

Traversing the Terrain: Transportation in Arizona (1853)

Student Handout

Overview:

You and a partner will create an accurate map of the land in the present day state of Arizona including major cities and geographic features. Once you have completed that task you will create four appropriate routes for travel in Arizona. You must take into consideration the terrain, including rivers, mountains, and biomes, and proximity to established populated areas when developing your transportation routes.

Background:

Arizona was granted statehood on February 14, 1912. Before Arizona was its own independent state the land and people belonged to Spain. Then it became United States property as the New Mexico Territory, which was established in 1850. In 1853, the United States purchased 29,670 square feet of land from Mexico; this purchase is known as the Gadsden Purchase. This area forms the southernmost border of present day Arizona and New Mexico ranging west from the Rio Grande to south of the Gila River. This important \$10 million piece of real estate included the historic city of Tucson, which was established as a Spanish outpost in 1775, and was anticipated to be the site for further construction of a southern transcontinental railroad leading to San Diego, California. For a brief period of time during the Civil War from 1861 to 1863 close to the half of the state was claimed by the Confederacy as the Confederate Territory of Arizona. Early transportation of people, goods, and ideas was conducted in mule-drawn wagons and stagecoaches on the dirt plagued desert floor close to sources of water in the southern parts of the state and through the ponderosa pine forests of northern Arizona where scouts would “blaze” a trail for those who followed. Both areas encountered the threat of attack by Native American groups.

Part I: Map Making

Directions:

Complete the following tasks as you create your map of transportation routes in Arizona. Use the blank in front of each direction to check off that you have completed that task.

- _____ 1. Label the lines of latitude and longitude using the *Arizona's Topography and Rivers* Map on your graph paper.
- _____ 2. Using the lines of latitude and longitude for reference, draw an outline of the state of Arizona using the *Arizona's Topography and Rivers* Map that shows Arizona's southern boundaries as of 1853 and the future boundaries that delineate Arizona as a state.
- _____ 3. Draw a compass rose.
- _____ 4. Using the lines of latitude and longitude for reference, draw the major rivers found on the *Important Rivers, Streams and Washes of Arizona* Map.
- _____ 5. Locate and label the present day cities of Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma. Although Flagstaff was first settled as a city in 1855 it gives a point of reference where northern Arizona was habitable. Likewise, Phoenix was not incorporated as a city until 1881. However, using Phoenix as a point of reference will help in determining what biomes your transportation routes will travel through. Lastly, Yuma Crossing was used in the 1850s. Use the *Arizona's Topography and Rivers* Map, *Historical Development of Arizona and New Mexico Boundaries* Map and *Arizona Biomes* Map for reference.
- _____ 6. Create and label four different transportation routes through Arizona. Each route must have a different purpose, e.g., sale of goods or movement of people. As you develop these routes you should reference and answer the questions on the back of this sheet. If your route needs to travel over a source of water or across varying elevations, you will need to explain that in the answers to the questions. Likewise, you may strategically create a "trading post" or small settlement near a present day population center. However, once again explain this.
- _____ 7. Create and label a key that shows your four transportation routes. Each route must have a different identifying pattern or color.
- _____ 8. Add a legend to show important geographic features.
- _____ 9. Add color to your map.

Part II: Map Descriptions & Drawing Conclusions

Directions:

Use the provided maps and your completed map to answer the following questions in complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar.

1. Why is it important to know in what direction rivers and streams flow? (5 pts)

2. Define the term "biome." Why is it important to know what biome your transportation route resides in? (5 pts)

3. For each route complete the following:

a. **Route Name:** _____

What factors from your maps, e.g., elevation, climate, or vegetation, did you consider when developing this route? (5 pts)

Why did you feel this route was necessary to travel through Arizona; what was the purpose? (5 pts)

Why did you locate the route where you did? (5 pts)

b. Route Name: _____

What factors from your maps, e.g., elevation, climate, or vegetation, did you consider when developing this route? (5 pts)

Why did you feel this route was necessary to travel through Arizona; what was the purpose? (5 pts)

Why did you locate the route where you did? (5 pts)

c. Route Name: _____

What factors from your maps, e.g., elevation, climate, or vegetation, did you consider when developing this route? (5 pts)

Why did you feel this route was necessary to travel through Arizona; what was the purpose? (5 pts)

Why did you locate the route where you did? (5 pts)

d. **Route Name:** _____

What factors from your maps, e.g., elevation, climate, or vegetation, did you consider when developing this route? (5 pts)

Why did you feel this route was necessary to travel through Arizona; what was the purpose? (5 pts)

Why did you locate the route where you did? (5 pts)

4. What possible modes of transportation are you anticipating travelers will use on your routes? Why are these practical modes of transportation? (10 pts)

5. Do you think your transportation routes would contribute to the growth of Arizona? If so, how? If not, why not? (5 pts)

6. Using the *Blazing Trails: Discovering Routes through Arizona to California (Teacher's Key)* Map and the *American Exploration* Map compare and contrast your routes to established routes of transportation in the eras shown on the maps. Consider factors of geographic features, common outposts, and landscape. (15 pts)

Total _____ (100 pts)