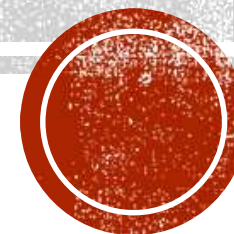


MORMON TRAIL



OBJECTIVE

- Students will discover what life was like on the Mormon Trail.



LEAVING NAUVOO

- The first group of Saints left Nauvoo in the middle of the Winter.
 - Used a ferry to cross the Mississippi River
 - The river later froze and people were able to walk on the ice with their wagons.
- Spent the Winter slowly traveling across Iowa
 - The men worked odd jobs here and there to earn money for the journey
 - Set up a few communities, the most famous being Council Bluffs.
- September 1846 made it into Nebraska and established Winter Quarters to stay in until spring.
- During this time the Mormon Battalion was enlisted into the U.S. Army.



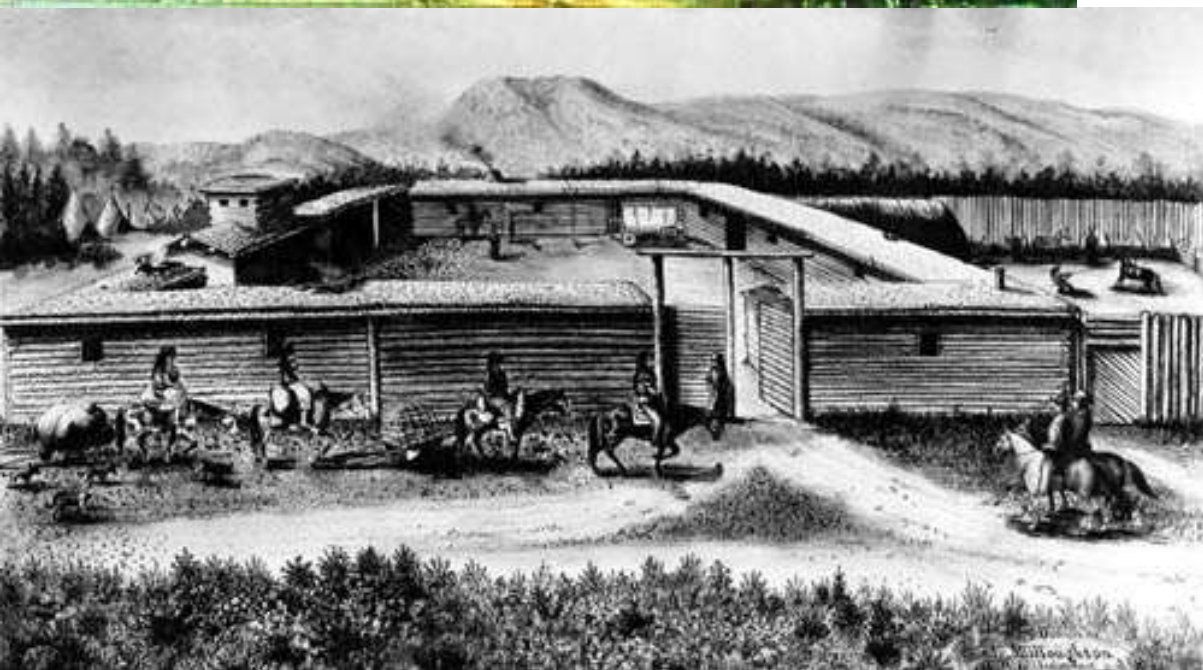
THE ADVANCE PIONEER COMPANY

- Spring 1847, Brigham Young led the first Mormon Pioneer Company to prepare the trail for the others.
- Built Ferries
- Cleared trees and rocks
- Marked the Trail
- Wrote guides: where to find fresh water, fuel and places to feed animals.
- Mostly men, three women, two young boys



- Arrived at Fort Bridger in July
 - Rested, repaired wagons, and traded
 - Jim Bridger advised Brigham Young not to settle in the Salt Lake Valley, he said it was too dry to grow food there.
- Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow entered the Salt Lake Valley July 22, 1847
 - Immediately began planting crops and growing irrigation ditches.
- Brigham Young and the rest of the Company entered the Valley July 24, 1847.





MORMON TRAIL FACTS

- Brigham Young and several others returned to Winter Quarters to help lead the rest of the Saints to Utah.
- Later companies included more women, children, and foreign immigrants.
- Mormon Trail is it's own trail in Iowa and Utah, follows the Oregon Trail the rest of the time.
- It could take 2 days to get a wagon train across the river.



- **Mormons made their own ferry crossings, men would stay behind to run them and charged Oregon Trail Pioneers to cross.**
- **Brigham Young required to kill buffalo and other animals only for food.**
- **Dead sage brush and “buffalo chips” were used for fuel when wood could not be found.**
- **Women and girls cooked breakfast: soda biscuits, johnnycakes, beans and bacon.**
- **Drank coffee and tea, the water was too dirty to drink.**



- Wagons pulled by Oxen, mules or horses
 - Oxen were the slowest, but also the strongest
- Even with wagons, most people walked.
- People got married on the trail
- Babies were born on the trail
- Did not travel on Sundays





TROUBLE ON THE TRAIL

- Heat, cold, dust, and bad weather
- Unusual food
- Accidents
- Insects
- Snake bites
- Poor Sanitation
- Disease
- Indians: traded, stole horses, burnt grass



HANDCART COMPANIES

- Used by poor Mormon immigrants
- Perpetual Emigration Fund helped pay for European converts to move to Utah
- 1855, most of these funds were gone.
- Handcarts made these trips more affordable for both the Church and the immigrants.
- Used from 1856-1860, 10 Handcart Companies, 17 pounds of luggage per person
- Replaced by trains in 1861.





Immigrants Come to Utah

- Mormon Missionaries Converted large groups of people in other countries. Converts wanted to join the larger body of Saints in Utah.

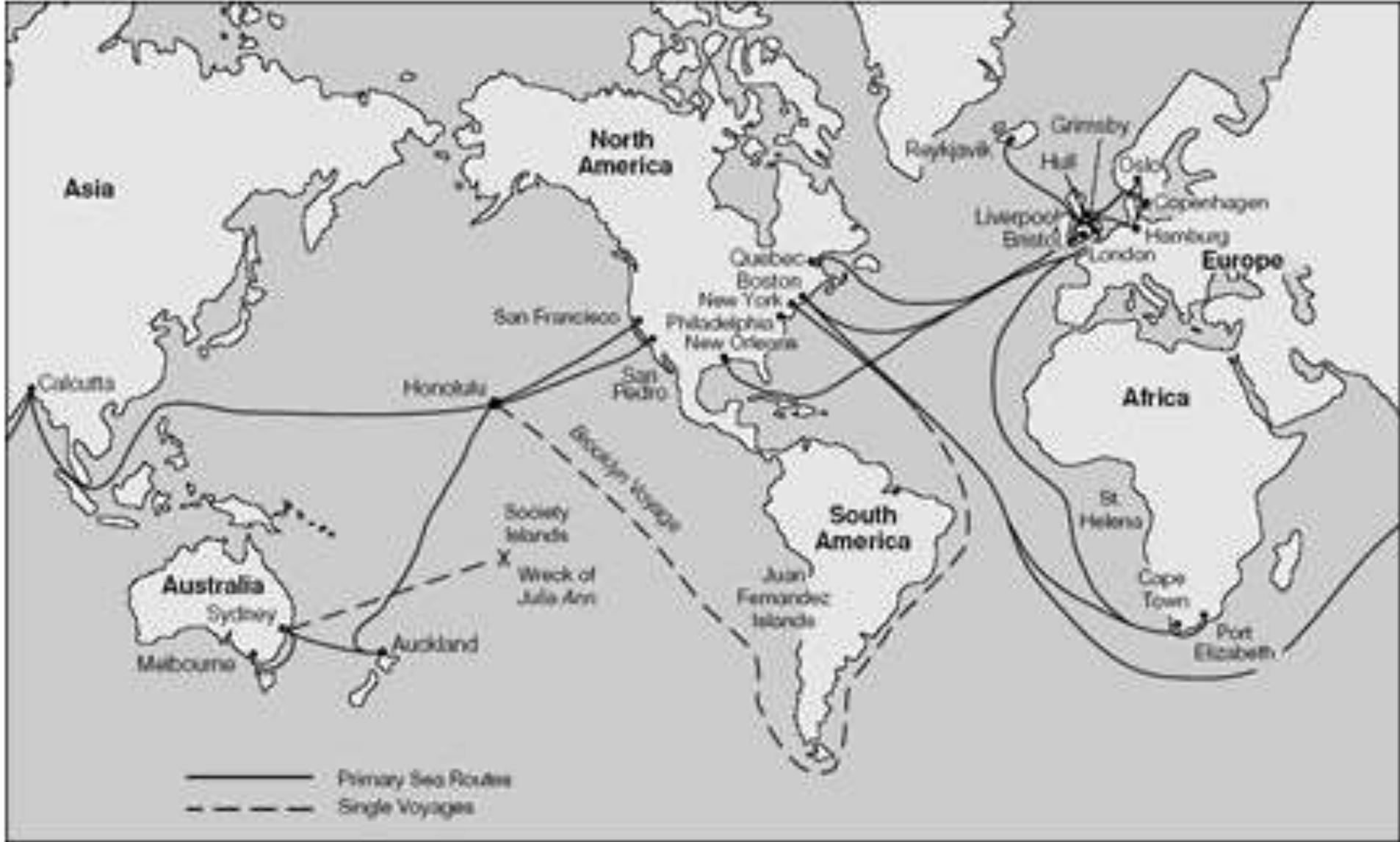
- Came mostly from the British Isles and Scandinavia.

Also from Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, France, Australia, South Africa, India and the Pacific Islands.

Traveled across oceans on ships.

Upon arriving in America to get to the Salt Lake Valley, people would travel by river boat as far as they could go, then by oxen and wagons.





While most Mormon pioneers crossed the Great Plains, 238 convert immigrants began their journey to refuge in the West with a 24,000 – mile sea voyage.

Voyage of the Brooklyn

From the northeastern United States, newly converted Mormons descended on New York City in the winter of 1845-1846. Lacking means to travel overland to Nauvoo where Mormons were preparing to leave for Utah, they pooled their money and chartered a ship.

Under the Leadership of Samuel Brannan they sailed around South America's Cape Horn to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and then on to California, crossing the equator twice in the process, making perhaps the longest religious sea pilgrimage in recorded history.

