



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Oklahoma: Land of Opportunity**

### **Chapter 7: Opening the West Internet Activity**

In this lesson, you will learn about many of the trails that crisscrossed the Indian Territory in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Instructions:** Use the links to find the information to complete each item below.

**Part I:** Emigrants moving from the eastern United States to the west coast sometimes traveled in wagons with all of their belongings.



[Prairie Schooner](#)

[Traveling in a Covered Wagon](#)

1. How did the prairie schooner compare in size to the Conestoga wagon?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How was the prairie schooner an improvement over the Conestoga wagon for emigrants traveling the trails west?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the length, width, and height of a typical prairie schooner?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Imagine that you and your family had to move all your belongings in a vehicle the size of the schooner, and you had to live in the same vehicle for weeks on end. What problems will your family face? What might you leave behind?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part II:** The Butterfield Stage Route through Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) was an important communications link for the country in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

[Butterfield Stage Route](#)

[Butterfield Overland Mail](#)

5. How many stations were on the route in Indian Territory? \_\_\_\_\_
6. About how far apart were the stations? \_\_\_\_\_



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- 7. The stage was created to carry mail, but passengers could travel from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California, if they dared and had the money. How long would such a trip take, how many miles would it have covered, and what was the cost? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. What problems might be encountered on the stage route?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part III:** Numerous travelers made their way across Indian Territory headed to Texas or New Mexico and California. Be sure to look for the great photographs that are a part of the websites below.

[Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#) ([map](#))    [Texas Road](#)  
[Santa Fe Trail](#)

- 9. What was the main purpose for the Texas Road through Indian Territory?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Which Civil War battle was fought along the Texas Road?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11. What were the northern and southernmost points of the Texas Road?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12. What were the eastern and westernmost points of the Santa Fe Trail?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Why did people abandon the trails for traveling to the west?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Contrast the Cimarron and Mountain Routes of the Santa Fe Trail.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Finished Early?** Click here to read an account by [Mark Twain](#) of a ride on the Butterfield Stage. Check out [a travel website](#) to find out how long a flight from St. Louis to San Francisco would take today. What’s the best deal you can find for such a trip?

**Want to learn more?** Read parts of this journal recalling an 1859 journey west.

[1859 Book on Trail Travel](#)