

# Explorers in Kansas

## Standards

### Social Studies:

Kansas History, Government, and Social Studies (2020)

- 3.1 The student will recognize and evaluate how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.

### Others:

Kansas English Language Arts (2017)

Reading: Informational

- RI.5.13 Read and comprehend high quality informational text of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity.

## Objectives

### Knowledge:

- Recall the names of four explorers and their motivations for traveling to Kansas
- Compare and contrast the goals of the expeditions
- Understand that the explorers' point of view influenced their opinion of Kansas as a place to settle.

### Skills:

- Compare and contrast
- Using a primary source
- Observation and inference
- Map reading

## Focus Questions

1. What was the motivation for the expeditions? Why would governments be interested in exploring Kansas?
2. What did the explorers learn about Kansas that would influence future settlement by Indians and Americans?

## Assessment

- Interviewing
- Map reading
- Primary source reading

## Lesson Plan Outline

### A. Interview

1. Assign one explorer Read it! Card to each pair of students. One student is the explorer and the other the interviewer. The explorer will answer questions using the Read it! Card. The interviewer will record the answers on the "Ask the Explorer" worksheet.
2. As a group activity, have pairs of students share their information with the class so all students will be able to complete the "Ask the Explorer" worksheet.

### B. Map Worksheet

1. Use the maps and text on the Read it! cards to answer the questions on the "Which Way Did They Go?" worksheet.

### C. Primary Source Activity

1. Read four excerpts from the explorers' journals describing Kansas.
2. Decide which explorers thought Kansas was a good place for future settlement and which did not.
3. Write a paragraph supporting each of your decisions.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ask the Explorer

Questions	Francisco Coronado	Captains Meriwether Lewis & William Clark	Lt. Zebulon Pike	Major Stephen Long
1. What country sent you to explore the area?				
2. What year did you explore Kansas?				
3. Why were you sent to explore Kansas?				
4. What did you do or experience while in Kansas?				
5. Why was your exploration so important?				



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ask the Explorer

Questions	Francisco Coronado	Captains Meriwether Lewis & William Clark	Lt. Zebulon Pike	Major Stephen Long
1. What country sent you to explore the area?	<i>Spain</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>United States</i>
2. What year did you explore Kansas?	<i>1540</i>	<i>1804</i>	<i>1806</i>	<i>1819</i>
3. Why were you sent to explore Kansas?	<i>Search for new land to conquer and find cities of gold</i>	<i>Follow Missouri River to find route to Pacific, learn about Native Americans, record new information about soil, minerals, plants, animals, and climate</i>	<i>Return imprisoned Osage Indians, meet variety of tribes and make peace, collect information on natural history or region</i>	<i>Build fort on Missouri River and make scientific studies</i>
4. What did you do or experience while in Kansas?	<i>Wore suit of chain mail during July, which was very hot</i>	<i>Celebrated first Independence Day in the West, collected raccoon grape leaf</i>	<i>Collected information about Flint Hills and large animals, met Pawnee Indians</i>	<i>Experienced hot weather, flies and rattlesnakes, killed black wolf and met Kansa Indians</i>
5. Why was your exploration so important?	<i>Found no gold, but met Wichita Indians</i>	<i>Met more than 50 Indian tribes, discovered hundreds of new plants and animals, opened West for future settlers</i>	<i>Reported that the Great Plains was the "Great American Desert"</i>	<i>Published a map and labeled the plains the "Great American Desert," many thought area not good for settlement</i>



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Which Way Did They Go?

Answer the following questions using the maps on the Read It! cards.

1. Which expeditions went through Kansas?
2. Which expedition traveled through most of Kansas?
3. Who owned the land west of the Louisiana Territory?
4. Which direction are the Rocky Mountains from Kansas?
5. Which expedition spent the most time on the Missouri River?
6. Which expedition went to the Pacific Ocean?
7. Which expedition occurred in 1541?
8. Which expedition most closely followed the Arkansas River?
9. Which expedition went the farthest north?
10. Which expedition lasted from 1819 to 1820?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Which Way Did They Go?

Answer the following questions using the maps on the Read It! cards.

1. Which expeditions went through Kansas?

*Coronado, Lewis and Clark, Pike, and Long*

2. Which expedition traveled through most of Kansas?

*Pike*

3. Who owned the land west of the Louisiana Territory?

*Spanish and British*

4. Which direction are the Rocky Mountains from Kansas?

*west*

5. Which expedition spent the most time on the Missouri River?

*Lewis and Clark*

6. Which expedition went to the Pacific Ocean?

*Lewis and Clark*

7. Which expedition occurred in 1541?

*Coronado*

8. Which expedition most closely followed the Arkansas River?

*Long*

9. Which expedition went the farthest north?

*Lewis and Clark*

10. Which expedition lasted from 1819 to 1820?

*Long*



# *Explorer's Journal*

## Francisco Coronado

Pedro de Casteneda was with Francisco Coronado when he explored what is now Kansas. Casteneda wrote the following information about Kansas in his journal.

*...Judging from what was seen on the borders of it, this country is very similar to that of Spain in the varieties of vegetation and fruits. There are plums like those of Castile, grapes, nuts, mulberries, oats, pennyroyal, wild marjoram, and large quantities of flax, but this does not do them any good, because they do not know how to use it. The people ... have villages like those in New Spain. The houses are round, without a wall, and they have one story like a loft, under one roof, where they sleep and keep their belongings. The roofs are of straw.*



# *Explorer's Journal*

## Captains Lewis and Clark

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark followed the Missouri River along Kansas' northeast shore. It was near present-day Atchison that Lewis wrote the following in his notebook on the eve of July 4, 1804.

*A gentle breeze from the south carried us 11 ¼ miles this day, past two islands, one a small willow-island, the other large, and called by the French Isle des Vaches or Cow Island. At the head of this island, on the northern shore, is a large pond containing beaver, and fowl of different kinds. After passing a sand-bar, we stopped on the south side at an old trading-house, which is now deserted, and half a mile beyond it camped on the south. The land is fine along the river, and for some distance back. We observed black walnut and the buck-s-eye with the nuts on it.*

*The morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was announced by the discharge of our gun, at one mile we reached the mouth of the bayeau or creek, coming from a large lake on the north side, which appears as if it had once been the bed of a river, to which it runs parallel for several miles. ... One of our men was bitten by a snake, but a poultice of bark and gunpowder was sufficient to cure the wound.*



# *Explorer's Journal*

## **Lt. Zebulon Pike**

Zebulon Pike thought the eastern part of Kansas would be good land for future farms and ranches. He did not feel the same about the western parts of Kansas. He wrote the following in his report.

*On the rivers Kanses, L Platte, Arkansaw, and their various branches, it appears to me to be only possible to introduce a limited population on their banks. The inhabitants would find it most to their advantage to pay attention to the multiplication of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats, all of which they can raise in abundance, the earth producing spontaneously sufficient for their support ... but the wood now in the country would not be sufficient for a moderate share of the population more than 15 years, and it would be out of the question to think of using any of it in manufacture.*

*In the vast country of which I speak, we find the soil generally dry and sandy, with gravel, and discover that the moment we approach a stream the land becomes more humid, with small timber. I therefore conclude that this country never was timbered ... These vast plains of the western hemisphere may become in time as celebrated as the sandy deserts of Africa; for I saw in my route, in various places, tracts of many leagues where the wind had thrown up the sand in all the fanciful form of the ocean's rolling wave, and on which not a speck of vegetable matter existed.*





# *Explorer's Journal*

## Major Stephen Long

Stephen Long published a map of the West and called the plains the "Great American Desert." He wrote the following in his report about Kansas.

*In regard to this extensive section of country, I do not hesitate in giving the opinion, that it is almost wholly unfit for cultivation, and of course uninhabitable by a people depending on agriculture for their subsistence. Although tracts of fertile land considerably extensive are occasionally to be met with, yet the scarcity of wood and water, almost uniformly prevalent, will prove an insuperable obstacle in the way of settling the country... This region, however, ... may prove of infinite importance to the United States, inasmuch as it is calculated to serve as a barrier to prevent too great extension of our population westward, and secure against the machinations or incursions of an enemy.*

