

# First Grade “Early Exploration of the American West” Assessment

- 1a. What did people call the places without settlements or towns?  
a. the Midwest  
b. the frontier

- 1b. What is the frontier?  
a. Land near the ocean  
b. Land in the mountains  
c. Land without settlements or towns  
d. Land in Europe

- 1c. Why did people head to the frontier after the Revolutionary War?

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- 2a. Marking trees with paint or small cuts is called \_\_\_\_\_ a trail.

- 2b. What do you call marking trees with paint or small cuts so others can follow?

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- 2c. Why did some people blaze a trail through the wilderness?

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- 3a. One famous trailblazer was D\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_.

- 3b. Where did Daniel Boone blaze a trail?

- a. The Mississippi River  
b. The Appalachian Mountains  
c. The Rocky Mountains  
d. The Colorado River

- 3c. Describe the travels of Daniel Boone.

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- 4a. What is the name of the road that was enlarged from an Indian trail to a road wide enough for families to travel?

- a. The Appalachian Trail  
b. The Wilderness Road

4b. What is the Wilderness Road?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4c. How did creating the Wilderness Road help settlers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5a. The United States bought some land from France called the L\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase.

- 5b. What was the land that France sold America called?
- a. The French Quarter
  - b. The New Bargain
  - c. The Kentucky Decision
  - d. The Louisiana Purchase

5c. Why was the Louisiana Purchase considered such a bargain?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 6a. Who was sent west by President Jefferson to explore the frontier?
- a. Pocahontas
  - b. Lewis and Clark

- 6b. Why did President Jefferson send Lewis and Clark west?
- a. He wanted to punish them for their crime.
  - b. He wanted to build a house near the Pacific Ocean.
  - c. He wanted to know what the land he bought was like.
  - d. He thought that they would find gold and riches.

6c. Lewis and Clark collected information about their journey. How was their collection of information different than information collected today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7a. What is one unusual thing that Lewis and Clark saw on their journey?  
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7b. What were some surprising things that Lewis and Clark saw on their journey?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7c. Describe one adventure Lewis and Clark had on their journey.

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- 8a. A Native American named \_\_\_\_\_ helped Lewis and Clark.
  - a. Sacagawea
  - b. Powhatan
  
- 8b. How did Sacagawea help Lewis and Clark?
  - a. She cooked food for them.
  - b. She helped guide them.
  - c. She traded food for weapons with them.
  - d. She showed them the Pacific Ocean.

8c. Why was Sacagawea so important to Lewis and Clark?

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Use the attached map for questions 9-11.

- 9a. Which letter marks the Appalachian Mountains: A or B? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 9b. Which mountains are marked with the letter A?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 9c. Label the Appalachian Mountains.
  
- 10a. The R\_\_\_\_\_ Mountains are marked with a B.
  
- 10b. Label the Rocky Mountains.
  
- 10c. Label the Rocky Mountains. Describe where the Rocky Mountains are located.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 11a. The M\_\_\_\_\_ River is the largest river in America.
  
- 11b. What river is labeled with a C?
  - a. The Colorado River
  - b. The Louisiana River
  - c. The Mississippi River
  - d. The California River

11c. Why did Lewis and Clark travel along the Mississippi River and the Missouri River?  
Label the Mississippi River.

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The following Colorado Model Content Standards are covered in this assessment by the questions indicated.

Questions 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c: History Standard 3.1. Students know how various societies were affected by contacts and exchanges among diverse peoples.

Question 6c: History Standard 4.1. Students understand the impact of scientific and technological developments on individuals and societies.

Questions 5a, 5b, 5c: History Standard 4.2. Students understand how economic factors have influenced historical events.

Questions 8a, 8b, 8c, 9a, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 10c: Geography Standard 1.2. Students develop knowledge of Earth to locate people, places, and environments.

Questions 1a, 1b, 1c: Geography Standard 2.1. Students know the physical and human characteristics of places.

Questions 1a, 1b, 1c: Geography Standard 4.1. Students know the characteristics, location, distribution, and migration of human populations.

Questions 5a, 5b, 5c, 7a, 7b, 7c: Geography Standard 4.5. Students know how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

## Answer Key

- 1a. b. the frontier  
1b. c. Land without settlements or towns  
1c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-they wanted to see new things  
-the east was getting too crowded  
-they wanted to have more land  
-they liked adventure
- 2a. blazing  
2b. blazing a trail  
2c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-they wanted to leave a trail for others to follow and it helped them keep track of the path they followed
- 3a. Daniel Boone  
3b. b. The Appalachian Mountains  
3c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-he blazed a trail through the Appalachian Mountains  
-he cut down trees to make a Native American path wider  
-they moved rocks to make the road easier to travel
- 4a. b. The Wilderness Road  
4b. Acceptable answers could include:  
-It is a road created when Daniel Boone cut down trees and moved rocks to make a Native American road wider.  
4c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-families could travel on the road  
-wagons could travel on the road because it was wider and smoother  
-it was a better road for traveling west.
- 5a. Louisiana Purchase  
5b. d. The Louisiana Purchase  
5c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-We bought a lot of land for a small sum of money, the land we bought made the United States much larger and it was not expensive.
- 6a. b. Lewis and Clark  
6b. c. He wanted to know what the land he bought was like.  
6c. Acceptable answers could include:  
-Today photos and computers would be used to record information, people today might use a video camera.  
-Lewis and Clark had to write down all their observations and draw pictures of what they saw.

- 7a. Acceptable answers could include:  
 -herds of buffalo  
 -poisonous rattlesnakes  
 -grizzly bears  
 -different Native American tribes
- 7b. Answers will vary but may include any of the things listed in answer 7a.
- 7c. Acceptable answers could include:  
 -Once a grizzly bear chased Lewis up a tree  
 -They met Sacajawea and she helped guide them on their journey through the Rocky Mountains
- 8a. a. Sacagawea
- 8b. b. She helped guide them.
- 8c. Acceptable answers could include:  
 -she guided them through land they were unfamiliar with  
 -she helped translate for them  
 -she helped them get supplies for the journey from Native American tribes
- 9a. A
- 9b. Appalachian Mountains
- 9c. See map at the bottom for correct labeling.
- 10a. Rocky
- 10b. See map at the bottom for correct labeling.
- 10c. Acceptable answers could include:  
 -they start in Canada and travel almost to Mexico  
 -they are in the western part of the United States  
 -they are west of the Mississippi River
- 11a. Mississippi
- 11b. c. The Mississippi River
- 11c. Acceptable answers could include:  
 -rivers are a good source of water  
 -there are fish to eat in the river  
 -animals come to the river to drink so they have animals to hunt