



Trail Blazers



Objective

- Students will investigate the many routes people could take to get to Utah.

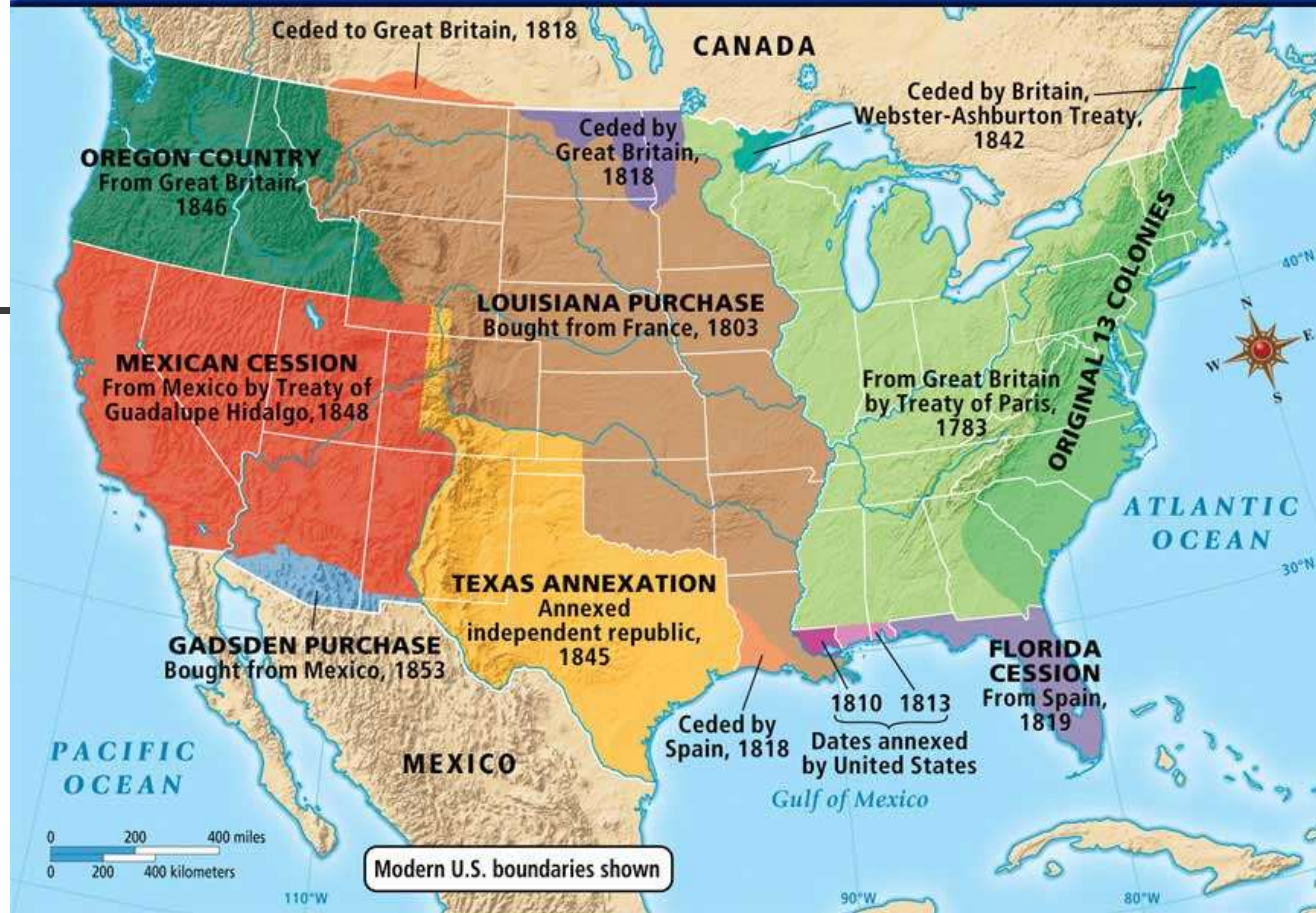




Oregon

- When Louis and Clark returned and news of their findings spread. Accounts from Mountain Men and explorers sparked the interest of people in New England who saw an opportunity for a new beginning.

Growth of the United States 1783-1853



Manifest Destiny: editor John O'Sullivan from the East wrote, "It is the manifest destiny of the United States to spread across the country."

This becomes the United States theme in the 19th century and drives Westward expansion.



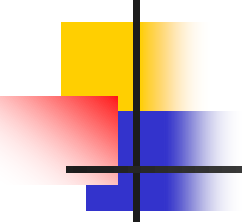
Trail Blazers

- Bidwell-Bartleson Party – 1841
 - First known wagon train to cross northern Utah, heading to California by wagon.
 - Little knowledge, no maps of the route west.
 - Nancy Kelsey, “Our ignorance of the route was complete. We knew that California lay west, and that was the extent of our knowledge.”
- Their crossing was difficult and harrowing, but they proved pioneers could reach California by land.

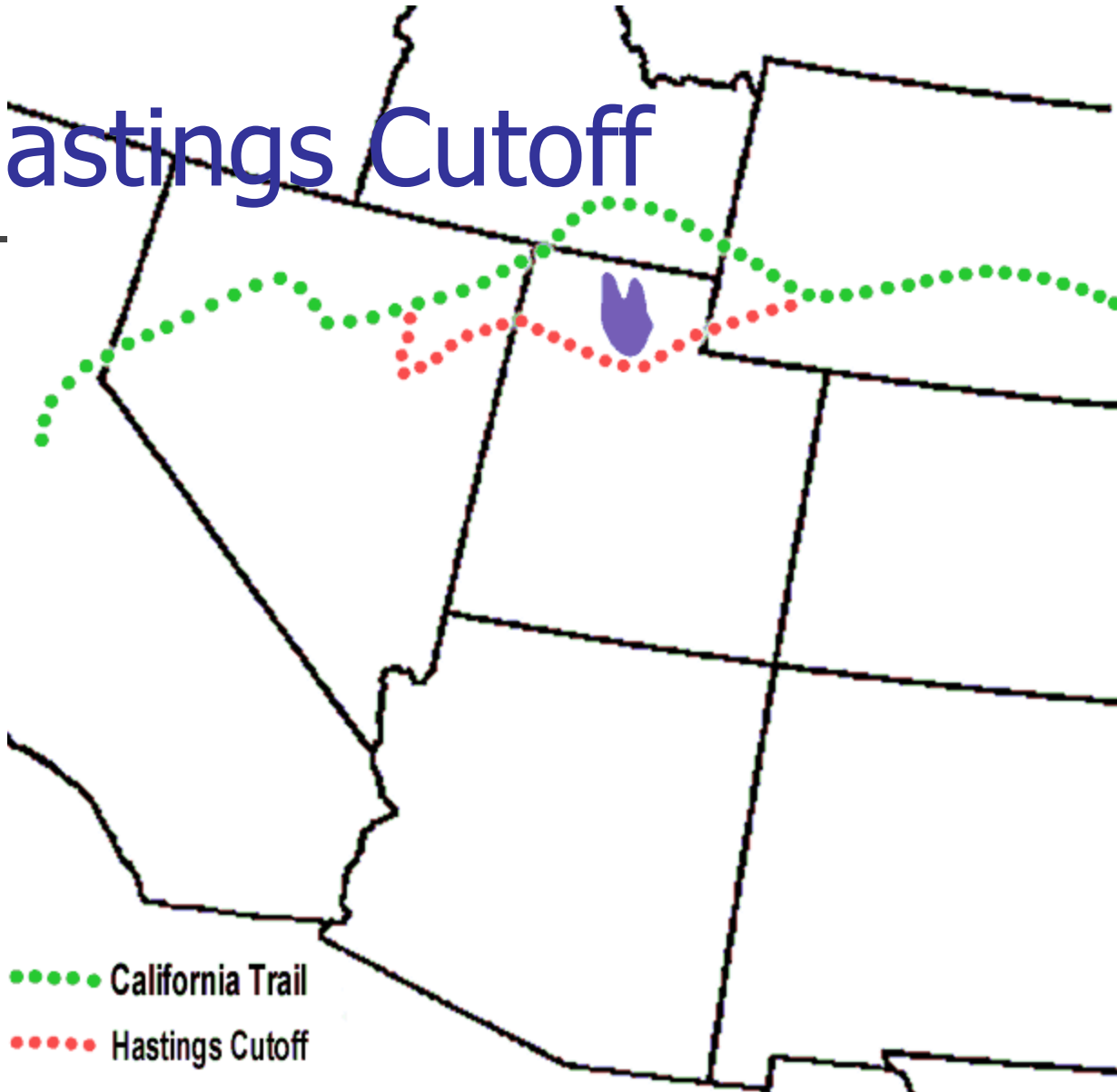


Halfway

- The old trapper Jim Bridger established a fort at the halfway point. He would make a fortune taking advantage of the people needing to resupply.
- Just after Ft. Bridger the trail split between people going to California or Oregon.

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- The Oregon Trail and cut off to California was long. A short cut was sought for.

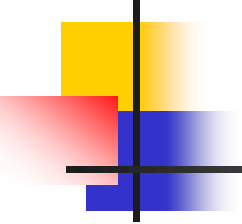
Hastings Cutoff

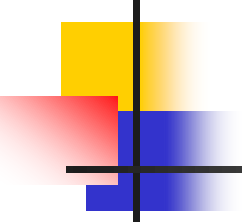


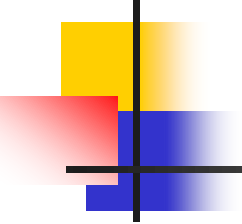


Hastings Cutoff

- Building on the route that Jed Smith and other explorers had traveled Lansford Hastings Published a book with a new route.
- In his book he said it was a short cut even though wagons had never traveled it.

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- 1846 four parties decided to try the cutoff.
 - The last party was the infamous Donner- Reed Party.

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- The Donner-Reed Party was ill-fated from the beginning. They did not have much experience in the wilderness.
 - They over packed.
 - Their worst decision was they were late to leave. They left Ft. Bridger on July 31st.
 - They should have left near the 4th.

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- As the party approached the Wasatch front to drop into the Salt Lake Valley, Hastings left them a note to take a different canyon.
 - It took them 12 extra days to cut a route through the new canyon.



Crossing the Salt Lake Desert

- Normally it took 2 days to cross the desert. There is no water along the way.
- The trip took about 5 days.
- They had to leave 5 wagons and many oxen died along the way.
- Fate of the Donner Reed Party



Those early pioneer groups, including the Donner Reed party, blazed a trail through Utah's mountains. Without them, the Mormon pioneers who came the next year and settled Utah and surrounding areas, would have had a much harder time getting through the mountains and may not have arrived early enough to plant crops that summer.



Mormon Trail

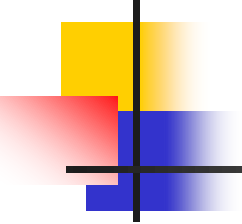
- After much persecution Mormons decided to move out of the U.S territory to try to find a place they could freely worship.
- The Mormon trail was created along the Missouri and Platt rivers.





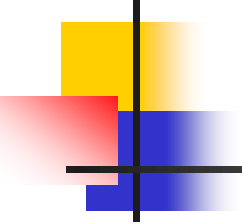
Mormon Battalion

- In 1846 the U.S military moved into Mexican territory in Texas.
- The Mexican Army attacked and the Mexican American War began.
- 500 Mormon militia men were sent to help with the war by marching along the Old Santa Fe Trail.

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- Even though the Mormons had not been treated well by the U.S Brigham Young saw this as opportunity to bring in some extra money through the Battalion's service.
 - The Battalion marched from Leavenworth through Santa Fe to San Diego.

U.S. Mormon Battalion March



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- After the march some soldiers reenlisted but most marched to Utah from Northern California.
 - Some stayed behind at Sutter's Fort. Here is where the gold would be discovered and lead to the great California Gold Rush of 1849.



Descriptions of Utah

- How did Dominguez and Escalante view the Utah Valley?
- What was Fremont's view of Utah?
- What was Jim Bridger's view of Utah.