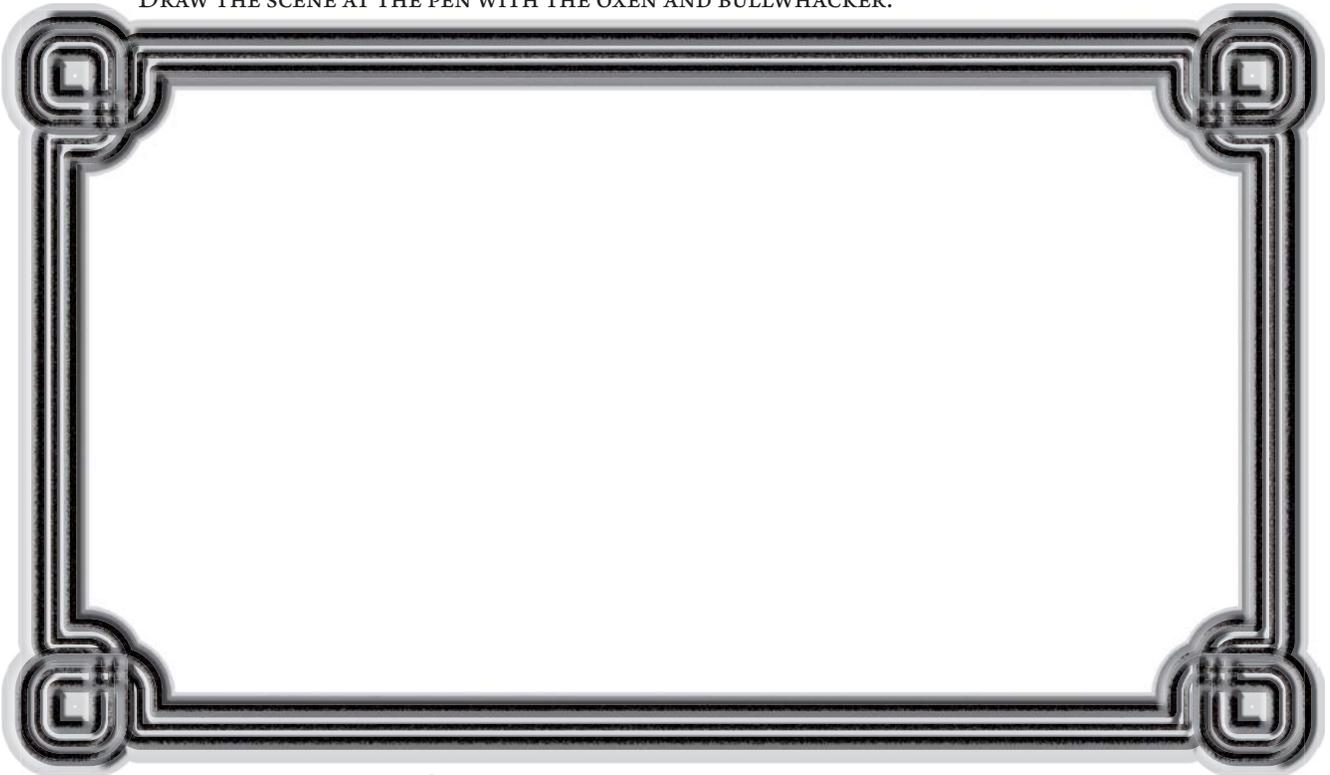
For the first few trips on the Santa Fe Trail horses were used as pack animals. Once the traders got to Santa Fe they found an animal that had been previously unknown in the United States. This animal was the mule. For years the Spanish government had carefully guarded the secret for developing mules. Mules are hybrid animals which come from a horse and a donkey. Once Missouri traders began to trade with the Mexicans in Santa Fe the mule became a valuable animal and important to the Trail.

It was the U. S. Army that introduced oxen into the trail business. Major General Riley and a group of soldiers were sent from Fort Leavenworth to protect traders on the Trail. Most of the soldiers had to walk—no horses or mules were available but their supply wagons were pulled by oxen. The traders scoffed at this, thinking the oxen would just slow them down. However, they proved to be the best suited animal for pulling the heavily loaded freight wagons.

1 *The Mahaffie site has oxen that they still use for farming and pulling wagons. Bullwhacker is the name that is given to an ox driver. Bullwhackers used standard commands to get the oxen to do what they want. Find the pen with the oxen. After listening, tell what a bullwhacker says to make an oxen:*

- a. Go left _____
- b. Go right _____
- c. Stop _____
- d. Go _____

DRAW THE SCENE AT THE PEN WITH THE OXEN AND BULLWHACKER.





GARDNER JUNCTION

ROADSIDE PARK, KANSAS



Travel approximately one mile west of Gardner, Kansas, on U.S. 56.

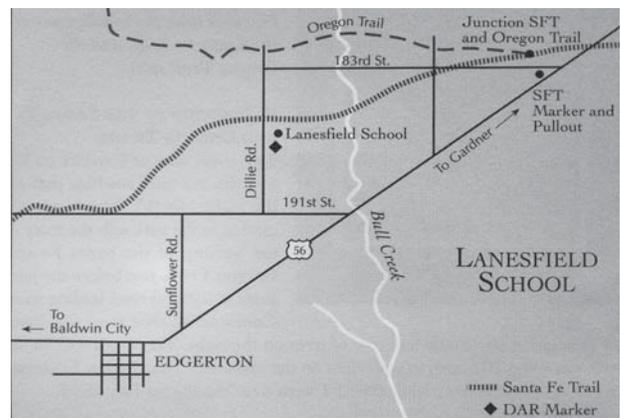
THREE OF THE OVERLAND TRAILS that formed in Missouri and went west followed the same route for part of the way. The Santa Fe Trail was mainly used for hauling goods to Santa Fe and points further west. The traders on the Santa Fe Trail would go to Santa Fe, sell their goods, and then return to their homes. Sometimes they made two trips during a year.

The Oregon and California Trails took emigrants to Oregon or California as early as the 1840s. These people left their homes and moved west to get new lands. This trail was nearly 2000 miles in length. The families traveling these trails had sold most of their belongings back home and said good-bye to friends and relatives. They did bring some of their prized possessions and tools they needed for

the new start. These folks had no intentions of going back home again.

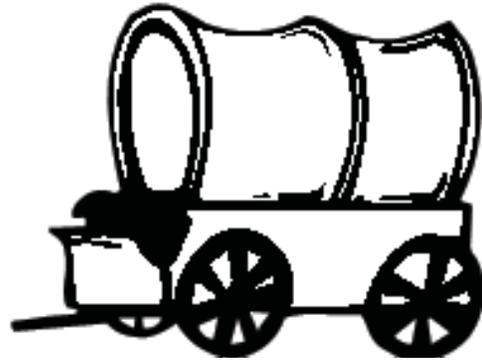
Both the Oregon-California Trail and the Santa Fe Trail gathered at Independence. This entire area would have been very busy with hundreds of wagons, thousands of people and animals preparing for the long trip. Both trails followed the same path for a short distance. It was at Gardner Junction that the Oregon-California Trail travelers headed northwest toward a new life and the Santa Fe Trail traders continued to the southwest with dreams of getting rich.

The Santa Fe Trail Association and National Park Service have marked this area with a **kiosk** containing exhibits about the trails.



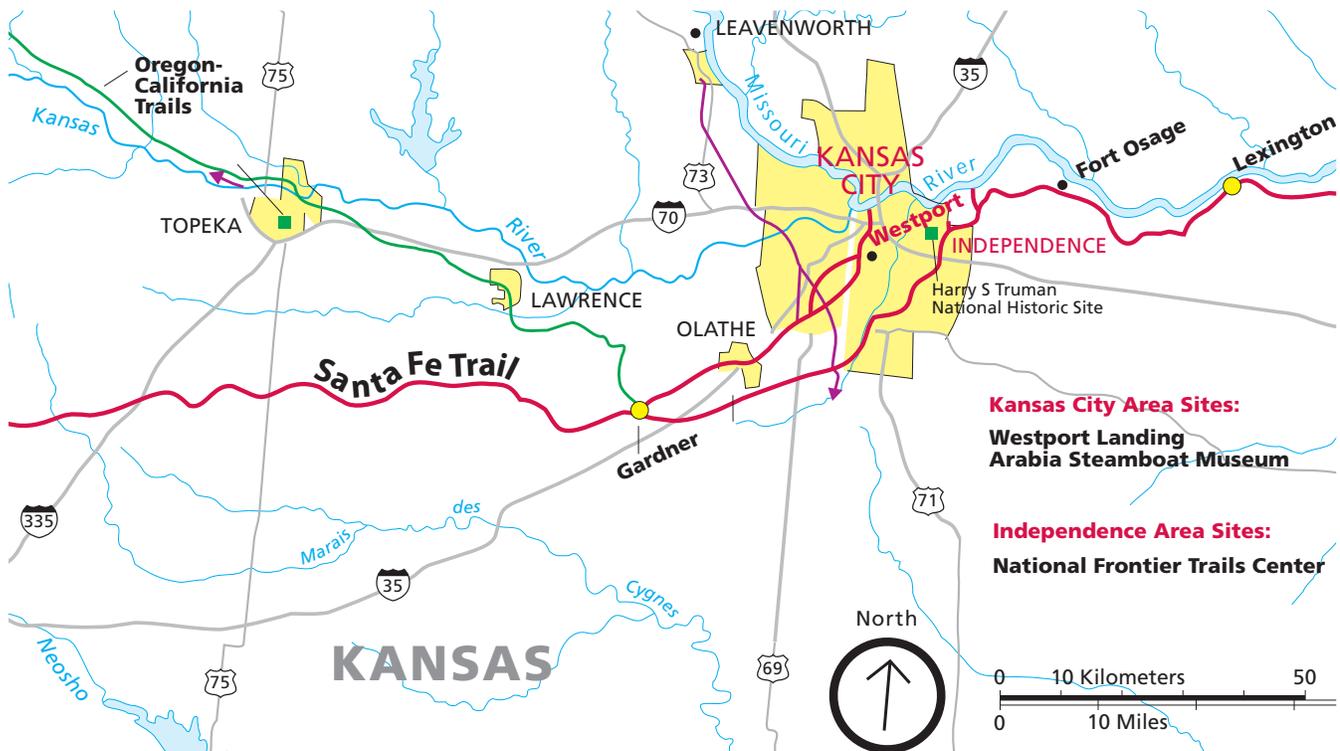
TRAVELING FOLKS

Read the signs in the kiosk that tell you about the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon-California Trail and the types of people that traveled these trails. Beside each person write S if the person would have been found mainly on the Santa Fe Trail; write an OC if they would have been found primarily on the Oregon-California Trail. *Be careful: some may have been found on both trails.* Mark those with a B.



- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| S = SANTA FE TRAIL | GOLD MINERS _____ | FREIGHTERS _____ |
| OC = OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL | WOMEN _____ | CHILDREN _____ |
| B = BOTH | SCOUTS _____ | MERCHANTS _____ |
| | BULLWHACKERS _____ | FARMERS _____ |

CIRCLE BOTH TRAILS ON THIS MAP.



Explore More—Take a Santa Fe Trail

If you're near **Old Franklin and New Franklin** (page 12) visit:



Photo Filename/Date: _____

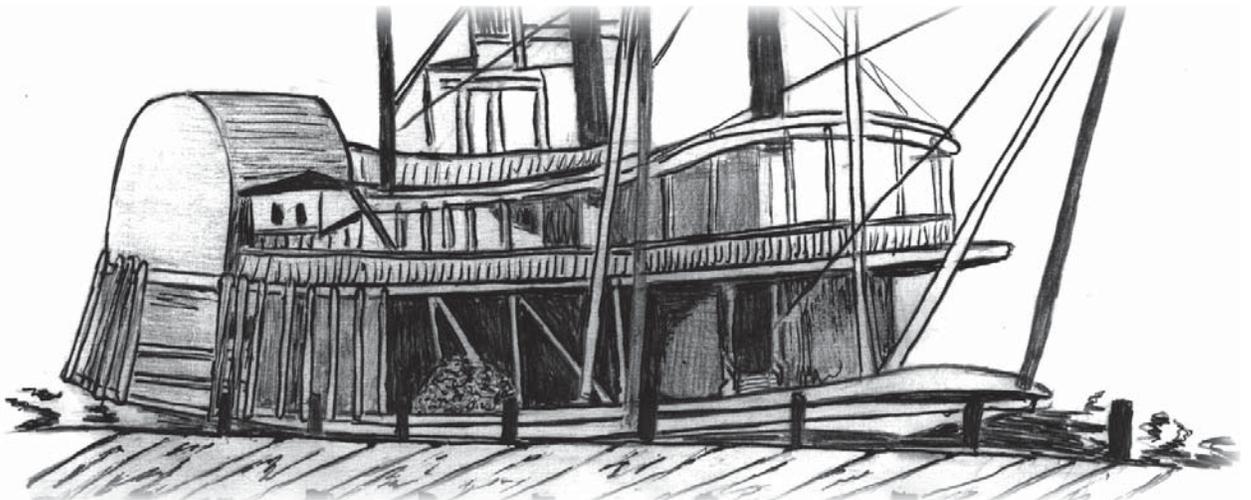
BOONVILLE, MISSOURI: STEAMBOAT LANDING



Boonville is located on I-70 at exit 101. Follow US 40/business route of I-70. Turn left (north) on Main (US 40/MO 5) Turn left (west) on High Street, turn right (north) on 4th Street/E. Water Street.

BOONVILLE WAS THE **JUMPING-OFF POINT** of the Santa Fe Trail for a short period of time after New Franklin. The town takes pride in its historic roots. Look for the **kiosk** (wayside exhibit) in the Cobblestone Street Park.

Walk under the bridge and look at the river where the steamboat landing would have been. Remains of the cobblestone street by the steamboat landing can still be seen under the Missouri River Bridge.





If you're near **Arrow Rock** (page 14) visit:



Photo Filename/Date: _____

SAPPINGTON CEMETERY STATE HISTORIC SITE

IN THIS FAMILY CEMETERY ARE buried important people from the history of the Santa Fe Trail. Approximately 110 members of Dr. John Sappington's family are buried here. Dr. Sappington is famous for developing quinine pills as a cure for malaria, a prominent disease on the trail.

Two governors of the state of Missouri are buried here: Meredith Miles Marmaduke and Claiborne Fox Jackson. Marmaduke was a member of the first large **caravan** to Santa Fe. Jackson had many stores from which he sold goods, such as cloth, pots and pans, and tools, to the traders on the Trail.



This site is just 5 miles southwest of Arrow Rock, Missouri, on Route AA.

If you're near the **Battle of Lexington** site (page 18) visit:



Photo Filename/Date: _____



LEXINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM



This museum, which is housed in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church building, is mainly open from June to September and charges admission.

112 S. 13th Street
Lexington, Missouri 64067
(660) 259-6313

THE LEXINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM HAS a variety of exhibits about the 19th century. There are some exhibits featuring the Santa Fe Trail, Pony Express, and the Civil War Battle of Lexington.