

Americans Move West

Social Studies Skills

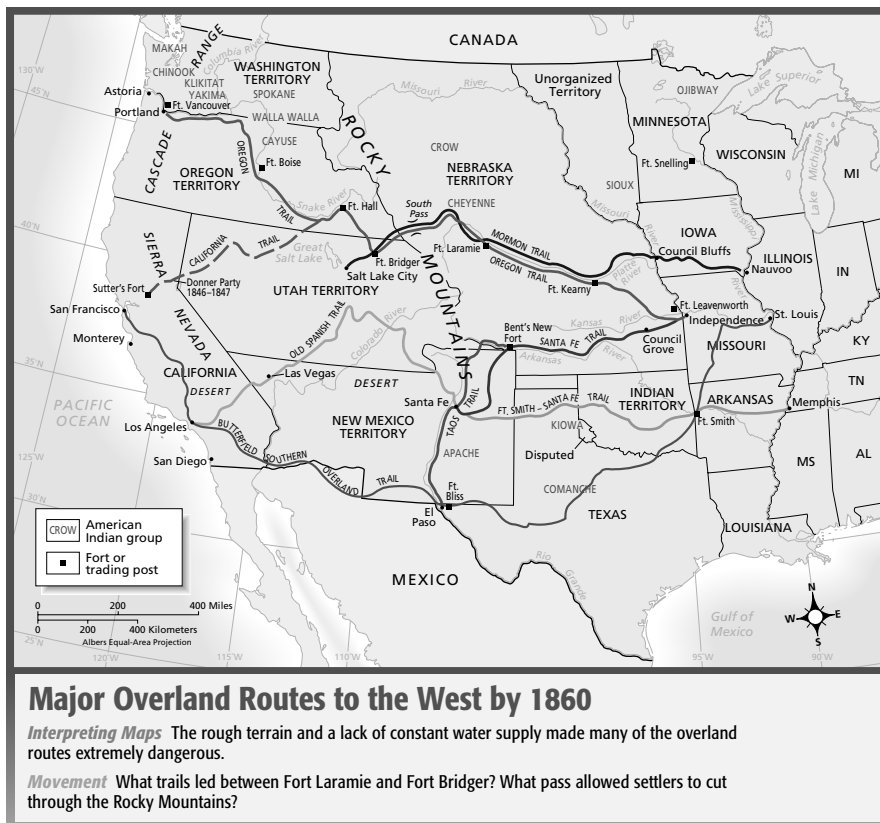
Study

Migration Maps

LEARN THE SKILL

Those Americans who migrated from the middle of the continent to the far west had several choices of routes. Each had benefits and each had difficulties. Mostly the pioneers walked across the country and the trip took some six months. Babies were born and people died during these trips. The travelers were at the mercy of weather and other natural hazards and were occasionally at risk of robbery or attack. Mountains and deserts had to be crossed. Nonetheless thousands successfully accomplished the migration. Studying a migration map makes it easier to understand what they actually did.

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL:



Write a paragraph explaining why a traveler from the Midwest might have chosen to take the Oregon Trail to Fort Hall, then the California Trail, to reach San Francisco. Consider both the obstacles in the way and any reasons why that route might have appeared safer than other routes.