

Exploring America's Frontier

Resource List for Grades 9 through 12

The Resources in this document can be used with the Exploring America's Frontier Curriculum Packet for grades 9 through 12.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West, 2007 by Dee Brown (Author), Hampton Sides (Foreword).
Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, the author allows great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the series of battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them and their people demoralized and decimated. A narrative told with force and clarity, this book changed forever our vision of how the West was won, and lost. It tells a story that should not be forgotten, and so must be retold from time to time.
- Days on the Road: Crossing the Plains in 1865, 2016 by Sarah Raymond Herndon (Author).
Sarah Raymond was an unmarried woman of twenty-four who in May 1865, barely a month after the end of the Civil War, mounted her beloved pony and headed west alongside the wagon carrying her mother and two younger brothers. They traveled by wagon train over the Great Plains toward the Rocky Mountains, with no certain idea of where they would settle themselves but a strong desire to leave war-torn Missouri behind and start a new life.
- John Charles Fremont: The Pathfinder (Famous Explorers of the American West), 2003 by Charles W Maynard (Author).
A brief biography of the man who helped open the way west to California and was later elected as a United States Senator from that state.
- Native American Resistance (Primary Sources of Westward Expansion), 2017 by Zachary Deibel (Author).
Describes the United States government's efforts to remove Native Americans from their land and drive them west to allow white settlement, the breaking of treaties, and the ways in which Native Americans resisted being forced out.
- Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party, 2013 by Nathan Hale (Author).
From the preparation for the journey to each disastrous leg of the trip, this book shows the specific bad decisions that led to the party's predicament in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The graphic novel focuses on the struggles of the Reed family to tell the true story of the catastrophic journey.
- Oregon Trail Journal of Medorem Crawford (Expanded, Annotated), 2016 by Medorem Crawford (Author).
Known to everyone in early Oregon Territory, Medorem Crawford was one of its most prominent pioneers. This journal is the only record of one of the earliest large emigrations on the

Oregon Trail, kept by Crawford on that journey in 1842. With its peculiar and inconsistent misspellings kept intact, it's a fascinating read for its form as well as its story. Crawford stopped at the Whitman mission and met Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. He met and smoked with Indians on the trail. He knew Lincoln's good friend, Edward Baker. And Crawford was an early Oregon Territory farmer and legislator.

- A Primary Source History of Westward Expansion, 2015 by Steven Otfinoski (Author). Throughout the 1800s millions of people pushed into the western United States. They went for gold, opportunities, and a chance for a better life. But as settlers moved in, American Indians were often pushed out. Hear the words they spoke. Read the words they read. And see the differing points of view about westward expansion through the eyes of the people who lived it.
- Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad 1830-1870 (Crossroads America), 2004 by Monica Halpern (Author). In the 1840s, the desire for new land and the promise of riches drew thousands of Americans westward. But the journey by wagon and on foot was slow and dangerous, and people yearned for a new way to travel. The dream of creating a railroad that spanned the entire country seemed at best fleeting, but the passion of a few ignited a nation.
- The Tragic Tale of Narcissa Whitman and a Faithful History of the Oregon Trail, 2006 by Cheryl Harness (Author). Narcissa married Marcus Whitman, another missionary want-to-be, and they headed West. She spent her honeymoon riding side-saddle some 2,000 miles across the vast, often perilous trail to Oregon Country, something no other white woman had ever done. Then she and Marcus lived happily ever after singing hymns and teaching the Indians about the Bible, right? Wrong! Readers will find out what really happened when East met West at the end of the real-life, legendary Oregon Trail.
- The Wild West, 1998 by Mike Stotter (Author). This is a portrait of the Old West that the author hopes will dispel misunderstandings about the era. The history behind such fascinating real-life characters of the Old West as Crazy Horse and Geronimo, Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok, and Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill is described here in short, easy-to-read overviews, each introducing a chapter of the American West. The author skillfully sets these familiar figures in the larger context of historical events.

Fiction

- The Game of Silence, 2006 by Louise Erdrich (Author). Her name is Omakayas, or Little Frog, because her first step was a hop, and she lives on an island in Lake Superior. One day in 1850, Omakayas's island is visited by a group of mysterious people. From them, she learns that the chimookomanag, or white people, want Omakayas and her people to leave their island and move farther west.
- The Grapes of Wrath, 2006 by John Steinbeck (Author), Robert DeMott (Introduction). First published in 1939, this Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.
- Hattie Big Sky (Hattie Series), 2008 by Kirby Larson (Author). For most of her life, sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks has been shuttled from one distant relative to another. Tired of being Hattie Here-and-There, she summons the courage to leave Iowa and move all by herself to Vida, Montana, to prove up on her late uncle's homestead claim.

- These is my Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901, 2008 by Nancy Turner (Author).
A saga inspired by the author's own family memoirs, these words belong to Sarah Prine, a woman of spirit and fire who forges an existence in a harsh, unfamiliar frontier. Scrupulously recording her steps down the path Providence has set her upon, from child to determined young adult to loving mother, she shares the turbulent events, both joyous and tragic, that molded her, and recalls the enduring love with cavalry officer Captain Jack Elliot that gave her strength and purpose.
- True Grit: A Novel, 2010 by Charles Portis (Author).
First published in 1968, and the basis for the movie of the same name starring John Wayne. It tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just fourteen years of age when a coward going by the name of Tom Chaney shoots her father down in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 in cash money. Mattie leaves home to avenge her father's blood. With the one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available U.S. Marshal, by her side, Mattie pursues the homicide into Indian Territory.
- Vengeance Road, 2017 by Erin Bowman (Author).
When Kate Thompson's father is killed by the notorious Rose Riders for a mysterious journal that reveals the secret location of a gold mine, the eighteen-year-old disguises herself as a boy and takes to the gritty plains looking for answers and justice. What she finds are devious strangers, dust storms, and a pair of brothers who refuse to quit riding in her shadow.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Wild West Magazine from HistoryNet
<http://www.historynet.com/wild-west>

Online Links

- American Panorama: Interactive atlas magnifies events in United States history
<http://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/>
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is the website of a nonprofit organization that promotes education and understanding about the history of the United States.
[tps://www.gilderlehrman.org](https://www.gilderlehrman.org)
- Little BigHorn Battlefield: National Monument. Explore with photos and exhibits about this National Battlefield
<https://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm>
- National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum: in Oklahoma City, OK
<https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/>
- Primary Source set for the California Gold Rush: Photos, letters and much more.
<https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/california-gold-rush>

Background information for the Educator

- National Geographic Education: Bring National Geographic Resources Into Your Classroom
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/>

- PBS: New Perspectives on the West. Classroom resources gathered to help with the use of this Web site, other material on the Internet, and The West videos for a study of the United States' westward expansion in the Nineteenth Century.
http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/lesson_plans/
- Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads. Library of Congress: teacher's guide primary source set.
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/westward/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf