

## “The Old Spanish Trail Road Trip” Lesson Plan Aimee McComb-Rohling 2013

### Desired Results

**Standard 1** Students will understand the interaction between Utah's geography and its inhabitants.

**Objective 1** Investigate the relationship between physical geography and Utah's settlement, land use, and economy.

**Standard 2** Students will understand the contributions of Native American Indians, explorers, and Utah's pioneers.

**Objective 2** Investigate the importance of explorers to Utah's settlement.

### Assessment Evidence

Students will analyze the impact of the Spanish in settling the west by correctly sorting relevant information on the topic.

### Learning Plan

*Before the Lesson:*

- Assemble the Road Trip “Pit Stop” pockets by printing information cards and placing them in envelopes. Also place the a related souvenir in each pocket. The souvenir should be related to the information in the pocket in some way. Number each pocket.
- Print one Spanish Trail Road Trip and Postcards worksheet for each student.

*During the Lesson:*

- Pass out one Spanish Trail Road Trip and one Postcards worksheet to each student
- Randomly hand out the Pit Stop envelopes and instruct students not to open them.
- Statement to class: “Today we are going to take a road trip down the historic Spanish Trail which crossed right through Utah! The Spanish were extremely important in helping settle the west and our road trip today will help us look at their influence along The Old Spanish Trail. I have handed out envelopes to some tour guides and along the road they will help us find out more important information about the Spanish.”
- As a class read the instructions and background information on the first page of the packet.
- Discussion questions:
  - Why were the Spanish looking for a faster route between Santa Fe and the California coast? *To connect their most important centers of trade, access to foreign (Asian) goods, etc.*
  - What was important on the coast? *Largest settlements, commerce, etc.*
  - What evidence of Spanish influence in the west can we see on the map? *Spanish names on towns, missions that are big important cities now, etc.*
    - Point out the years Spanish missions were settled in California-how much earlier some of them were settled.
- Tell the students that traveling on our trail we come to Pit Stop #1. Have the student with Pit Stop #1's envelope stand.
- Instruct the class to point to their first stop on the map then to find their first box of information.
- Have the student tour guide pull out the item in the envelope, show the class, and read the information.
- As the tour guide reads the information, students should try to fill in the blanks on their own paper.
- Have the tour guide go over the information again if necessary.
- Thank the tour guide and have students turn back to their map where they will draw a symbol for the item in its place on the map.
- Repeat this process for each of the six Pit Stops.
- Once the students have filled in all of their blanks and drawn a symbol for each stop move on to

the postcards.

- Tell the students that in a moment they are going to work together to finish their road trip. They must listen to all of the instructions first and then you will excuse them.
- Postcard instructions: The students will cut out each of their post cards. They will read each of the post cards and match the them to the pit stop that has corresponding information. The postcard will not repeat the information from the pit stop, IT WILL ADD TO THEIR UNDERSTANDING. (Emphasize this point to them). They may glue or tape their postcards in place when they have sorted all of them. They will turn it in for credit and then they will get it back for their notes.

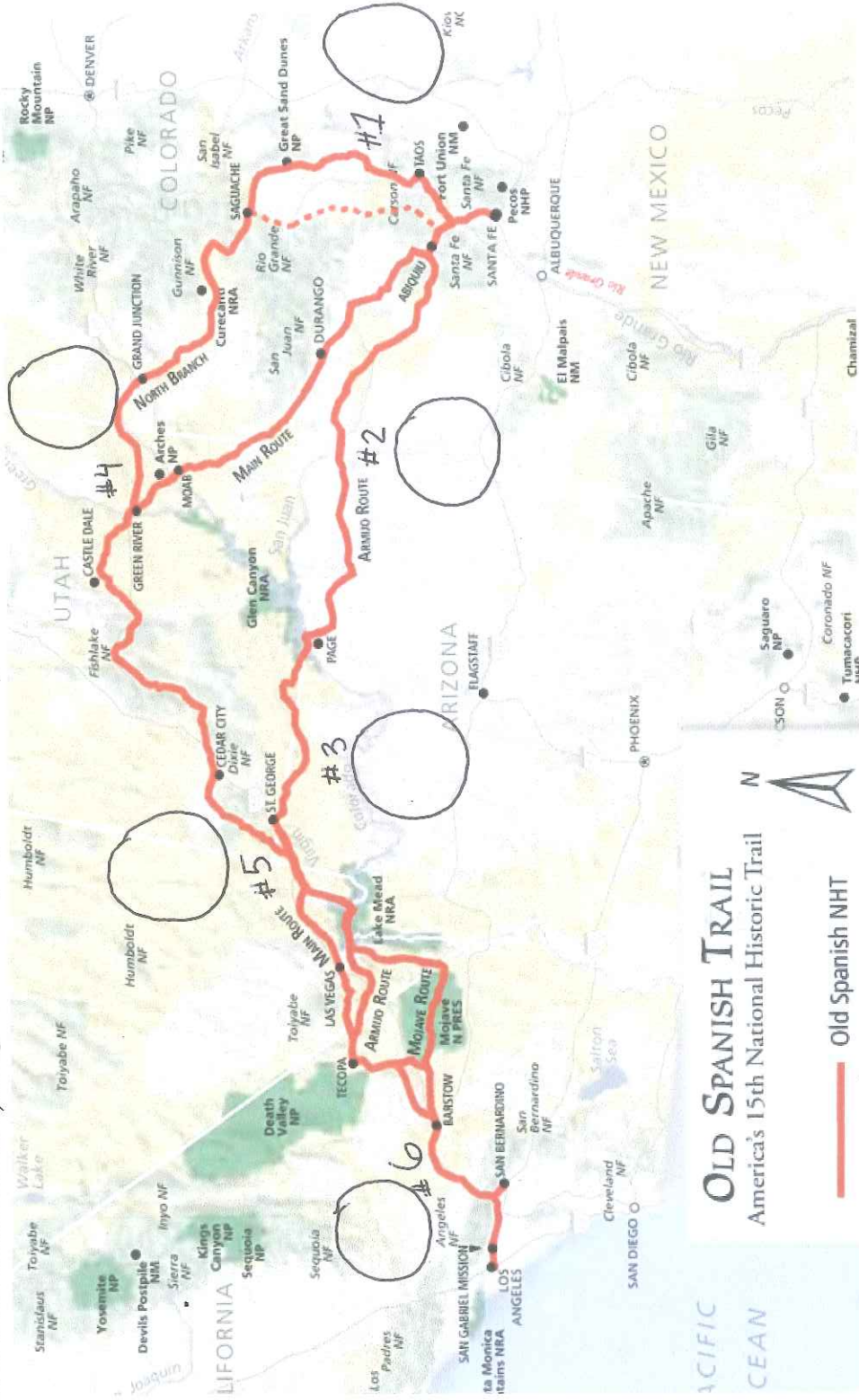
*After the Lesson:*

- Ticket out the door question: Name one thing you are taking away with you today about how the Spanish influenced the settling of the American West.
- Final Assessment: Students will use the information gained in this activity to help inform their answer on the unit's final project, the Explorers in a Box cereal box. They must design a cereal box that argues which of the groups that explored the west, the Spanish, the Mountain Men, or Government Explorers, had the greatest impact. The cereal box contains a two paragraph argument stating and supporting their opinion along with creative activities and design to enforce their argument.

## Old Spanish Trail Road Trip

We're off on a grand adventure: a road trip across the famous Old Spanish Trail! The Old Spanish Trail was an arduous 1,200 mile route between Santa Fe and Los Angeles which served traders who loaded their pack mules with woolen goods from Santa Fe each fall and returned from California each spring with Chinese goods, mules, and horses for markets in Missouri. The Old Spanish Trail linked two provinces of Mexico separated by such difficult topography and climatic extremes that, despite attempts beginning as early as 1776, a route was successfully opened only in 1829.

*Instructions. Follow along as we embark on this difficult journey. At each "Pit Stop" you will be required to 1) listen to the stop's tour guide and use their information to fill in some blanks 2) assign the Pit Stop a postcard and 3) draw a souvenir to remember our stop there.*



Based on knowledge of Native American trade routes hundreds of years old Spanish attempts to blaze the Old Santa Fe route began as early as 1765, when Juan de Rivera explored from Santa Fe to the Gunnison River, in Colorado. Fathers Antanasio Dominguez and Velez de Escalante were turned back by heavy snows in 1776 in an attempt to reach Monterey, California. Traveling as far north as the Provo area, they gave up the venture while camped between modern Milford and Cedar City.

#1- The Old Spanish Trail utilized an existing network of older \_\_\_\_\_ trails. The Utes, Pueblos, Jicarilla Apaches, Hopis, Navajos, Paiutes, Mojaves, and Chemehuevis knew these routes long ago. Various route segments were used for seasonal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ movements, and for trade items coming from the Pacific Ocean to the Pueblos in New Mexico and Arizona.

#2- The first to complete the circuit from Santa Fe to Los Angeles was Mexican trader \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter of 1829. In that year he led 60 men and 100 \_\_\_\_\_ on the known trails blazed northward by trappers and traders with the Utes, and backtracked along the route Spanish padres \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ recorded as they returned to Santa Fe from southern Utah more than fifty years earlier.

#3- Antonio Armijo's journey marked the first time a caravan made a round trip between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the governor of New Mexico trumpeted this fact immediately to his superiors in Mexico City. There was finally a land link between these two regions; no longer was Santa Fe so land locked, because \_\_\_\_\_ provided access to foreign markets via her seaports. The international trade between the United States and Mexico via Santa Fe would be enhanced. For his efforts, New Mexico's governor appointed Armijo "Commander for the Discovery of the Route to California."

#4-Emigrants from New Mexico began to take the Spanish Trail to California in the late 1830s. Raids for Indian \_\_\_\_\_ became common, with victims sold at either end of the trail despite official condemnation of the practice. A brisk trade flourished for dozens of years. Later, Spanish traders made frequent visits from New Mexico to barter with the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#5-Americans became aware of the trail with the publication of \_\_\_\_\_'s Report of his 1844 journey from California to the States, the return leg of his expedition to Oregon for the U.S. Topographical Corps. Fremont's Report created a sensation in Washington, already struck with Manifest Destiny fever. Fremont took the Spanish Trail across to \_\_\_\_\_. People called the route by various names, but he called it the "\_\_\_\_\_ " in his report, and that is the name that has been used ever since.

#6- The Spanish Trail name and use lapsed after the \_\_\_\_\_ ended in 1848. There was no longer any need to link Santa Fe with Los Angeles by this difficult mule trail; other, \_\_\_\_\_ routes were opened. The Spanish Trail was not a route of major emigration to the West; trails to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of it were preferred for this wagon traffic.

### Pit Stop #1

The Old Spanish Trail utilized an existing network of older [Indian](#) trails. The Utes, Pueblos, Jicarilla Apaches, Hopis, Navajos, Paiutes, Mojaves, and Chemehuevis knew these [routes](#) long ago. Various route segments were used for seasonal [hunting](#) and [gathering](#) movements, and for trade items coming from the Pacific Ocean to the Pueblos in New Mexico and Arizona.

### Pit Stop #2

The first to complete the circuit from Santa Fe to Los Angeles was Mexican trader [Antonio Armijo](#) in the winter of 1829. In that year he led 60 men and 100 [mules](#) on the known trails blazed northward by trappers and traders with the Utes, and backtracked along the route Spanish padres [Dominguez](#) and [Escalante](#) recorded as they returned to Santa Fe from southern Utah more than fifty years earlier.

### Pit Stop #3

Antonio Armijo's journey marked the first time a caravan made a round trip between [Santa Fe](#) and [Los Angeles](#), and the governor of New Mexico trumpeted this fact immediately to his superiors in Mexico City. There was finally a land link between these two regions; no longer was Santa Fe so land locked, because [California](#) provided access to foreign markets via her seaports. The international trade between the United States and Mexico via Santa Fe would be enhanced by the commercial traffic between Santa Fe and Los Angeles made possible by Armijo's success. For his efforts, New Mexico's governor appointed Armijo "Commander for the Discovery of the Route to California."

### Pit Stop #4

Emigrants from New Mexico began to take the Spanish Trail to California in the late 1830s. Raids for [Indian slaves](#) became common, with victims sold at either end of the trail despite official condemnation of the practice. A brisk trade flourished for dozens of years. Later, Spanish traders made frequent visits from New Mexico to barter with the [Utes](#) for [pelts](#) and [slaves](#).

#### Pit Stop #5

Americans became aware of the trail with the publication of [John C. Fremont](#)'s Report of his 1844 journey from California to the States, the return leg of his expedition to Oregon for the U.S. Topographical Corps. Fremont's Report created a sensation in Washington, already struck with Manifest Destiny fever. Fremont took the Spanish Trail across to [Utah](#). People called the route by various names, but he called it the "[Spanish Trail](#)" in his Report, and that is the name that has been used ever since.

#### Pit Stop #6

The Spanish Trail name and use lapsed after the [Mexican War](#) ended in 1848. There was no longer any need to link Santa Fe with Los Angeles by this difficult mule trail; other, [wagon-friendly](#) routes were opened. The Spanish Trail was not a route of major emigration to the West; trails to the [north](#) and [south](#) of it were preferred for this [wagon](#) traffic.

News of the opening of trade with California resulted in immediate commerce between Los Angeles and Santa Fe. With few exceptions, pack trains made annual treks between New Mexico and California. There were plenty of sheep in NM, so woolen goods from there were traded for horses and mules that passed freely in Cali. Ships in Cali's ports carried goods around the world.

## POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Unfortunately, traders on the trail also swapped Indian men, women, and children for animals, furs and other goods. They sold them as slaves to work in mines, as household servants, and for other work.

## POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Armiño's group blazed a trail south of death valley. He arrived at San Gabriel Mission in Cali with his group intact, although the men were forced to rely on mule meat during their final days on the trail. In Cali they traded blankets and other goods for horses available in great number and little value to Californios. Several thousand of these horses were driven back to Santa Fe.

The Old Spanish Trail became the 15th National Historic Trail when President Bush signed the bill in Dec. 2002. To qualify as a historic trail, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on American culture. The Old Spanish Trail greatly impacted America's exploration, migration, settlement, and economy.

## POST CARD

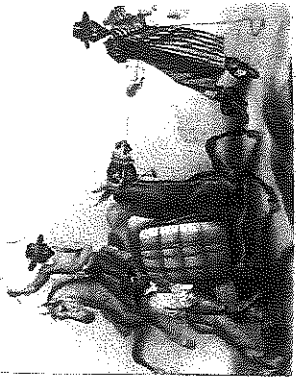
FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Archaeologists have found artifacts in places that show some stretches of the old trail had earlier been used by archaic and Fremont Indians.

## STAMP



## STAMP



## STAMP



## STAMP

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Recognizing that a large area of the interior desert had no connection to the sea, Fremont first called it the Great Basin, another name used ever since - in his report.

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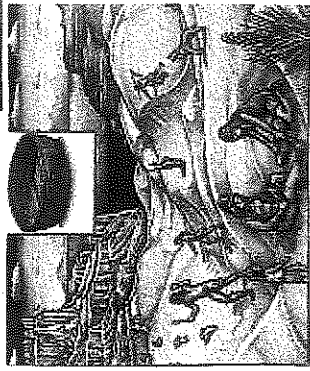
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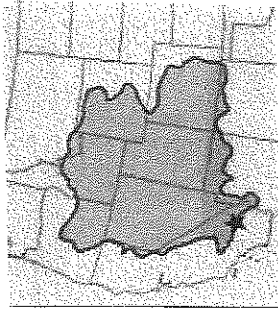
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## KEY

Archaeologists have found artifacts in places that show some stretches of the old trail had earlier been used by Archaic and Fremont Indians

Armijo's group then blazed a new trail south of Death Valley following intermittent streams and locating springs to support the party. He arrived at San Gabriel Mission in California with his group intact, although the men were forced to rely on mule meat during their final days on the trail. In California, they traded the blankets and other goods for horses and mules, available in great numbers and little valued by the Californios. Several thousand of these horses were driven back to Santa Fe

News of the opening of trade with California resulted in immediate commerce between Santa Fe and Los Angeles. With a few exceptions, pack trains made annual treks between New Mexico and California. There were plenty of sheep in New Mexico so woolen goods form there were traded for the horses and mules that roamed freely in California valleys. Ships at California's sea ports carried the goods to other ports around the world!

<p>#4- Emigrants from New Mexico began to take the Spanish Trail to California in the late 1830s. Raids for Indian _____ became common, with victims sold at either end of the trail despite official condemnation of the practice. A brisk trade flourished for dozens of years. Later, Spanish traders made frequent visits from New Mexico to barter with the _____ for _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, traders on the trail also swapped Indian men, women, and children for animals furs and other goods. They sold them as slaves to work in mines, as household servants, and for other work.</p>
<p>#5- Americans became aware of the trail with the publication of _____'s Report of his 1844 journey from California to the States, the return leg of his expedition to Oregon for the U.S. Topographical Corps. Fremont's Report created a sensation in Washington, already struck with Manifest Destiny fever. Fremont took the Spanish Trail across to _____. People called the route by various names, but he called it the "_____ " in his report, and that is the name that has been used ever since.</p>	<p>Recognizing that a large area of the interior desert had no connection to the sea, Fremont first called it the Great Basin, another name used ever since -- in his report.</p>
<p>#6- The Spanish Trail name and use lapsed after the _____ ended in 1848. There was no longer any need to link Santa Fe with Los Angeles by this difficult mule trail; other, _____ routes were opened. The Spanish Trail was not a route of major emigration to the West; trails to the _____ and _____ of it were preferred for this wagon traffic.</p>	<p>The Old Spanish Trail became the 15<sup>th</sup> national historic trail when President George W. Bush signed the bill in December 2002. To qualify as a national historic trail, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. The Old Spanish Trail greatly impacted America's exploration, migration, settlement, and economy.</p>