

Lesson: **Santa Fe Trail Webquest**
Lesson designed by: Brenda Flood
Pattonburg, R2, 5th Grade Social Studies
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Teaching Traditional History Program
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Mike Lair, Project Director
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Lesson Overview: In this lesson students will analyze critical choices travelers had to make before traveling the Santa Fe Trail. Students will explore choices between oxen or mules for transportation purposes. They will also create a hanging chart of vocabulary words throughout the text.

Essential Questions: How did choosing between oxen or mules for transportation of goods and family effect the outcome of the trip along the Santa Fe Trail?

Objectives:

- USH 2aE The student will investigate westward expansion
- CA Reading 1E The student will develop vocabulary throughout text.
- CA Reading 1H The student will apply skills to comprehend text.

Materials:

- Santa Fe Trail Adventures Book Pages 40-42.
- 3x5 Vocabulary Cards
- Yarn to assemble vocabulary cards
- Crayons or colored pencils

Class Time: Two 45 class periods.

Teacher Input: Teacher will stimulate conversation about some of the many choices travelers had to make before setting out to travel the Santa Fe Trail. Many of the choices were decisions that could mean life or death later on the trail. One of those choices was whether mules or oxen would drive the wagon over the trail. There were many pros and cons for each animal. I would show pictures of mules and oxen at this time to have a visual of each animal. Pre reading questions to be placed on the board.

Q: Which is the strongest animal?

Q: Which animal is the fastest?

Q: Do they both need the same amount of care along the trail?

Q: Name disadvantages and advantages of using each animal?

We will see if these questions are answered in our reading.

Activities:

- Students will read pages 40-41 in partners.
- Student will discuss with partner answers to some of the pre-reading questions.
- Students will write highlighted vocabulary words on 3x5 cards. Write the definition on one side and complete a picture on the other side. They will assemble the cards in a hanging fashion with the yarn provided.
- Individuals will choose a vocabulary card to share with the class, they can then be hung around the room

Closure: Discuss some of the reasons people made the choices they did. Discuss some of the advantages and disadvantages of using each animal..

Assessment: Students will complete worksheet using the assigned text. Key is located in the back of the book. Vocabulary will also be given a participation grade.

