

For Better or Worse, How Did the Santa Fe Trail Change America?



U.S. Department of the Interior. (2016). *Trail Beginnings & Geographic Setting (U.S. National Park Service)*. National Parks Service. Retrieved December 2, 2021, from <https://www.nps.gov/articles/santa-fe-trail-beginnings.htm>.

Supporting Questions

1. How was trade in America changed by the Santa Fe Trail?
2. How did the Santa Fe Trail impact Indigenous people of the Plains and Southwest?
3. What impact did the Santa Fe Trail have on the Mexican-American War?

4th Grade Santa Fe Trail Inquiry

For Better or Worse, How Did the Santa Fe Trail Change America?	
Kansas Social Studies Standards	Standard 5: Relationships among people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic. 5.1: The student will recognize and evaluate dynamic relationships that impact lives in communities, states, and nations.
Staging the Compelling Question	Discuss how new trails, roads, or sidewalks around the city have changed how people move and interact. Specifically focus on trails/roads/sidewalks that may impact students' lives.

Supporting Question 1
How was trade in America changed by the Santa Fe Trail?
Formative Performance Task
Write one paragraph about how trade in America benefited from the Santa Fe Trail. Then, write a 1-2 sentence counterclaim on how it could have negatively impacted trade.
Featured Sources
<p>Source A: Visit Blackjack Park in Baldwin City, Kansas to view the Santa Fe Trail</p> <p>Source B: Article from National Park Service, "Beyond New Mexico and Missouri: The Diverse People and Places of the Santa Fe Trail"</p> <p>Source C: Interactive Trail Map</p>

Supporting Question 2
How did the Santa Fe Trail impact Indigenous people of the Plains and Southwest?
Formative Performance Task
Create a T-chart that covers how the route negatively and positively impacted Indigenous people.
Featured Sources
<p>Source A: Excerpt from Santa Fe Trail research, Indians Along the Santa Fe Trail</p> <p>Source B: Article from Missouri Life Magazine, "Missouri stories from the Santa Fe Trail"</p> <p>Source C: Chapter 3 from <i>Traveling the Santa Fe Trail</i> by Linda Thompson</p>

Supporting Question 3
What impact did the Santa Fe Trail have on the Mexican-American War?
Formative Performance Task
Make an annotated timeline of major events that occurred leading up to, and during, the Mexican-American War and the Santa Fe Trail. Around 1821-1850.
Featured Sources
<p>Source A: Excerpts from History, Santa Fe Trail</p> <p>Source B: Article from Legends of America, "The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848"</p> <p>Source C: Chapter 4 from <i>Traveling the Santa Fe Trail</i> by Linda Thompson</p>

Summative Performance Task	ARGUMENT: For better or worse, how did the Santa Fe Trail change America? Construct an argument that provides evidence on how America was changed for better, worse, or both in the 1800's due to the Santa Fe Trail.
	EXTENSION: Students will work in groups of 3-4 to create an annotated map, video, or poster that explains how they think America was changed by the Santa Fe Trail. All projects will need to include pictures of the trail.
Taking Informed Action	ACT: Students will share their projects with the class and then work together to create a website that provides information on the Santa Fe Trail. It will include their summative performance task and some formative performance tasks as well. Optional website platforms are Google Sites or Wix.com.

Overview

Inquiry Description

This inquiry leads 4th grade students through an investigation of the Santa Fe Trail and its impact on communities, states, and nations. The compelling question, “For Better or Worse, How Did the Santa Fe Trail Change America?” gives students the opportunity to think deeper about the Santa Fe Trail and its impact on the United States. Students will be able to review the featured sources and complete the formative performance tasks, in order to gather evidence for analyzing and forming different points of view on the Santa Fe Trail. It is important that students be provided with all the featured sources included so that they can form well-supported arguments about the impacts of the trail.

In addition to the Kansas History Government and Social Studies Standard listed above, this inquiry highlights the following segment from the Fourth Grade History discipline section:

- [Students] will analyze the impact of the Oregon-California Trail, Santa Fe Trail, and the Pony Express Route on the development of regions in the United States and compare these routes with transportation routes in other regions of the country.

Note: This inquiry is expected to take ten 40-minute class periods. The inquiry time frame could expand if teachers think their students need additional instructional experiences (i.e., supporting questions, formative performance tasks, and featured sources). Teachers are encouraged to adapt the inquiry’s activities in order to meet the needs and interests of their particular students. Resources can also be modified as necessary to meet individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans for students with disabilities.

Structure of the Inquiry

In addressing the compelling question “For Better or Worse, How Did the Santa Fe Trail Change America?” students work through a series of supporting questions, formative performance tasks, and featured sources in order to construct an argument supported by evidence from a variety of competing and complimentary sources.

Staging the Compelling Question

To stage the compelling question- “For Better or Worse, How did the Santa Fe Trail change America?” - teachers should have students think about a trail/road/sidewalk around their city that changed how people move and interact. This will get students involved in the inquiry because they will be able to relate it to their own lives. After thinking about the inquiry in their own life, teachers should then introduce the compelling question to them. Have them think, pair, and share and/or construct a KWLQ chart about what the question means and what they already know about the Santa Fe Trail.

Supporting Question 1

The first supporting question- “How was trade in America changed by the Santa Fe Trail?” -begins with a field trip to Baldwin City, Kansas where students can see part of the Santa Fe Trail. Alternative sources are provide is an in-person visit is not possible. Featured Source B is a short article on trade that explains where goods came from and how the Santa Fe Trail helped them get to their destination. Featured Source C is an interactive map that shows significant places and its history along the trail. The formative performance task asks students to write a paragraph on how trade was changed by the Santa Fe Trail, and they are also required to write a 1-2 sentence counter claim. Featured Source B will have the most useful information for students to use when completing the formative performance task, but both Featured Source A and C should still be used due to their interactive and engaging aspects.

Supporting Question 2

The second supporting question- “How did this route impact Indigenous people of the Plains and Southwest?” -asks students to think about Indigenous people’s perspective of the trail and how it might have impacted the life they were familiar with. Featured Source A and B are both articles that provide students with the Native American and specific tribes’ point of view on how the Santa Fe Trail impacted their lives. Featured Source B is used for two sections which are “Wait, There’s Somebody Already Here”, and “The Spanish Dominated”. Then, to then show the perspective of a traveler/trader on the trail, students will engage with Featured Source C, a book (to be read aloud) covering lots of topics on the Santa Fe Trail. Chapter 3 is the important section for this supporting question because it dives into what happened when travelers/traders encountered Native American tribes along the trail. The formative performance task requires students to create a T-chart on the positive and negative implication of the Santa Fe Trail on Indigenous peoples’ lives.

Supporting Question 3

The third supporting question- “What impact did the Santa Fe Trail have on the Mexican-American War?” -asks students to dive deeper into the history behind the trail and how it led to other conflicts. Featured Source A and B are both articles with lots of information on the history leading up to the war, and how it led to the end of the trail by paving the way for the Union Pacific Railroad. Both include lots of specific dates that students will find useful for their formative performance task. It should be noted that both articles may be difficult to read. Additional guidance and support from the teacher, technology, and/or peers may be needed. Regarding Featured Source C, it is the same source used for supporting question 2, but this time the important section to read is Chapter 4 which discusses the Mexican-American War. At the back of the book, a short timeline of the trail is provided which can be useful for the formative performance task which has students create an annotated timeline of the events leading up to, and during, the Mexican-American War and the Santa Fe Trail from 1812-1850.

Summative Performance Task

Students should now understand how the Santa Fe Trail had an impact in three major areas: trade, Indigenous people, and the Mexican-American War. Along with that, students should be able to refer to their timeline created in formative performance task 3 to visually see the dates when big events occurred. For this task, students will construct an argument on how the Santa Fe Trail changed America during the 1800’s. This could look like an annotated map, video, or poster.

Students’ arguments will likely vary, but could include any of the following:

- The Santa Fe Trail led to the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad which made trade faster and easier.
- The Santa Fe Trail allowed for US troops to travel to New Mexico where they could occupy the land and purchase California, Arizona, and New Mexico from Mexico.
- The Santa Fe Trail disrupted the life of many people, including Native Americans and Mexicans due to traders travelling through their land.
- The Santa Fe Trail had both positive and negative consequences. It connected different people and places, but it also disrupted people’s homelands and ways of life.

Students have the opportunity to Take Informed Action by creating a class wide website where they will upload their summative performance task and other clear/organized formative performance tasks. The purpose of this website is to have a place where other 4th graders can go to learn about the Santa Fe Trail from students their age. This website will be shared with other 4th grade classes. It should be noted that the website does not have to go to only 4th graders but would be more beneficial for them to see all the information their peers have gathered about this topic and standard.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source A: Visit the Blackjack Park in Baldwin City, Kansas to view the Santa Fe Trail, or use the website link below to view remnants of the Santa Fe Trail.

NOTE: These pictures are some of the important areas that students will see at Blackjack Park in Baldwin City, Kansas. The significance of this field trip is to give students the opportunity to see the Santa Fe Trail near their hometown. It is also an engaging learning activity that will help students learn about the trail. The following links provide more information on what students can expect to see. If students are not able to visit the site, the images may be used to design a virtual visit.

<https://www.blackjackbattlefield.org/ivan-boyd-prairie-preserve>

<https://kansaspublicradio.org/kpr-news/commemorating-200-years-santa-fe-trail-part-3-wagon-ruts>



Picture from <https://kansaspublicradio.org/kpr-news/commemorating-200-years-santa-fe-trail-part-3-wagon-ruts>

Supporting Question 1

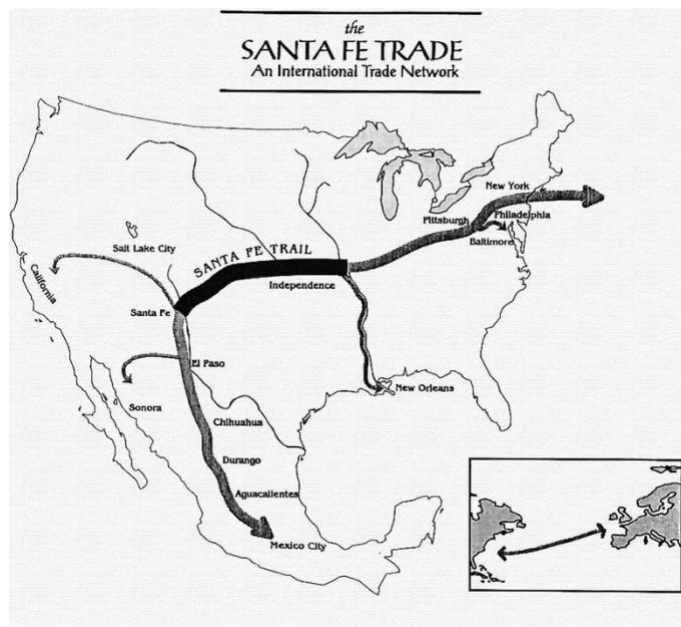
Featured Source

Source B: Excerpts from National Park Service, *Beyond New Mexico and Missouri: The Diverse People and Places of the Santa Fe Trail*.

Beyond New Mexico and Missouri: The Diverse People and Places of the Santa Fe Trail

It took all kinds of people to make the Santa Fe Trail successful. Hispano businessmen in Santa Fe, Chihuahua, and New York helped arrange credit, complete sales, and transport goods. American Indians also participated in the trade, as did Jewish merchants. Many free Blacks ran their own businesses, employing both Blacks and whites to make important items like wagons or ox yokes. Enslaved people performed an array of trail-related jobs. Irish and German immigrants served as laborers, craftsmen, and merchants. Businesses related to the trade, like hotels and shops, were usually run by women.

Like its cast of characters, the trail's geographic reach was broader than we imagine. At the most basic level, manufactured goods (like cloth) flowed towards Santa Fe, while raw materials (like wool) and Mexican silver flowed towards Missouri. Yet the reality is a lot more complicated. The trail's economic network included places as far-flung as Chihuahua, New York, and London. Goods bound for Santa Fe—many of them coming from overseas—were usually transported via steamboat to trailhead towns in Missouri, like Westport or Independence. From there, they would be loaded onto a wagon and driven roughly 800 miles to Santa Fe, which took anywhere from eight to ten weeks.



When we think of the Santa Fe Trail, we usually imagine wagons rolling across a prairie. Yet in some ways, it's just as accurate to think of a bustling city like New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. These vital ports contained people responsible for inspecting international shipments, storing them safely, and loading them onto boats headed for Missouri. Some years, the Santa Fe trade favored certain cities; for example, in 1830, half of all imported goods bound for Santa Fe passed through Philadelphia. Pittsburgh also played an important role, both as a wagon manufacturing center and an access point for the Ohio River—an important water transportation route for goods headed westward. Closer to Santa Fe, St. Louis and its skilled tradesmen supplied parties preparing for the Oregon, California, or Santa Fe trails.

The Santa Fe Trail connected people across great distances. Although the trail itself ran between New Mexico and Missouri, it would not have functioned without Boston's docks, Pittsburgh's wagon makers, or even England's cotton mills. It took all kinds of people, in all kinds of places.

Beyond New Mexico and Missouri: The diverse people and places of the Santa Fe trail (U.S. National Park Service). Retrieved September 10, 2022, from <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/beyond-new-mexico-and-missouri.htm>

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source C: Interactive Trail Map.

NOTE: This interactive trail map allows students to click on the west or east side and then click on specific places along the Santa Fe Trail. It provides the history of that location, what it was used for, and what it may look like now. Click on the link below the picture to view the map.



The Santa Fe Trail

<http://www.santafetrail.org/interactive-trail-map/>

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Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source A: Indians Along the Santa Fe Trail, excerpt from Santa Fe Trail Research Site.

Indians Along the Santa Fe Trail

Traders on the Santa Fe Trail generally left for Santa Fe in May, when the grass was high enough to afford forage for their animals and they arrived in July of the same year. The leave earlier meant the expense of carrying corn along to feed the animals in their wagon train. They departed for Missouri about September 1st to avoid the storms of winter which would kill their stock, from the effects of exposure and starvation. The return trip was much faster with lighter wagons, taking an average of 40 days. Furthermore the Missouri river was closed with ice in winter, so that the steamboats could not ascend the river until spring, when the ice broke up.

Profit from the trade could be as much as 100%, but sometimes traders would lose their investments on the plains through Indian attacks, or may be forced to sell it at a loss for lack of a better market, or because of unexpected increase in the Mexican import duties. An average return was between 50 and 75 percent for their trouble. After the traders had learned to lessen the risk of Indian attacks on the plains, by traveling together in a single caravan or large wagon trains. The value of the goods in the trade per year, irregularly increased from a few thousand dollars in the beginning, to about half a million dollars in 1846.

The Indians of the plains were divided into tribes, these tribes numbered in the thousands. The Comanches were the most numerous, estimated at about 7,000. {Annual Register of Indian Affairs, by Isaac McCoy, 1835 ed., p 46}

Each tribe claimed and defended with force a vast area of the plains for its hunting ground over which it roamed, and regularly except in the winter time, each tribe sent out from its transient villages of lodges or tepees, hunting parties for fresh buffalo meat and skins, and scouting or war parties of braves against other tribes that were hereditary enemies or were infringing on their territory.

At first the Indians didn't pay much attention to the small parties of Santa Fe traders crossing their domains on the Santa Fe Trail unless they chanced upon a party with horses or mules, and without adequate means of defense. The Indians were interested mostly in the horses and mules. The United States government made right of way treaties with the Osages, Kansas, Pawnees, and Cheyennes in 1825 for the traders.

However, by 1828 the attention of the tribes was aroused by the large herds of mules being brought back by the traders. There were Indian raids on the Trail in that year, and lives were lost on both sides. That was when they really began to watch the Santa Fe Trail and steal the livestock from the traders. They would stampede them, often a little before sunrise, so as to take the traders by surprise. Surprise was the Indians best defense in their raids.

Santa Fe Trail Research Site by Larry and Carolyn Mix. (n.d.). *Indians Along the Santa Fe Trail*. Indians along the Santa Fe Trail. Retrieved September 10, 2022, from <https://www.santafetrailresearch.com/research/indians-on-the-sft.html>. Used with permission.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source B: From the Missouri Life Magazine, Missouri stories from the Santa Fe Trail.

Missouri Stories from the Santa Fe Trail by Timothy Carson

Wait, There's Somebody Already Here

Of course, there were native people here long before the time of the Santa Fe Trail, but two tribes among the seven or more resident tribes of Missouri preceding the European and American eras are most directly relevant to the history of the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri: the Missouriia and the Osage.

The Missouriia lived and prospered here for approximately four centuries, from 1300 to 1700 CE. Sadly, as in the case of so many other tribes, they were decimated by European diseases such as smallpox, as well as intertribal feuding. A devastating ambush by the Sac and Fox on the Missouriia sometime after 1790 was a crushing blow. In the eighteenth century alone, their tribal numbers decreased from an estimated 10,000 to only 1,000.

Another tribe, the Osage reigned over a huge territory between the Missouri and Arkansas Rivers. The Osage were warlike, aggressive, and expert in the use of weapons, and other tribal groups feared them.

During the French and Spanish periods of the eighteenth century, the Osage were sometimes tolerated and often pacified through a robust fur trade, alliances, and promises. As pressure on the Osage from competing tribes and encroaching settlers magnified, so did conflict and their defense of their homeland, perceived by settlers as raiding, stealing, and murder. They remained a dominant and free force throughout the southern part of Missouri reaching into Arkansas until American settlers began moving in. Then, a series of treaties required them to cede their land and move to ever smaller areas outside of present-day Missouri. *[See the three-part series on The Tribes of Missouri by visiting MissouriLife.com>Shop>Print Archives.]*

As a result of the decimation of the Missouriia and the relocation of the Osage, nineteenth-century American travelers in Missouri did not experience resistance from the Native American tribes during the time when the commerce of the Santa Fe Trail was most active. That was not the case, however, west of Missouri. The great tribes of the Great Plains would respond to the growing incursion of immigrants with all of their strength and cunning. They were fearsome and great warriors, which gave rise to military detachments that accompanied caravans.

The Spanish Dominated

European powers began a vast exploration of the lands of other continents beginning in the fifteenth century, and the seafaring countries of Spain, Portugal, Holland, France, and England invaded, conquered, and colonized the lands and peoples of the Americas. The Spanish dominated South America, Central America, and Mexico and reached all the way into today's American Southwest and California, creating a New Spain. The French controlled much of Canada, the Great

Lakes, and the Mississippi River basin for New France. The English focused on the American eastern seaboard upward to and including Nova Scotia, as well as the western portions of Canada, and the northwest American coast.

The story of the Missouri territory and the great trails to the west was shaped by the interplay of the Spanish, French, English, and Americans. And this geopolitical stage was highly defined by the river systems that provided the pathways of travel for all of them. Spanish control and domination of the American Southwest played a critical part in the story of the Santa Fe Trail and all attempts at commerce with Spanish-held territories.

The very first person to travel the general pathway of the Santa Fe Trail across the plains was a Frenchman, Pierre Vial, who left Santa Fe in May 1782 and arrived in St. Louis in early October.

Carson, T. (2022, March 31). *Missouri stories from the Santa Fe Trail*. Missouri Life Magazine. Retrieved September 10, 2022, from <https://missourilife.com/missouri-stories-from-the-santa-fe-trail/>

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Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source C: Chapter 3 from *Traveling the Santa Fe Trail* by Linda Thompson.

NOTE: Read Chapter 3 from Traveling the Santa Fe by Linda Thompson. Chapter 3, They Heyday of the Trail, covers life on the trail with traders and Native Americans. This book can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.getepic.com/app/read/54033>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source

Source A: Excerpts from HISTORY: Santa Fe Trail in Wartime, and End of the Santa Fe Trail.

See the following webpage and subsections from *Santa Fe Trail* on History.com:

<https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/santa-fe-trail>

“Santa Fe Trail in Wartime”

“End of the Santa Fe Trail”

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source

Source B: From Legends of America, The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848.

The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848 by Kathy Weiser

The Mexican-American War, from its outbreak on May 13, 1846, until the termination of hostilities signified by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, transformed the Santa Fe Trail. United States' acquisition of the Southwest following the conflict put the Trail under domestic jurisdiction, although it still carried international trade.

Mexico had always viewed Texas and the United States as different entities, but the passage of a joint resolution for the annexation of the Republic of Texas through U.S. Congress on March 1, 1845, placed considerable stress on U.S. relations with Mexico. Other factors in previous years such as the U.S. territorial expansion of the 1840s, the migration of U.S. citizens into northern Mexico via the Santa Fe Trail, the boundary dispute between Texas and Mexico, U.S. citizens' financial claims against Mexico in addition to the political instability of the Mexican government, all contributed to a weakening of relations between the two countries. The election of James K. Polk as President of the United States in 1844 under a mandate for Manifest Destiny announced the U.S. intention to expand to the Pacific Ocean with Oregon, Texas, and California just three of the goals of the expansionist movement. Official hostilities between the United States and Mexico began on May 13, 1846, when the U.S. Congress declared war on Mexico.

The Santa Fe Trail contributed to the expansion of the Union. Among the first U.S. forces to move along the Santa Fe Trail into New Mexico was the Army of the West under the command of Colonel Stephen Watts Kearney. The Army of the West left Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on June 16, 1846, and chose to follow the Mountain Route of the Trail because it provided access to water and to a ready-made base for operations — Bent's Fort, Colorado. From Bent's Fort, on August 2, 1846, the Army of the West marched toward Santa Fe, New Mexico, reaching the city unchallenged on August 18, 1846. The first wagon train to succeed Kearny's army was that containing Susan Shelby Magoffin by whose account it took five days to cross Raton Pass. Kearney was anxious to promote his mission as one of liberation and not that of conquest, so, to this end, circulars were sent to Mexican villages in advance, promising them friendship and protection under U.S. control. Brigadier General Kearney declared the U.S. occupation of New Mexico on August 19, 1846. The annexation of New Mexico by the United States resulted in Charles Bent being installed as Governor of the territory of New Mexico on August 22, 1846.

As the territory of the United States increased, so too did the need for more routes farther west. The Mormon Battalion, composed of 500 young men from Nauvoo, Illinois, under the leadership of Captain Philip St. George Cooke, were dispatched from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to provide support for the Army of the West as it set out to open a wagon road from the Rio Grande to California. The Mormon Battalion followed the Cimarron Route and met with some resistance in New Mexico in 1847. Reinforcements were sent via the Santa Fe Trail under the leadership of Colonel Sterling Price, and they were successful in maintaining U.S. control. Another portion of the Army of the West under the

command of Colonel Alexander Doniphan marched down the Rio Grande Valley to capture Chihuahua, Mexico, which had also become a popular destination for Santa Fe traders.

Troops assigned to occupy New Mexico were dispatched over the Santa Fe Trail at various times during the course of the Mexican War. Indeed, many individuals who had become familiar with the Trail through their part in the war effort would later come back as traders. Resistance to U.S. occupation continued in the form of guerrilla warfare with insurrections at Taos and Mora, New Mexico, in early 1847, with Bent perishing in the Taos confrontation. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 signaled the end of the war, but only the beginning of expanding trade. Three thousand wagons, 12,000 people, and 50,000 head of livestock were estimated to have moved over the Trail in the summer of 1848.

Increasing use of the Santa Fe Trail during the Mexican War continued to pose a threat to American Indian habitation. Big Timbers, located east of Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River in Colorado, is an example of one such instance. At Big Timbers between 1846 and 1847, the increase in traffic along the Santa Fe Trail meant that the habitat and hunting of game had been disrupted, the water had been polluted, and trees had been cut down indiscriminately.

As a result of such incursions, 47 Trail travelers were killed, 330 wagons were destroyed, and 6,500 animals were stolen. In September 1847, a battalion of troops was assigned to guard the wagon trains. Roving columns of soldiers ready to participate in battle were employed initially; however, this mobile police force proved to be ineffective due to the length of the corridor that had to be patrolled.

With the signing of the treaty, the United States acquired what is now considered New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah, in addition to parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. The Texas Annexation of 1845 and the Mexican Cession of 1848 provided for the creation of California, the Utah Territory, New Mexico Territory, and Texas, with the remainder comprising the unorganized territory. Despite the U.S. preparation for war with Mexico, several aspects in the execution of a successful military operation, as they related to the Santa Fe Trail, were apparently not fully considered. The method of supplying the army demonstrated a lack of deliberation in that provisions reached the military outposts faster than wagons could become available for their distribution. Even when they were available, their drivers were often inexperienced." The Mexican War altered the pattern of the Old Santa Fe trade. New Mexican and interior Mexican merchants, while successful, assumed a declining proportion of the Santa Fe trade following the Mexican War. The Santa Fe route changed from foreign to domestic jurisdiction while small proprietors were replaced by large freighting companies. With the increasing commercial value of merchandise, the Santa Fe trade expanded.

Weiser, K. (n.d.). *The Mexican War and the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1848*. Legends of America. Retrieved September 10, 2022, from <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-santafetrailmexicanwar/>

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Supporting Question 3

Featured Source

Source C: Chapter 4 from *Traveling the Santa Fe Trail* by Linda Thompson.

*NOTE: Read Chapter 4 from *Traveling the Santa Fe Trail* by Linda Thompson. Chapter 4, *Mexican War and the Legacy of the Trail*, covers how the trail was used during the Mexican-American War. This book can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.getepic.com/app/read/54033>*