

Name_____ Test Date_____

Facts to Know Westward Expansion

Robert Fulton invented the steamboat. Steamboats could carry many passengers and cargo up and down the Mississippi River.

The famous Erie Canal is more than 300 miles long and connects Lake Erie with the Hudson River.

Many people moved west because they wanted to find gold, or the opportunity to get their own land.

The main trail that many wagon trains followed west is called The Oregon Trail. It stretches 2,000 miles long.

The Pony Express was a faster way of getting mail from one place to another.

The animal that supplied almost all of the needs of the Plains Indians was the buffalo. When settlers moved west, they killed most of the buffalo, which was a great hardship on the Indians.

The Cherokee people did not have a written language. Sequoyah developed a way of writing for his people and they learned to communicate well enough to have their own newspaper.

The forced march of the Cherokee people to Oklahoma during a harsh winter is called the Trail of Tears. Many adults and children died along the way.

The Transcontinental Railroad route went from Nebraska across the United States to California.

Vocabulary

Canal Era- A time period in which a network of canals was built especially in the Northeast

Frontier- An imaginary line between settled and unsettled land

"Iron Horse"- A nickname for the first trains

Transcontinental Railroad – A railway that ran across the entire continental United States