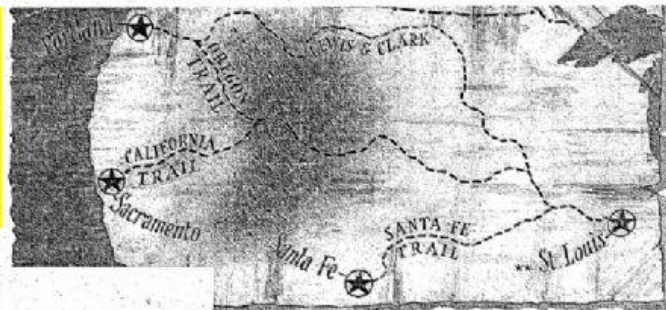


**WILD WEST READING**  
**Read 3 texts about Wild West fact then complete.**  
**Print the map to colour and write facts.**



## Mountain Men

The 1830s and 1840s were the years of the 'mountain men'. They lived in the mountains, killed animals there, and sold the **skins** to make money. Sometimes they took people through the mountains. They knew the best trails, and were often good friends with the Indians.

## 'GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!'

'Go West, young man!' said an American **newspaper** in 1850. And thousands of Americans went.

But people started moving to the American West nearly fifty years earlier. In 1803, American **president** Thomas Jefferson, **bought** thousands of kilometres of land from the French for fifteen million dollars. The land was west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains. (In today's United States you can find Nebraska; Iowa, Kansas, **Missouri**, Oklahoma, **Arkansas**, and **Louisiana** there.)

The next year, Jefferson asked two men to go through this land to the Pacific. 'When you find flowers and trees by the road, look carefully at them and write about them,' Jefferson said. 'And talk to the people, too.' These two men were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. In May 1804, Lewis and Clark went west with forty-six men. It was November 1805 when they arrived at the Pacific.

These were the early years of the 'Wild West'. A time when the names Kit Carson, Sitting Bull, **Wyatt Earp**, Wild Bill Hickok, Butch Cassidy, Annie Oakley, and many more, **became** famous across America.

**newspaper**  
people read about things that happen every day in this

**president** the most important person in a country

**buy** (past bought) to give money for something

**Missouri**  
/mɪˈzʊəri/

**Arkansas** /ˈɑː(r)kansaʊ/

**Louisiana**  
/luːˈiːziənə/

**wild** interesting and exciting

**Wyatt Earp**  
/ˈwaɪət ɔː(r)p/

**become** (past became) to begin to be

## The Pony Express

At first, getting letters from the East to the West of America was slow. Then, in 1860, came the **Pony Express**. Its horses and **riders** were fast. \*

They travelled from St Joseph in Missouri to Sacramento in California. Every rider travelled 120 kilometres before giving his bag of letters to the next rider. The 3,120 kilometres from St Joseph to Sacramento took twenty-six riders ten days in all.

**pony** a small horse

**express** very fast

**rider** a person who goes on a horse

\* St Joseph is in Northeast Missouri

\*\* St Louis is in Southeast Missouri

1

## QUESTION SET 1: Mountain men and the Pony Express

- 1/ Who sold land to Thomas Jefferson? **The ..... land to .....**
- 2/ Colour the states sold on your blank map page **3.**
- 3/ After deduction, where are the Rockies? **The Rockies ..... in the N..... - W.....**
- 4/ What are the names of two men who went west? **M..... and W.....**
- 5/ How long did it take them to reach the Pacific Ocean? **It ..... them one ..... and a half..**
- 6/ Locate the Pony Express trail on your map page **3.**
- 7/ Give 4 figures about the trip to Sacramento: (*figure → chiffre*)
  - **Lewis and Clark went west with ..... men.**
  - **Every Pony Express rider rode ..... kilometres.**
  - **The California trail was ..... kilometres.**
  - **It took ..... riders ten days in all.**

2

Right or Wrong? Are the sentences right or wrong? Tick the boxes:

right    wrong

American people started to go west in 1950.

The Santa Fe trail went to the North-East.

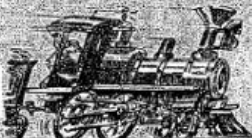
|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |

3

Look at the pictures and write the missing words:

wagon - Indian - pony - mountains - train

When we went west we didn't take the



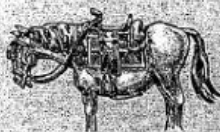
(a) .....

My mother and father travelled by



(b) ..... I rode

on my little



(c) ..... One day we saw an



(d) ..... then we went across the



(e) .....

4

Complete with the words in the box and transform in the preterit:

see - do - hunt - be - be - become - begin

- a. Hi Davy Crockett, when ..... you begin hunting ?
- b. I think I ..... when I was about thirteen.
- c. And ..... your family good hunters?
- d. Yeah, my dad ..... and was also a tavern bartender.
- e. .... you a cowboy too?
- f. Yes, I was! We ..... cattle (bétail) drivers in Virginia, then I left my parents and worked as a frontiersman.
- g. I remember, I ..... you in the film Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier!

# United States of America



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