

Chapter 13 Mountain Men, 1810-1840, and the Opening of the West

Trails West

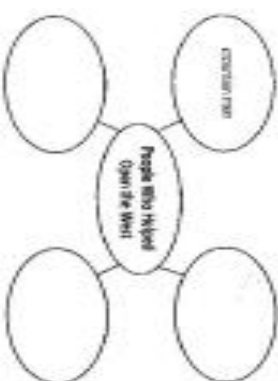
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about the economic problems facing the United States in the 1820s.

In this section, you will learn how Americans continued to move westward.

AS YOU READ

Use the diagram to take notes on the people who helped open the West.



Mountain Men and the Westward

Who were mountain men?

During the early 1820s, during the mercantile expansion, known as **mountain men**, helped open up the West by discovering the best route through the Rocky Mountains. **Amudiah Smith** and **Jim Beckweth** were two famous mountain men. These men were tough and resourceful. They came east of the rock range, carrying small animals, such as beavers. Mountain men lived from their animals in a rural environment that was a far cry from the cities.

The mountain men were connected to the frontiersmen who brought their furs. They created a trading enterprise called the **mountain men system**. Under this system, individual mountain men in a chain set to work with beaver from the East. The region brought supplies from the mountains and traded them with

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mountain men. It is a system of support and organized help through the Rocky Mountains. **Beckweth Smith** found mountain men.

Jim Beckweth found mountain men.

Lead specialist: A person who helps lead a pack train and bring a pack.

Samuel Paul: The first Missouri to travel to the West.

Oregon Trail: The first Missouri to the Oregon territory.

Andrew: A member of the Council of American Commissioners.

Stephen Young: Member of the Council of American Commissioners.

Many people moved west to settle farms. Land

speculators bought large areas of land. They found that land was being used for ranching.

They made great profits by selling them to ranchers. Some of the men who moved to new land were

mountain men and ranchmen followed the western trail. They hoped to make money by raising and selling land that the farmers would

2. How did land speculators make a profit?

They bought large areas of land and sold it to farmers who wanted to settle on it.

The Trail to Santa Fe (page 194-195)

What was the Santa Fe Trail?

Traders who went west to a market of goods. One of the first was William Bent, who was a member of the Council of American Commissioners.

to be opened to Santa Fe, which had been Missouri to Santa Fe. Bent had that trail to Santa

Fe by leading the goods to central wagon, called **public wagon**. However, he could not take the wagon over the mountains on the Santa Fe Trail. The

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Territory. The first white people to cross into the

Oregon Territory were missionaries. They reports a

role that in Oregon encouraged many other

American settlers to make the 2,000-mile journey.

Traveling on the Oregon Trail was dangerous. So

settlers joined wagon trains. Before setting out, the

wagon train members agreed on rules and elected

leaders to enforce them.

4. Where did the Oregon Trail run?

It ran from Missouri to the Oregon Territory.

5. Why did the mountain men want?

They wanted to trade furs and other goods.

6. How did the mountain men help?

They discovered the best routes through the mountains.

7. What was the Santa Fe Trail?

A trade route between Santa Fe and the West.

8. How did land speculators make a profit?

They bought land and sold it to farmers.

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