

# The Santa Fe Trail's Role in Manifest Destiny

Lesson Design by: Annette Rhinehart, West Rock Creek, 5thGrade, American History  
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## Teaching Traditional American History Program

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Mike Lair, Project Director

<http://www.chillhistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: The focus of this lesson is on the role the Santa Fe Trail played in the idea of Manifest Destiny. The Students work in pairs to identify the cause and effect of a historical event along the Santa Fe Trail. Each group will fill in the class time line as they report to complete a class cause and effect time line. Students individually construct cause and effect time line as each set of pairs reports information to the class.

Objectives: After completing this lesson the student will be able to:

Students will be able to identify the major reason(s) of historical events that occurred on the Santa Fe Trail, some which are not recognized until long after the event occurs.

Students will be able to place information in a chorological organization of history and know how to organize events and people to identify and explain historical relationships.

Materials: Resource books to complete the causes and effects of events on the time line. Each student will need paper to construct cause and effect time line. Class will need large sheet of paper for the time line, or a large wall area. Each student will need one half sheet of construction paper in 2 different colors. Each group will need one of each color. Glue.

Class Time: *Two 50 minute class periods.*

Teacher Input:

- A great read aloud to read prior to this activity, A Tree in the Trail by Hollings, a book about a cottonwood tree that watches the pageant of history on the Santa Fe Trail for over two hundred years--Indians, animals, explorers, settlers--all find their way past the silent old tree.
- Be sure to discuss/review with the class the concept of cause and effect.
- All causes should be written on the same color of paper and be placed on top of the time line.
- Effects should all be written on the same color of paper and placed below the time line.
- Time line 1803-1880 (event dates- 1803, 1806, 1810-1821, 1821, 1822, 1827, 1829, 1835, 1846-1848, 1846, 1849, 1880)

### Activities:

- **Anticipatory Set** - Display quote about Manifest Destiny for students to see. Read the quote aloud.

"It is America's right to stretch from sea to shining sea. Not only do we have a responsibility to our citizens to gain valuable natural resources we also have a responsibility to civilize this beautiful land."

Students discuss the quote. Reinforce the term Manifest Destiny. Explain that the class is going to create a time line of significant events that occurred on the Santa Fe Trail to support the quote.
- **Activity One:** Pass out a piece of the time line back bone to each student, so that a student has either a date or an event. Keep the first date and event for the teacher example. Have a large area prepared to make the time line. Using the teacher example date model the process on gluing on the information to time line. Ask who has the next date. Allow students to solve. Have that student come to the area and place the date onto time line, (glue, tacks may be needed). Continue until all dates have been placed on the time line. Have the students with events line up in front of class and organize the events based on prior knowledge, text book, and clues from the teacher. Have students place the event under the date on the time line.
- **Activity Two:** Discuss the concept of cause and effect. Write on board: A cause is something that makes something else happen. An effect is what happens as a result of the cause. Explain that students will be working in pairs to find the cause and effect of an event of the Santa Fe Trail. Model the teacher example for the class. Writing the cause and effect on two different colors of construction paper. Provide additional resources if needed. Allow students ample time to locate information. Give each pair two different colors of construction paper to write the cause and effect on.
- **Activity Three:** Pass out the time line worksheet to each student. Model the student presentation using the teacher example. After each presentation students should fill in the cause and effect of the events. Have each student fill in the information that they found before presentations begin. Allow each pair of students 3-5 minutes to present information. At the end of each presentation students should glue the cause above the timeline and the effect below the time line.

### Questions for review:

Did the Santa Fe Trail help the American people achieve Manifest Destiny?

➤ Closure:

- Display quote about Manifest Destiny for students to see. Read the quote aloud.

"It is America's right to stretch from sea to shining sea. Not only do we have a responsibility to our citizens to gain valuable natural resources we also have a responsibility to civilize this beautiful land."

Assessment:  
Rubric Points

Description

5	The student has completed ten (10) of the cause and effect boxes correctly. The answers may vary slightly, yet the general idea is there.
4	The student has completed eight (8) of the cause and effect boxes correctly. The answers may vary slightly, yet the general idea is there.
3	The student has completed six (6) of the cause and effect boxes correctly. The answers may vary slightly, yet the general idea is there.
2	The student has completed four (4) of the cause and effect boxes correctly. The answers may vary slightly, yet the general idea is there.
1	The student has shown little effort in completing the assignment.

References: <http://www.socialstudieshelp.com>

Graphics:

*John Gast's American Progress*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Manifest Destiny on the Santa Fe Trail

Cause	Event	Effect
	<p>1803 Louisiana Purchase</p> <p>1806 Zebulon Pike goes into New Mexico</p> <p>1810-1821 Mexican Independence</p> <p>1821 William Becknell first trades in New Mexico</p> <p>1822 William Becknell takes The Cimarron Route</p> <p>1827 Fort Leavenworth established</p> <p>1829 U.S. troops escort trains On the trail</p> <p>1835 Bent's Fort opened</p> <p>1846-1848 Mexican-American War</p> <p>1846 Colonel Kearny took control of Santa Fe</p> <p>1849 California Gold Rush</p> <p>Mail service to New Mexico</p> <p>1880 The AT&amp;SF Railroad reaches New Mexico</p>	

**1803**

**1806**

**1810-1821**

**1821**

**1822**

**1827**

**1829**

**1835**

**1846-1848**

**1846**

**1849**

**1880**

**Louisiana Purchase**

**Zeb Pike goes into  
New Mexico**

**Mexican  
Independence**

**William Becknell  
first trades in  
New Mexico**

**William Becknell  
takes the Cimarron  
Route**

**Fort Leavenworth  
established**

**U.S. Troops escort  
trains on the trail**

**Bent's Fort opened**

**Mexican-American  
War**

**Colonel Stephen  
Watts Kearny took  
control of Santa Fe**

**California Gold  
Rush Mail service to  
New Mexico**

**The AT&SF Railroad  
reaches New Mexico**

Cause	Event	Effect
Napoleon the ruler of France needed money	1803 Louisiana Purchase	Land added to the United States
Louisiana Purchase	1806 Zebulon Pike goes into New Mexico	Pike was arrested, taken to Santa Fe and then Chihuahua.
Desire for self rule	1810-1821 Mexican Independence	He was able to assess the situation as to future trading Mexicans look for new Trade partners, settlers
Becknell had Financial problems	1821 William Becknell first trades in New Mexico	Went back to Missouri with many times his initial investment, more wanted to go west to make their fortune.
Desire for quicker route	1822 William Becknell takes The Cimarron Route	People now had two routes To choose from
Indian attacks	1827 Fort Leavenworth established	More Americans in west, exposure to vast lands, increased Indian tensions
Indian attacks	1829 U.S. troops escort trains On the trail	Increase trade, security, and military
Need for meeting place	1835 Bent's Fort opened	Provided a venue for cultural and material exchanges between Indians, mountain men, etc.
American settlement in Western territory	1846-1848 Mexican-American War	Addition on the southwest To the U.S.
U.S. entered Santa Fe	1846 Colonel Kearny took control of Santa Fe	Land became effectively The U.S.
Discovery of gold	1849 California Gold Rush	Massive immigration into New Mexico
Expansion of	Mail service to New Mexico	
	1880 The AT&SF Railroad reaches New Mexico	Santa Fe Trail fades into history