

America Moving West - Transportation

Vocabulary:

Flatboat	
Turnpike	
Lancaster Turnpike	
Corduroy Road	
National Road	
Clermont	
Erie Canal	

In the space below, name as many forms of transportation as you can in one minute.

Traveling West - By 1820, so many people had moved West that the population of the original 13 states had DECLINED!

Western Routes

- Great Wagon Road – Across Pennsylvania. Dated back to colonial days.
- Wilderness Road – Opened by Daniel Boone before the Revolution; led through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky
- Ohio River – Settlers loaded animals and wagons onto flatboats and floated down the shallow Ohio River into Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois.
- Pioneers from Georgia and South Carolina followed trails to Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana where the plantation system flourished in the rich soil

New States

- Between 1792 and 1819, eight new states joined the Union: Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, and Alabama

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

1. **Improvements to Roads** – The journey west was difficult. Roads were narrow, barely wide enough for a single wagon, and went through muddy swamps. The nation needed a better road system.
 - Turnpikes and Corduroy Roads – Private companies built gravel and stone roads. To pay for these roads, they collected tolls from travelers.
 - Best Road in the United States: Lancaster Turnpike. Linked Philadelphia and Lancaster. Built on a bed of gravel – water drained off quickly. Topped off with flat stones.
 - Corduroy Roads – Roads made of logs in swampy areas. Noisy and bumpy but kept wagons from sinking in the mud.
 - The National Road – In 1806, Congress approved funds for a national road-building project. The National Road was to run from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, Virginia. The road was later extended to Illinois.

2. **Steam Transport** – Water travel was much faster than travel by land. However, it was very difficult to push boats against the current and travel “up river.” For instance, a boat could travel downstream from Pittsburgh to New Orleans in six weeks but the return trip took seventeen weeks!
 - Fitch and Fulton – In 1787 John Fitch presented the steam engine to Congress. He opened a ferry service on the Delaware River but it went out of business quickly. However, Robert Fulton launched his own steamboat, the **Clermont**, on the Hudson River. Its first voyage from NYC to Albany (300 miles) took 62 hours – a record for the time.
 - The Age of Steamboats – Soon, steamboats ferried passengers up and down the Atlantic. They revolutionized travel in the West – And gave farmers and merchants a cheap means of moving goods.
 - Flat Bottom Steamboats – As rivers in the West were shallow, Henry Shreve designed a flat bottomed steamboat.
 - Dangers – Sparks from smokestacks could cause fires. Boilers exploded. Between 1811 and 1851 – 44 steamboats collided, 166 burned, and more than 200 exploded.

In the space below, write 5-6 sentences explaining how steamboats changed river travel.

3. **The Canal Boom** – Western farmers needed a way to get their goods directly to market. To meet this need, Americans dug canals.
- Erie Canal – Linked the Great Lakes with the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Let farmers ship their goods to the port of New York and bring business to towns along the route. Work began in 1817 – took thousands of workers to dig it by hand. Inventors invented new equipment to help with the work.
 - Instant Success – The canal was finished in 1825. The cost of shipping dropped to about 1/10 of what it had been before and it made New York City a center of commerce. It also led other states to build canals, creating a vital link between western farms and eastern cities.

In the space below, discuss the impact of canals on transportation in the early 1800s. You may do this in essay or thinking map format.

Assignment: Due Friday

Select one of the modes of transportation we discussed today and create an advertisement for it. Illustrate it, include a slogan, reasons people will want to use your company, etc. *Keep it time/era appropriate. You may look at the samples I have provided for you if you need ideas.*