

Rivers and Westward Expansion

Independent Analysis

Overview

This assignment will require you to search for and analyze primary sources in our digital library.

Before beginning make sure you've watched:

- a.) Part 1 - Introductory tour video
- b.) Part 2 - Video explaining how to use our digital library
- c.) Part 3 - Early American immigration primary source analysis video

Instructions

On the following pages you will find two 'big concept' questions. Each question is followed by instructions that guide you through using a primary source to develop your answer. You will break down the big questions by answering smaller questions. Then you will return to the big question and write your answer using what you've learned. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper or in a word document.

To access our digital library, open a web browser and navigate to <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/>

You can also find the link on the right side of the Anniversary Educational Series webpage.

*It is easiest to print these instructions so you can use your web browser to access the digital library. If you don't have access to a printer, you will need to switch back and forth between two tabs in your web browser- one tab for these instructions and the other for the digital library.

Big Concept Question 1: Geography

How did rivers influence where people settled in Missouri in the early 19th-century? Be specific and use examples.

Develop Your Answer

Historic maps are one of our best sources for understanding where cities developed in relation to natural resources, like rivers.

- Type “Map of Missouri” in the search bar in the top right hand corner of our digital library home page.
- Missouri became a state in 1820, so let's narrow our search to the period just after statehood. On the left bar labeled “Narrow Your Search” scroll down until you see “Time Period”. Select “1820-1829”. You may have to expand the menu by clicking “show more”.
- Select the second search result “Map of the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas”

Use the map to answer the following questions:

1. When was this map made?
2. According to this map, what was the total population of Missouri in 1820?
3. Which county had the highest total population? Can you find that county on the map? Use the zoom button to zoom in on this county as far as you can.

The curvy line bordering the south of the county is the Missouri River. If you look closely at this area, you'll notice two cities straddling the river, Franklin and Boonville.

- Look for a faint line running from Franklin east, along the north bank of the river, to Columbia, on to Elizabeth, and onward to St. Charles. This is the Boonslick trail, a major early road that allowed settlers to access the lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. The road was named after "Boone's Lick Spring" in Franklin.

This salt spring drew thousands of people to harvest its salt, including the Boone family.

- Look to the right of Franklin for a faint line that runs west, up along the curve of the river, through Jefferson, and then along the south bank to Fort Osage. This is the Santa Fe Trail, a major early trail that connected Missouri to New Mexico.

These two trails cut across Missouri, following the river, with Franklin connecting them. Early trails usually followed rivers because they provided a point of reference to navigate by, plenty of fresh drinking water, and game for hunting.

4. What businesses do you think developed to support travelers passing through and settling in Franklin? (Consider the different ways they might travel, the supplies they might need for their journey or to build their homes, and where they might stay or spend their time)
5. Using your last answer and the information above, why do you think Howard County had the highest population in Missouri in 1820?
6. Which county had the second highest total population? Can you find it on the map?
7. What two major rivers border this county? Find where they meet on the map.
8. Why do you think so many people were drawn to this county?
9. Using the statistical table in the bottom right corner, locate other counties with high populations. Look for town and city markers. Do you notice a pattern about their locations?

Now try to answer the first big concept question using what you've just learned.

Big Concept Question 1: Geography

How did rivers influence where people settled in Missouri in the early 19th-century? Be specific and use examples.

Big Concept Question 2: Commerce

What was the significance of the Mississippi River to the US economy in the late 19th-century? Be specific and use examples.

Develop Your Answer

- Click the yellow tab “advanced search” on our digital library home page.
- Use the dropdown menu to change the field to ‘Title’ and enter “Mississippi River” as your search term.
- Hit the + button and add a second search
- Use the dropdown menu to change the second field to Description and enter “trade” as your search term.
- Run your search and select the search result “A Memorial to Congress to Secure an Adequate Appropriation for a Prompt and Thorough Improvement of the Mississippi River”

Use the document to answer the following questions:

Read pages 3-4.

1. When was this piece written?
2. What is the purpose of this document (why was it written)?
3. How many different states were represented at the convention?
4. At the bottom of page 4, the author included a table with figures representing the wealth and productiveness of the Mississippi Valley. What were the top four most valuable products transported on the river?
5. Use a calculator to add the numbers in the “value” column to discover the total value of goods shipped on the Mississippi River in 1870.

The memorial goes on to make five arguments asking the federal government for funding (appropriations). There is an appendix beginning on page 11 that provides additional arguments and supporting data. These include:

- The cost of travel delays due to low water, including burning coal, crew wages, and damage to boats and cargo
- The relative cheapness of transporting goods by water vs railroad
- The superior carrying capacity of river barges compared to railroad
- Highly profitable trade ideal for river transport, like wheat, lumber, and iron

Flip ahead to the last two pages of the appendix (pg. 38-39). Read the first two paragraphs under "Reasons for Immediate Action". (The second paragraph continues over onto page 39)

6. What does this passage tell us about employment and labor in the midwest at the time?
7. What role did the river play as a provider of jobs?
8. What steps does the author propose be taken to improve the Mississippi River?

Now try to answer the second big concept question using what you've just learned.

Big Concept Question 2: Commerce

What was the significance of the Mississippi River to the US economy in the late 19th-century? Be specific and use examples.



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