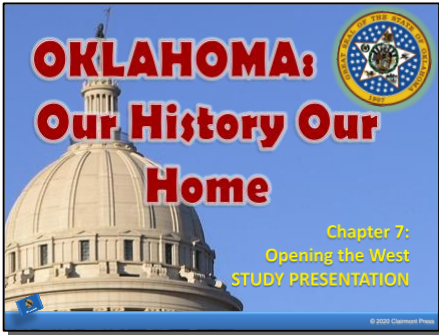




Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 7: Opening the West QuickNotes



Section 1: Westward Movement

➤ Essential Question:

- What factors led Americans and immigrants to move and settle in the West?

Section 1: Westward Movement

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- immigrant
- buffer zone
- annex

Manifest Destiny

- Manifest Destiny was the belief that Americans should expand their land and spread their beliefs and ideals.
- Births and immigration caused the population to rise.
- Cheap land and opportunity for wealth led some to move west.
- Westward movement of whites caused the federal government to continue to relocate native peoples to the "Great American Desert" (present day Oklahoma).
- Louisiana had been a buffer zone between Euro-Americans and the Spanish, but settlers came into the region.
- American settlers demanded protection from the federal government in Oregon (claimed by Great Britain), Texas and California (claimed by Spain).
- President James K. Polk worked out treaty over Oregon and annexed Texas. The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) secured much of the southwest for the U.S. and the Gadsden Purchase (1853) set the final border between U.S. and Mexico.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 7: Opening the West QuickNotes



Impressions of Indian Territory

- Indian Territory (later Oklahoma) was viewed as poor land for settlement (Capt. Benjamin Booneville).
- Dr. Josiah Gregg (1839) and Lts. James Albert and William Peck (1845) were famous explorers of the region.

Section 2: Crossing the Territory

➤ Essential Question:

- What were the best methods of travel for settlers moving West?

Section 2: Crossing the Territory

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- station
- caravan
- transcontinental railroad
- contract



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

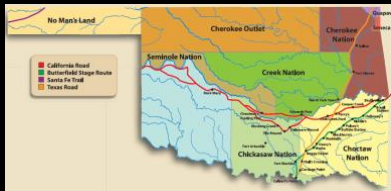
Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 7: Opening the West QuickNotes

Trailblazing

- Many trails began as animal paths.
- Old Indian trails were also used.
- Spanish priests, traders, and trappers followed the old Spanish trail – Natchitoches, Louisiana, up the Red River to Tillman County, and on to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Early Trails



Trailblazing: The Santa Fe Trail

- 1848: Gold was discovered in California and began a gold rush.
- Trails to the west were rugged and dangerous, but took half the time of ship travel (6 months vs. 1 year).
- The Santa Fe trail began in Independence, MO.
- The Cimarron Route went through the Oklahoma Panhandle. It was shorter but drier than the Rocky Mountain Route.
- 1821: William Becknell led the first wagon train on the trail.
- 1825: George Sibley surveyed the trail.
- 1870s: Railroads became the best choice for travelers going west.

Trailblazing: Texas Road

- Osage Trace went from St. Louis, MO to Santa Fe through Oklahoma and Texas.
- It became known as the Texas Road.
- Stations along the road provided relief for stage coaches and other travelers.



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 7: Opening the West QuickNotes

Trailblazing: The California Road

- 1849: Capt. Randolph Marcy led a caravan of gold seekers from Fort Smith, AK across Oklahoma toward Santa Fe, NM (over 800 miles).
- The trail became known as the California Road.
- Travel was 4-15 miles/day, depending on the terrain and weather.
- Rock Mary named for Mary Conway, one of the travelers in the group.

Trailblazing: Other California Trails


- 1849: Capt. L. Evans led a caravan from Fayetteville, AK.
- It traveled the new Cherokee Trail through the Cherokee nation.
- Another trail followed the California Trail to Coal Creek, then turned SW to El Paso, TX.

Traveling the Trails

- The Oregon Trail was more northerly; an estimated 75,000 travelers went west on northern trails in 1850.
- Trails through Indian territory, more southerly, handled about 25,000 in the same year.
- *The Prairie Traveler* by Capt. Marcy recommended routes, supplies, wagons, and animals need for a successful migration.
- Weapons were needed for hunting and protection.
- 1851: Marcy establishes Fort Arbuckle (near Davis) to protect immigrants and keep peace with Indians.

Railroad Survey

- The Transcontinental Railroad spanned the continent from the Atlantic to Pacific Oceans.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) divided and organized the territory north of Oklahoma.
- Settlers entered these areas and plans for the railroad were begun.
- Surveys were made to determine the best route, supervised by secretary of War Jefferson Davis.
- Surveys along the 35th parallel provide much information about life in the area in the 1850s.
- This route was not chosen, in the end, due to the Civil War and the push for a more northerly route.





Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 7: Opening the West QuickNotes

Butterfield Overland Mail

- Stagecoaches were used in the 1850s-1870s to haul mail and travelers.
- The telegraph did not stretch across the continent at first.
- The Butterfield Stage was a famous company with a route across Oklahoma, entering at Ft. Smith, AK, and traveling to the Red River via Boggy Depot and Colbert's Ferry.
- Stations located along the way had fresh horses and refreshed travelers.
- Choctaw and Chickasaw nations had deals with the company to maintain roads and stations for a fee.
- The Choctaw had a toll system to cover expenses of the business in their territory.
- The first stage in 1858 with available trains took 4 days to go from St. Louis, MO to Sherman, TX or to San Francisco in 25 days.
- 1860: The Pony Express increased the speed of mail travel.
- The Civil War delayed expansion of the Pony Express and stage coach route development.
