



**Contributor:** Beverly Marzee Prosser Woodward **Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>

1. **Identify the standards to be addressed:**

Tennessee Social Studies 4.22. Describe the experience of settlers on the overland trails to the West, including the purpose of the journeys and influence of geography.

2. **Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

TLW match characteristics and experiences of travelers of the Santa Fe Trail to seven towns or sites that existed on the Trail using the graduated learning method.

3. **Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

Free video clips and Power Point Slides found on the internet about the Santa Fe Trail; Attached picture cards, simple Santa Fe Trail Map, Facts about the Santa Fe Trail pages, and graduated learning pages describing each stop.

4. **Introduction of the topic:**

Ask students to show if they have ever been on a trip or vacation with their family by giving you a thumbs up. How many went by car? What was done to get ready for the trip. Call on 5 students to share something that was done. Show a paper or virtual map and talk about how you used one on a trip of yours.

5. **Procedure for instruction:**

Share information about the Santa Fe Trail using media and Fact Sheet. Pass out map and name places. Number students from 1-7. All students with similar numbers meet & study info about a site on learning cards. They teach class about the site. Students number page to 14. Show pictures. Students write which town pic goes with.

6. **Lesson closure:**

Ask: “After learning about traveling on the Santa Fe Trail, would you want to do so?” Call on students to give and explain answer.

7. **Assessment of Understanding:**

Teacher goes over correct answers to match games. Teacher walks around room to see how students did on game.

## Video Resources to Share Information About the Santa Fe Trail

1. The Dusty Ole Trail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQgw-hMs4cU>

2. Santa Fe and the Trail: Old film by Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gq0ecCVtBH0>

3. Colorized film about the History of The Santa Fe Trail



fols-FOLSwithCaptions2\_240x134.mp4

4. Free PowerPoint about the Santa Fe Trail

<https://www.slideserve.com/kiora/historic-santa-fe-trail>

5. <https://youtu.be/6jeVWhns60E>

## Facts about the Santa Fe Trail

1. What is the main purpose of the Santa Fe Trail?

The **Santa Fe Trail** was established to haul freight from Kansas City to **Santa Fe**, New Mexico and to trade with the Spanish. Early in the 1820s wagon trains were being sent over this route (**Santa Fe Trail**) from the Missouri River to **Santa Fe**, NM.

2. Where does the Santa Fe Trail start and end?

Covering approximately 800 miles, the Santa Fe Trail extends from **Independence, Missouri** to present day Santa Fe, **New Mexico**. The Trail originally began in **Franklin, Missouri**, but the trail head was moved to Fort Osage and, by 1827, to **Independence**.

3. What were the dangers of the Santa Fe Trail?

Serious natural hazards aside, Santa Fe Trail travelers were also trespassing on land already inhabited by tribes such as the Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Arapaho, and Cheyenne. Although most **interactions** between trail travelers and American Indians were peaceful, distrust was pervasive on both sides.

4. Why would someone travel east along the Santa Fe Trail?

From 1821 until 1846, the **Santa Fe Trail was** a two-way international commercial highway used by both Mexican and American traders. ... Because the **Santa Fe Trail** hauled primarily commercial goods, this railroad expansion meant that the trading caravans needed to traverse increasingly short distances.

5. How long is the Santa Fe Trail?

869.9 mi

6. What is the difference between the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail?

The **trails** are **different** because the people that traveled on the **Santa Fe Trail** were mostly individual male traders that continued to travel back and forth **between Santa Fe** and America to buy and sell American factory goods,

while the people that traveled on the **Oregon Trail** were mostly families that wanted to settle.

7. When did people stop using the Santa Fe Trail?

February 9, 1880

Mule and oxen-drawn wagons couldn't compete with trains for hauling freight or speeding passengers westward. On **February 9, 1880** a Santa Fe Railway Company train arrived with considerable fanfare at the Santa Fe railroad depot and effectively ended the Santa Fe Trail.

*Information found on a search on Google*

# The Santa Fe Trail

**Missouri**

Independence, Missouri

Pawnee  
Rock

Council  
Grove

Diamond  
Springs

**Colorado**

Fort Dodge

**Kansas**

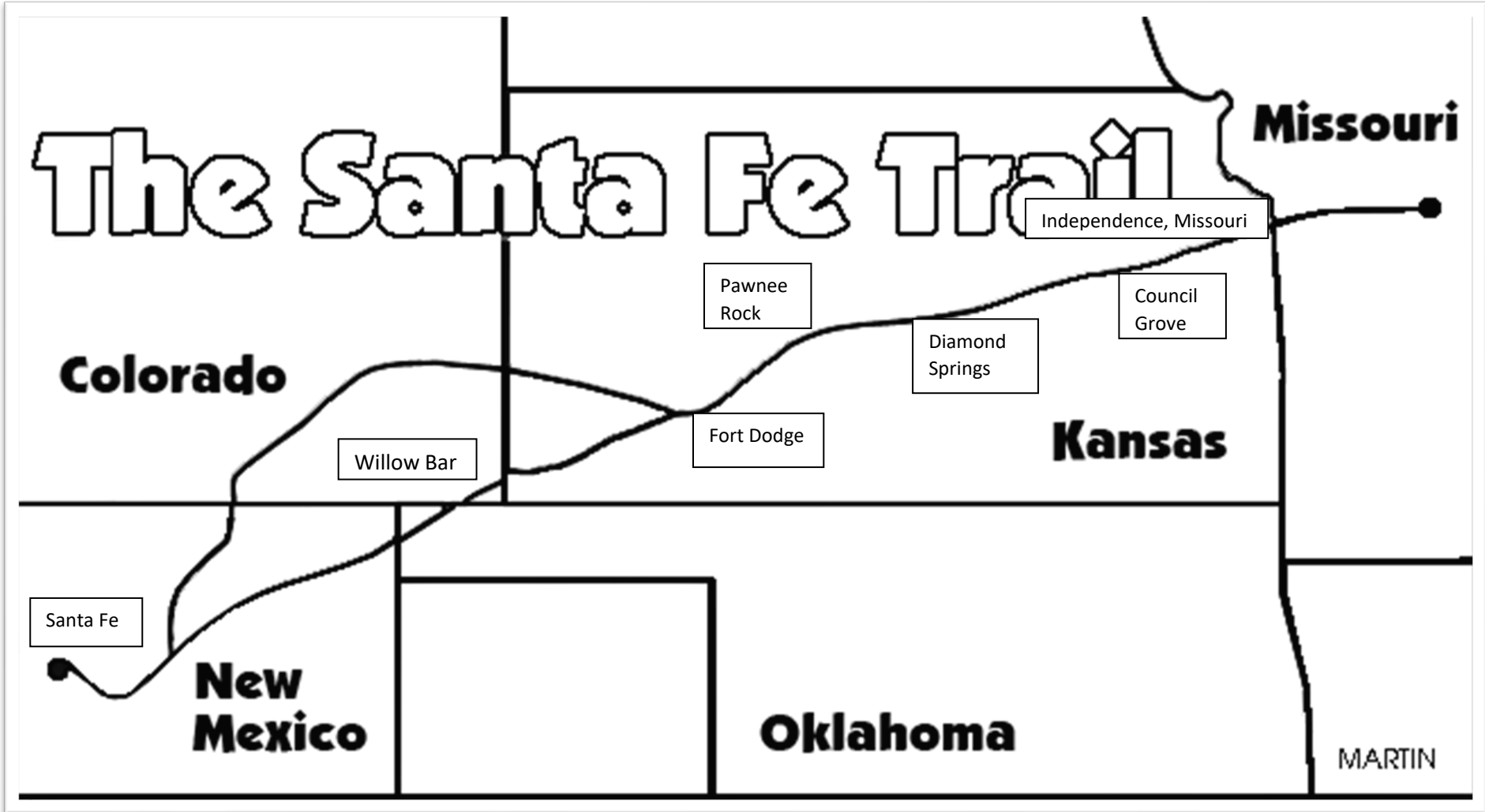
Willow Bar

Santa Fe

**New  
Mexico**

**Oklahoma**

MARTIN



## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 1: Information about Willow Bar, Colorado/Oklahoma on the Santa Fe Trail

Willow Bar usually had water and was frequently used as a campsite. In this area the **Santa Fe Trail** crossed the Cimarron River, leaving the valley for higher ground and passing on both sides of Wolf Mountain. It was a mountain trail route. If the wagons travelled along this route they would travel the shortest of the Santa Fe Trail. Scores of names of people who travelled the trail carved their names on the rocky ledge. This part of the trail was on the Cimarron Route in a corner of a state.

When travelers stopped here they would find a permanent water source. This made it a major stopping point. Also it was a great place for wagons to be repaired and for the livestock to be rested before continuing.

## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 2: Information about Pawnee Rock on the Santa Fe Trail

A sandstone citadel marked the halfway point on the **Santa Fe Trail** and was one of the most prominent landmarks on the long journey. American Indians were said to have met at **Pawnee Rock**, used as a vantage point to spot bison herds and approaching wagon trains. For this reason, it was considered most dangerous stop on the Trail due to American Indian attacks.

Many times the American Indians would use this spot as a place for different tribes and councils to decide if they were declaring war or peace. Because this area was well-known by the American Indians many on travelers on the Santa Fe Trail were uneasy to camp here. One story that has been shared many years is Kit Carson at the age of 17 was on guard duty at night. He heard movement and fearing it was American Indian tribe about to attack his traveling party he shot into the night. When he did this, he killed his own mule and was teased about it for years.

A final bit of information to share is that Pawnee Rock was given its name because it was a Rock. When the railroad was being built in out West, a great deal of the sandstone that made up the rock was used. Now the large rock is no longer there.

## **Graduated Learning Cards**

### **Number 3: Information about Independence, Missouri on the Santa Fe Trail**

**Independence Missouri** was the starting point for the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails and later became a rendezvous for wagon trains to the California gold mines. With its closeness to the Missouri River it became a great transportation route for moving goods. Steamboats moved up and down the river making it easy for fur trade. More fur was done along the Santa Fe Trail.

Because the three Trails began here, Independence also was known for outfitting pioneers on the way to seek fortune. The state animal, a mule, soon became popular for its hardiness along the Trail. Ferries helped transport wagons from one side of the river to another before they set out on the Santa Fe Trail.

Large ruts from the wagon wheels can still be seen in places of the town of Independence.



## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 4: Information about Fort Dodge, Kansas on the Santa Fe Trail

**Fort Dodge, Kansas** was one of the most important **forts** on the western frontier. It is located to the southeast of the Caches, a noted landmark on the **Santa Fe Trail**, and present-day **Dodge City**. ... The **fort's** primary purpose was to protect the wagon trains along the **Santa Fe Trail** on their way to New Mexico.

At first the fort was made of pitched tents. Then the soldiers had “soddies” as dwelling places which used earth and grass to create a dugout. After that a large complex of buildings was then established. The fort was built to protect wagon trains on the Santa Fe Trail from American Indians.

When the fort was not needed any longer, it became a retirement home for soldiers and later parts of the area were sold off for building a town.

Two interesting facts: Going through Fort Dodge was considered the dry route of travel on Santa Fe Trail. Also General Custer was commander of the fort at some portion of the time.

## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 5: Information about Council Grove, Kansas on the Santa Fe Trail

The place where Council Grove now stands was mentioned by travelers as early as 1820, and in 1825, a treaty was negotiated with the [Osage Indians](#) for a right-of-way for the [Santa Fe Trail](#), a portion of which would later become the main street of Council Grove. The treaty between U.S. commissioners and the Osage Indian chiefs took place in "The Grove," thereby providing the name of the place.

Long before a town ever developed, many who traveled along the Santa Fe Trail gathered their wagons together here, and moved westward in larger groups, as beyond the "Grove" the trail was often fraught with [Indian](#) attacks.

Settlers and Native Americans Indians met under the trees to agree to passage on the Santa Fe Trail. An old oak tree from which they once stood to make their agreements served as a Post Office for those serving on the Santa Fe Trail. As early as 1825 and continuing for the next two decades, a large oak tree, dubbed "[The Post Office Oak](#)," was utilized by passing caravans to leave messages for incoming travelers. These messages placed in a cache in the base of the tree, held various types of information, such as water, danger, or opportunities on the trail.

Council Grove has the oldest continuously operated restaurant, Hays House Restaurant est. 1857, west of the Mississippi River which contains many Indian artifacts.

## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 6: Information about Diamond Springs, Kansas on the Santa Fe Trail

When the [Santa Fe Trail](#) was first surveyed in 1825, Diamond Springs, [Kansas](#) was called the Diamond of the Plains, and records of [Santa Fe traders](#) who passed by Diamond Springs date back as early as 1821 when [William Becknell](#), called the “Father of the Santa Fe Trail,” combined several [Indian](#) paths and created a line of commerce between the United States and the residents of [Santa Fe](#), [New Mexico](#), then governed by Mexico.

The spring was first named Jones Spring by [George Sibley](#) during the 1825 survey of the Santa Fe Trail in honor of Ben Jones who discovered the welcome source of water. Two years later, Sibley re-surveyed the trail, making a few corrections and noted:

“This spring is very large, runs off boldly among rocks, is perfectly accessible and furnished the greatest abundance of most excellent, clear cold sweet water. It may be appropriately called ‘The Diamond of the Plains,’ and so I had it marked on an Elm tree which grows near and overlaps it.”

Place where caravans were vulnerable to Indian attacks because they were stopping to get their animals and themselves the much needed water. Caravans would not move on until there were large groups of wagons so that they could protect each other. Because there were so many American Indian attacks in this area it became known as the “Journey of the Dead”. The American Indians would surround even the army troops that were supposed to protect the caravans of people. The Indians would surround the army camp with fires to stop them from protecting the wagon trains.

As time progressed a large station complex was created to make town and after the Santa Fe Trail was not used and the inhabitants no longer lived in the area it became a large ranch.

## Graduated Learning Cards

### Number 7: Information about Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe was established sometime between the years of 1607-1610, it is America's second oldest city.

Between 1821 and 1880, the **Santa Fe Trail** was primarily a commercial highway connecting Missouri and **Santa Fe, New Mexico**. ... After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war in 1848, the **Santa Fe Trail** became a national road connecting the more settled parts of the United States to the **new** southwest territories.

The route was pioneered by Missouri trader William Becknell, who left Franklin, Missouri in September 1821. Others before him had been arrested by Spanish soldiers once they neared Santa Fe, and most had been hauled south toward Mexico City to serve lengthy prison sentences. Becknell, however, was pleasantly surprised to find that Mexico had overthrown the Spanish yoke, and the New Mexican government – unlike their predecessors – welcomed outside trade. Not surprisingly, others got into the trade soon after Becknell returned, and by 1825 goods from Missouri were not only being traded in Santa Fe, but to other points farther south as well. Some traders used the so-called Mountain Route, which offered more dependable water but required an arduous trip over Raton Pass. Most, however, used the Cimarron Route, which was shorter and faster but required knowledge of where the route's scarce water supplies were located.

The Santa Fe Trail brought goods to the Mexican citizens that did not have, but it also let them sell to Americans their items. Beautiful turquoise jewelry, silver, crafts and baskets were created and traded for furs.

Soon not only were products being sold but people were transported by the Stage coach and Mail delivery occurred through the Pony Express.

The Santa Fe Trail was a major trade route stop during California Gold Rush and became one of the stops for the famous Fred Harvey Hotels.



Picture for Santa Fe Trail Match-up: Which Town does the picture match with?



1. Turquoise Ring



2. American Indians attack a wagon caravan.



3. Steamboat



4. Journey of the Dead



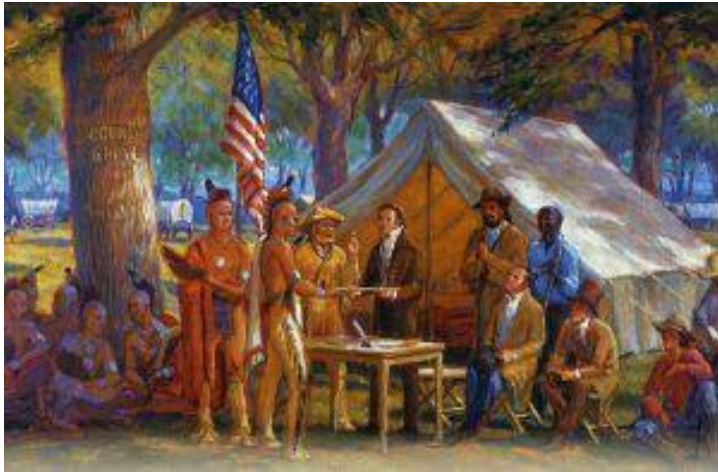
5. Soddies



6. Halfway Trip Sign



**7. Mule**

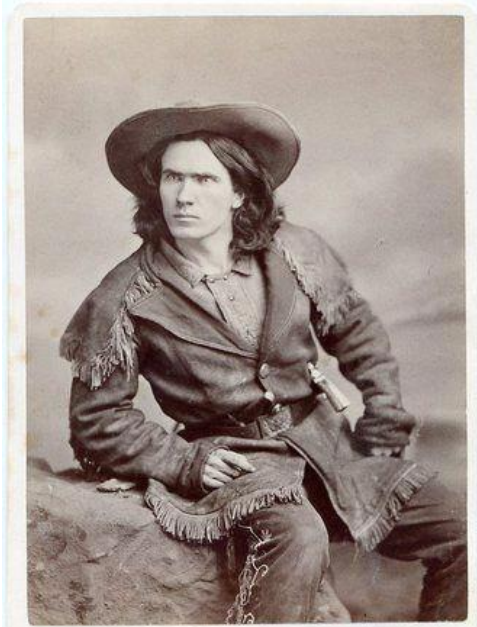


**8. Meeting of American Indians and travelers on Santa Fe Trail**

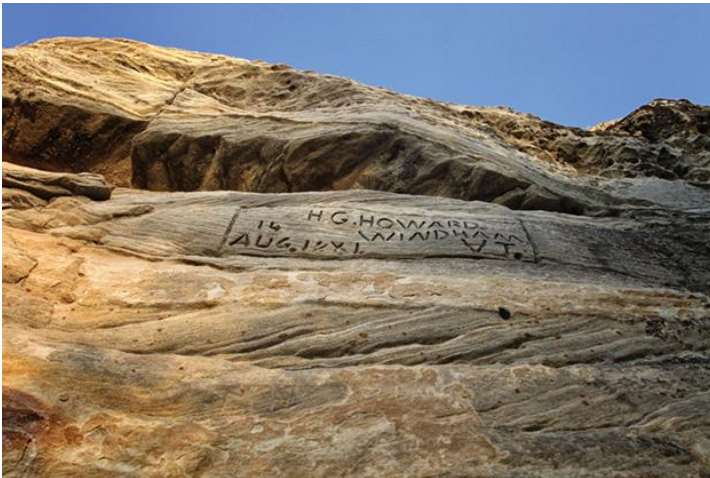


**9. New Mexico Harvey House**





**10. Kit Carson**



**11. Autograph Rock**



**12. Rock made up a great deal of this area.**



13. Custer was in command here.



14. The Mail Tree