

Lesson Title: Famous Missourians on the Santa Fe Trail
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Eugene Field Elementary
Fourth Grade
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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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

Lesson Overview: Students will read in groups about one of four famous Missourians that traveled the Santa Fe Trail. After the reading, group members will be split up into smaller groups to share about their famous Missourian and complete a chart as they learn about others.

Essential Questions:

1. What were some of the characteristics shared by these travelers that made them successful on the trail?
2. Would you have been capable of doing what these people did? Which person is most like you? Which person is least like you?

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

- SS2aA4 Identify and describe the significance of the individuals from Missouri who have made contributions to our state and national heritage

Assessment: During presentatoinis, each student will complete a chart with facts from each of the four famous Missourians covered in this lesson.

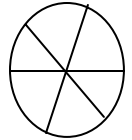
Materials:

- Two copies each of 6, 11, 20 & 22 from Santa Fe Trail Adventures activity Book. Each group gets one page.
- Chart Paper
- Makers
- Final Famous Missourian chart copied for each student

Class Time: 70 minutes

Teacher Input:

1. List these for names on the board for students: Kit Carson, Marion Russell, William Bent & William Becknell. Can students predict what these Santa Fe Trail travelers had in common? (They are all from Missouri)
2. Divide class into groups of two to three students each.
3. Pass out one biography, markers and chart paper to each group. The chart paper should have a large wagon wheel drawn on it already with six spokes to create six writing spaces. Each person in the group should have a different colored marker.
4. Have students read the biography together. On the chart paper, each student should illustrate at least two important facts about the character. Each fact goes in its own space between the wagon spokes. Students will need to discuss ahead of time which fact they wish to draw so that there are no duplicates and to make sure they are all important to that person. No words can be placed on the chart paper. Be sure the name from the biography has been written across the top of the chart paper.
5. When a group is finished, their chart paper goes on the wall so they can each practice talking about. Each student needs to know what each picture means and how it relates to the person's life. The group practices together, each taking turns, until everyone can talk about that person's life.
6. Redivide the class. Have each person in the small groups take a letter A-C. In a class of 24, there should be eight groups (each Famous Missourian would have been covered twice). Hang four chart papers (one of each Missourian) along one wall, and hang the other set on the opposite side of the room. Ask students to sit close to the wall with their work on it. Finally, ask the A's on one side of the room to stand and assign them a poster to start with. Give the B's another poster and the C's a third poster. There should be 4 students in each group. Do the same on the other side of the room.
7. Distribute the Santa Fe Trail travelers chart worksheet and pencils.
8. Finally, explain to the students that they are going to walk down the wall to learn about the four people the entire class researched. Give time for one student to talk about their poster. When all groups are finished, the groups rotate to the next poster. At no time will the groups cross the room since they didn't work on the posters on the other wall. As they listen, they should record three important facts from each poster beside the correct person on their worksheet.



Activities:

1. Read and recite information about one Famous Missourian from the Santa Fe Trail.
2. Share with other students about the Famous Missourian researched.

Questions for review:

1. Which Famous Missourian started trading on the Santa Fe Trail from

- Missouri in 1821? (William Becknell)
2. Which Famous Missourian was one of the only women to travel the trail several times? (Marion Russell)
 3. Which Famous Missourian established a *trading* fort along the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail? (William Bent)
 4. Which Famous Missourian worked on the trail and later helped to establish a *military* fort along the trail while working in the US Army? (Kit Carson)

Closure: It took intelligent and brave people to make a successful trip to and from Santa Fe. Since the trail originated in our state, several people from Missouri made great contributions to the trail. That was one item that these four travelers had in common.

Extension:

1. Using the same activity book, there are several more biographical stories of people who traveled the trail. By modeling Meet the Press, students could again work in groups to learn about these other individuals. The group writes questions that someone might want to know about the subject that can be answered in the reading. One person in the group then becomes that character. Another group member stands behind them as the famous person's press secretary. The rest of the class serves as an audience of reporters asking their questions at random to the famous panel of Santa Fe travelers. Props and costumes make this activity even better.

References:

Webb, David. Santa Fe Trail Adventures. Kansas Heritage Center. 1993.

Graphics:



Bent's Fort in Eastern Colorado



Inside view of Bent's Fort



Taos, New Mexico





Gravesite for Marion Russell



Stonewall, Colorado: close to Russell gravesite and homestead

Santa Fe Trail Travelers Chart

Name: _____

	Three Important Details		
William Becknell			
William Bent			
Kit Carson			
Marion Russell			