

Name:

Saint Louis, Gateway to the West

- How and why has St. Louis changed over the years?

Saint Louis, Missouri, is located near where the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers meet. Fur traders settled in the area in 1764 because boats could easily travel there. Soon the town became the starting point for explorers, fur trappers, and settlers traveling west.

In the 1850s, the railroads joined St. Louis with other large cities like Chicago. Companies could easily ship goods in and out of the city. From 1840 to 1870, St. Louis' population increased by almost 300,000 people!



Highways and bridges across the Mississippi River made it even easier to get to St. Louis. Today St. Louis is one of the leading railway and trucking centers in the United States.

REVIEW

1. **Check Your Understanding** Why did the fur traders choose to settle in the St. Louis area?
2. **Vocabulary** Name some highways that go to St. Louis.
3. **Use Maps** What does the dot symbol on the map of rivers mean?

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