

## Terms and People

- **William Becknell** – an American who forged the Santa Fe Trail in 1821
- **John Jacob Astor** – a German immigrant who established the American Fur Company in 1808

## Terms and People

- **mountain man** – a fur trapper of the Northwest
- **rendezvous** – a meeting where the trappers would trade furs for supplies
- **Marcus and Narcissa Whitman** – a couple who set up a mission in Oregon and were eventually killed by the Cayuse

# Settlement of the West 2



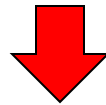
## **Objectives**

- Explain how traders and fur trappers helped open the West.
- List the reasons pioneers traveled along the Oregon Trail and describe the hardships they faced.
- Discuss the issues for women, Native Americans, and new settlers in the West.



## **Why did people go west and what challenges did they face?**

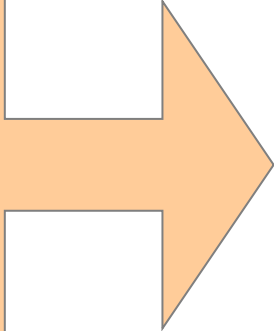
Some people went west for the fur trade, others to become missionaries, and still others for the free and fertile land.



They all faced dangers including assault, diseases, accidents, and natural disasters.

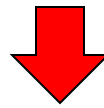
**The first Americans who moved into the Far West—traders looking for new markets—blazed important trails for others.**

In 1821,  
Captain  
**William  
Becknell** led  
a wagon train  
filled with  
goods over an  
800-mile  
route.



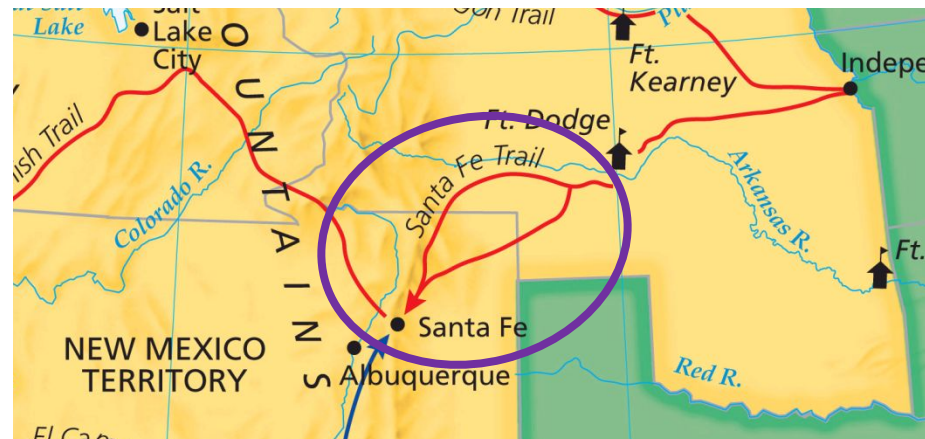
The men who  
traveled the route,  
which stretched  
from Missouri to  
New Mexico, faced  
dangerous  
environmental  
conditions.

Becknell's group eventually reached New Mexico with their wagons.



Others followed their route, which became known as the Santa Fe Trail.

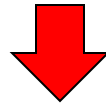
**The trail soon became a busy international trading route.**



**Farther north, fur traders made huge fortunes.**



**John Jacob Astor** sent the first American fur-trading expedition to Oregon.



Astor established the American Fur Company in 1808 at Fort Astor, now Astoria, Oregon.



Astor's expedition consisted of two groups:

The first group sailed around South America and up the Pacific coast.

The second group traveled across the continent and found the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains on the way.



**This important route helped open the Northwest to the missionaries and settlers who followed.**

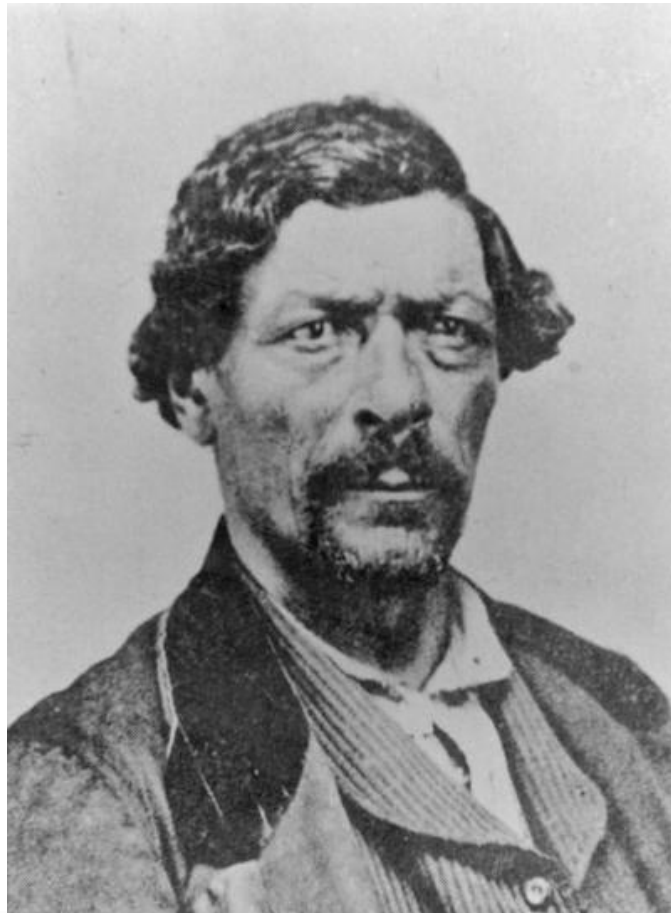
The fur trade made Astor the richest man in the United States.

**Mountain men**, who trapped beaver and other animals, also longed for riches.



Once a year, trappers attended a **rendezvous** where they celebrated and sold their furs.

One mountain man, an African American named James Beckwourth, discovered a pass through the Sierras that later became a major route to California.



By the 1830s, the beaver population was nearly exhausted.

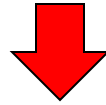


Many trappers moved back east to take other jobs.

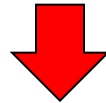


Others became guides for wagon trains.

**White missionaries were the first to live in Oregon permanently in the 1830s.**

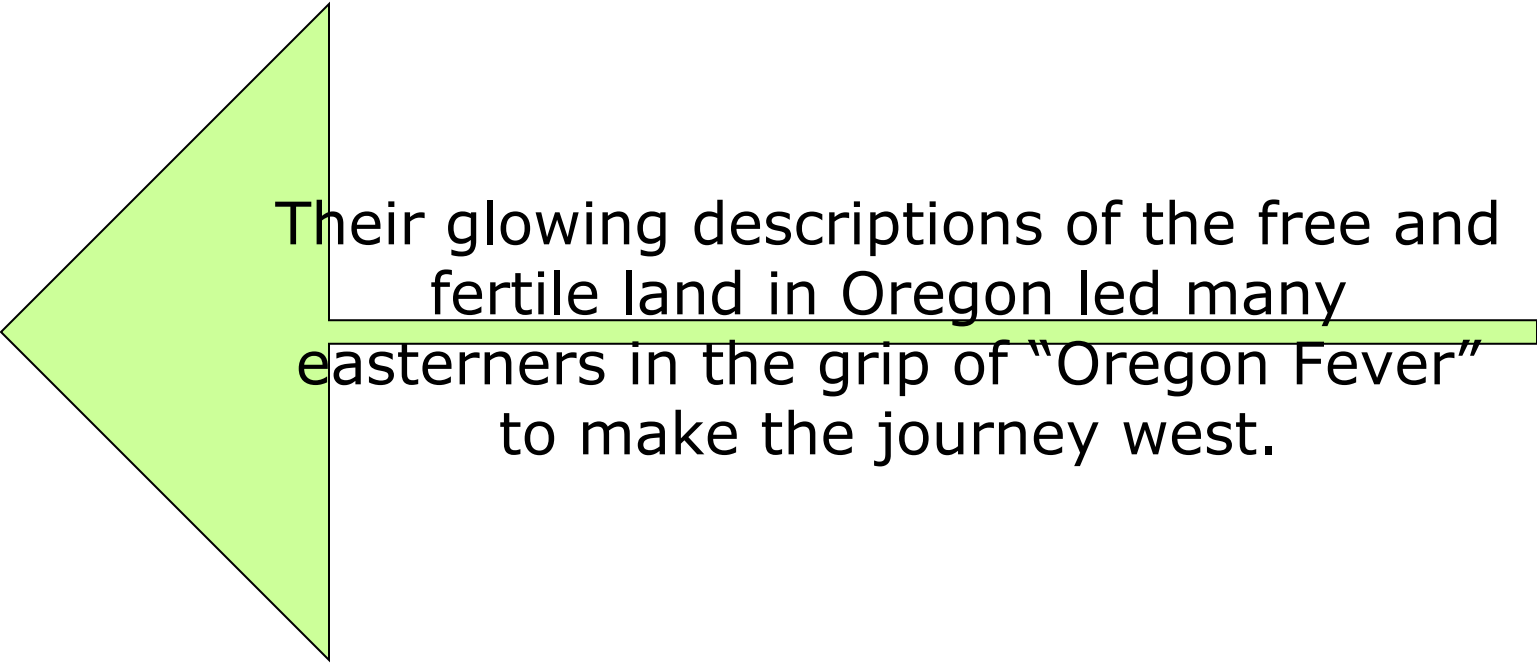


**Marcus and Narcissa Whitman** set up a mission in Oregon to convert a Native American group, the Cayuse, to Christianity.



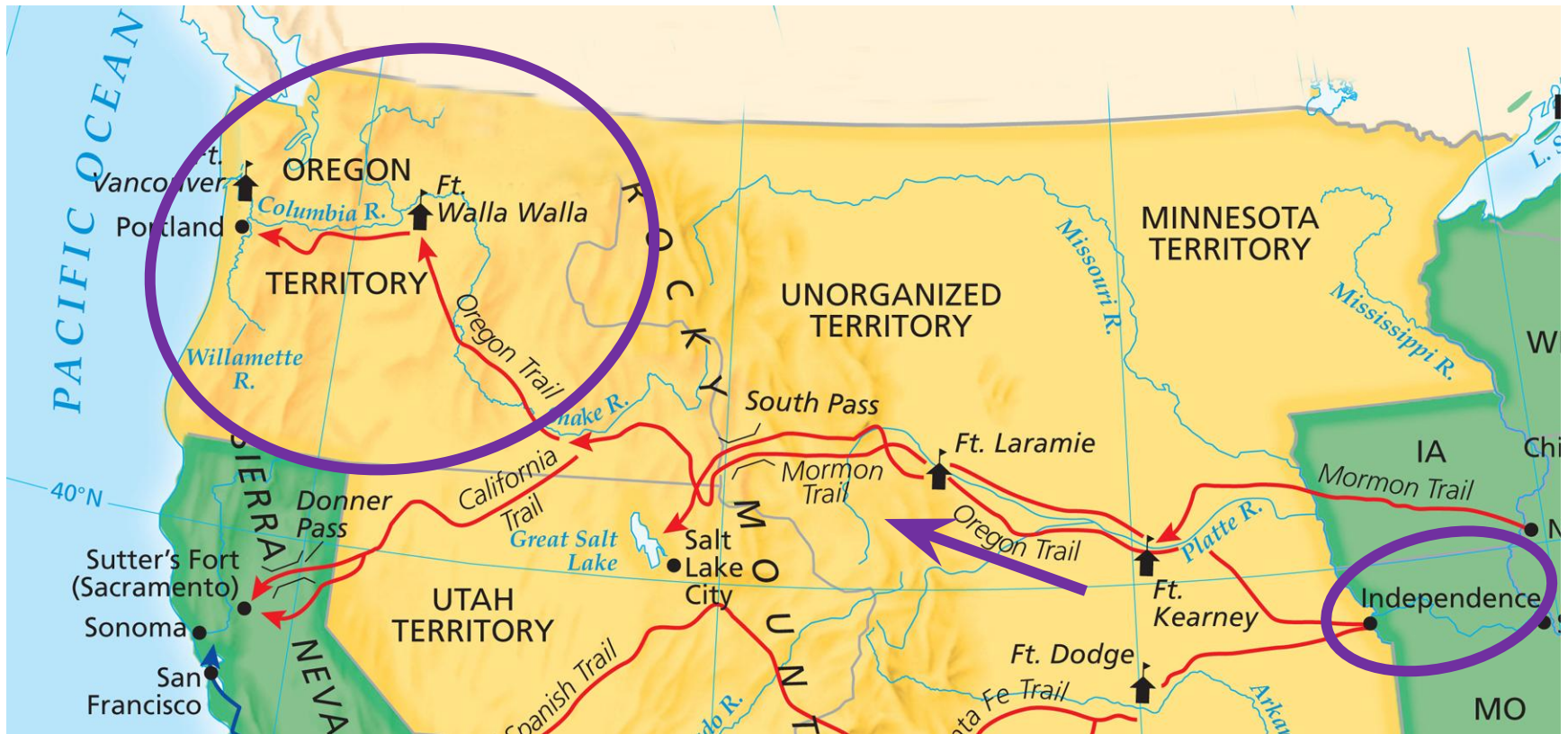
When the Cayuse lost land to whites and many of their people to a measles epidemic, they killed the Whitmans and other settlers.

**Still, missionaries like the Whitmans helped spur settlement of the West.**

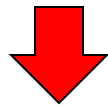


Their glowing descriptions of the free and fertile land in Oregon led many easterners in the grip of "Oregon Fever" to make the journey west.

**Many settlers followed the Oregon Trail, a route that stretched more than 2,000 miles from Missouri to Oregon.**



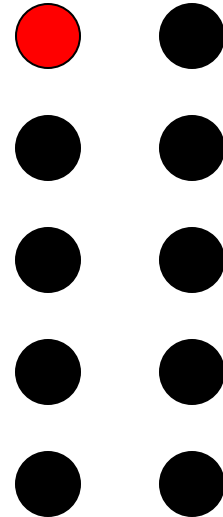
One out of every ten travelers on the Oregon Trail died because of disease or accidents.



For protection, most pioneers on the trail traveled in long trains of covered wagons.

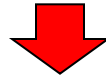


**More than 50,000 people reached Oregon between 1840 and 1860.**





When gold was discovered in northern Oregon in the 1850s, large numbers of white and Chinese miners moved to the area.



In 1855, the miners killed many Native Americans, and the Native Americans fought back.



The U.S.  
government  
intervened and  
forced the Native  
Americans to  
accept peace  
treaties.

**Pioneer life was filled with hardships, and some settlers gave up and went back to the East.**

Those who stayed had to clear the land, plant crops, and build shelters with only a few hand tools.

People faced ever-present threats from disease, accidents, and natural disasters

On western farms, women's labor was necessary to many families' survival, and this raised the status of women.

**In 1869, the Wyoming Territory was the first area of the United States to grant women the right to vote.**

The West was more liberal than the United States, which did not pass a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote until 1920.

1. A French word meaning get-together was an annual meeting of mountain men and fur traders.

2. The leader of a wagon train pioneered a route that became the Santa Fe Trail.

3. Missionaries in Oregon who hoped to bring their religious beliefs to Native Americans.

4. A German immigrant sent the first fur-trading expedition to Oregon.

- a. John Jacob Astor
- b. mountain man
- c. William Becknell
- d. rendezvous
- e. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman
- f. James Beckwourth

5. In their search for gold, mountain men explored much new territory in the West.

6. The first Americans to move into the Far West were farmers.

7. Thousands of people suffered many hardships on the Santa Fe Trail to reach the Northwest.

8. Women in the West had more rights than women in other parts of the country.

9. What were two challenges American settlers faced when moving west?