

Lesson Title: Santa Fe Trail - Lesson 1
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American History
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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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Lesson Overview:

- Santa Fe Trail was a commercial highway connecting Missouri, in the United States, and Santa Fe, in Mexico, from 1821 and 1880.
- The Santa Fe Trail was not only a commercial highway but also it brought together an exchange of ideas, cultures and languages.

Essential Question:

- How did the Santa Fe Trail develop into such an expansive trading system?

Objectives:

- Explain how changes in transportation, communication and other technologies affect the movement of people, products and ideas. (DOK 2 SS5 1.10, 1.6)
- Assess the significance of Westward Expansion. (DOK 3, SS 3 1.6)

Assessment:

Have the students take turns getting in front of the class and explaining the pictures. Let them have some opinions of their own but keep it to the basic facts of what is happening in the picture. This activity and assessment will help them be able to interpret pictures and political cartoons. It helps them to think outside of the box.

Materials:

- Everything needed is found on the websites listed below. You will need to have Internet access.

Class Time:

- One class period.

Teacher Input:

- 1) <http://www.nps.gov/archive/safe/fnl-sft/broch/newbro.htm> - information
- 2) http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us_trail/santafe.htm - information
- 3) <http://www.sangres.com/sftrailmap.htm> - information
- 4) <http://www.nps.gov/archive/safe/fnl-sft/maps/miscmap/maptoc.htm>
This website has clear map pictures of the Santa Fe Trail. Also at the bottom of this website you can click on different items and there are pictures of the different places on the Trail. There are all kinds of neat things to look at in regards to the Santa Fe Trail.

Activities:

Divide the students up into groups. Copy off pictures that you think is important to your classroom discussion. Give each group a different picture. Have the students work in groups to explain and interrupt the pictures. They should be able to do this in 10 minutes or less depending on the group of students that you have. Have them make a list of what they see in the picture and how they would interrupt the picture. Choose a spoke person for the group and if they all want to say a little something that would be great also.

Questions for review:

- How was there cultural exchange involving the Santa Fe Trail?
 - (*Between the Mexicans, Indians and Americans trading practices. Cultural diversity*)
- What did Americans trade for their goods?
 - (*Silver coins, mules and wools*)
- The Santa Fe Trail was used primarily for _____.)
 - *Freight*
- Who did Mexico establish trade with?
 - (*They had international trade with banking and business ties that went as far as St. Louis, New York, London and Paris.*)
- Why did the Santa Fe Trail come to an end?
 - (*In the year of 1880 the railroad had made its way all the way to Santa Fe. That was basically the end of the Santa Fe Trail.*)

Closure:

- How do we transport our goods? How are other countries involved in our purchasing of goods?

Extension:

The students could study Fort Union, Fort Larned and Bent's Fort. They could study the caravan and the necessary items to be taken. They could study the different landmarks along the trail. They could study the impact of the Mexican-American War. They could study the effects of the Civil War on New Mexico. They could learn about all the Indian Nations in this area and their effect on the Santa Fe Trail and the effect of the Santa Fe Trail on them. You could include the Forty-Niners during the Gold Rush.

References:

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