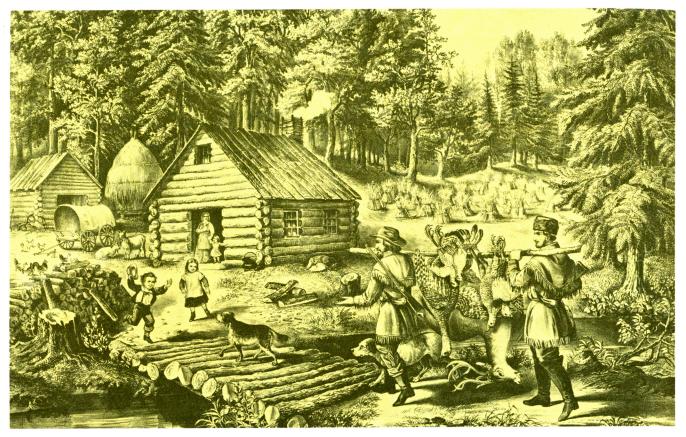
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18. Over the Mountains



The pioneers' new home in a clearing in the forest. How long do you think this family has lived here?

Who First Crossed the Mountains?

Even before the Revolutionary War, white men had been crossing the Appalachian Mountains and clearing land for settlements. In fact, this was one of the reasons for the Revolution.

The British government had said the colonists were not to move west of the mountains. This land was to be left for the Indians.

The British government wanted to avoid trouble between the Indi-

ans and the colonists. But the colonists crossed the Appalachians anyway. After the Revolution, they came in even greater numbers.

The first white men who came were usually hunters. They traveled alone, explored, and collected furs to sell back East. They were a restless group.

Then came the **pioneers** with their families. They traveled in wagons or walked with their belongings packed on horses or



Hunters and trappers were the first white men to cross the Appalachian Mountains.

mules. They cleared land, built log cabins, and planted crops. Some of these were quite restless too. When other families moved into their neighborhood, they would move on, saying it was too crowded.

Daniel Boone was one such pioneer. He brought his family over the mountains to Kentucky very early. Several times he felt he needed to move on because other white men settled around him.

John Chapman was an interesting man who often visited the white settlements. He got along well with both the Indians and the settlers. He liked to read his Bible to anyone who would listen. He also planted apple trees around the



Daniel Boone first sees Kentucky after crossing the mountains from the East.

cabins of the settlers he visited. The settlers called him Johnny Appleseed.

As the frontier, or edge of the

settled country, moved west across the Appalachians, enough people settled in certain areas to form states. Kentucky became a state in 1792, Tennessee in 1796, and Ohio in 1803.

The people in the new settlements had trouble doing business with the old settlements on the East Coast. The mountains were in the way. Farmers had to ship their products down the Mississippi River, around Florida, and up the Atlantic Coast. But this route was uncertain. The U. S. held only one bank of the Mississippi and no land on the Gulf of Mexico.

The U. S. was like a man who owned a house where another man owned one of the main doors. The owner of the door, if he wanted to, could say to the owner of the house, "You must pay me \$10 every time you go in or out."

The door was New Orleans, which France owned, at the mouth of the Mississippi. In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson sent men to France to try to buy New Orleans



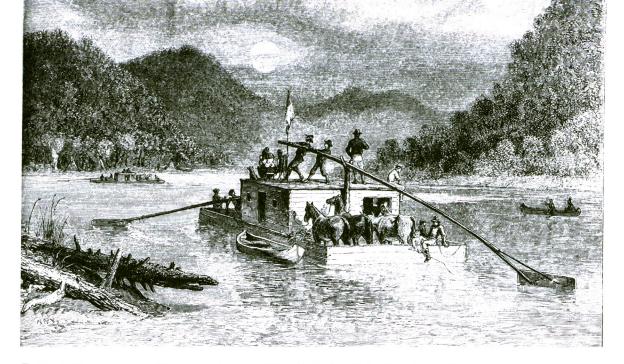
John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) was a friend to both the Indians and the pioneers.



This man is grinding corn with a hand mill.



Much of the equipment the pioneers worked with was made by hand. These kitchen utensils are in a museum in Washington, D. C.



Flat boat. Pioneers west of the mountains found it hard to trade with the East Coast. They sent their products by flat boat down the Mississippi, around Florida, and up the Atlantic Coast. The long way by water was easier than the shorter way by land.

and some land around it. The American **representatives** were allowed to offer as much as \$10 million.

Napoleon (nuh POHL yuhn), the dictator who ruled France, surprised the Americans. He wasn't willing to sell just a small piece of land around New Orleans. He wanted to sell the whole Louisiana Territory, a huge tract of excellent land stretching from the Gulf of Mexico far to the north and west. His price was \$15 million, or around three cents an acre. Napoleon wanted money to use in a war.

The American representatives hadn't been given permission to buy a territory that would double the size of the U. S. They were afraid to wait for instructions to come slowly by sailing ship. They bought the land and then asked for permission.



Monticello, the house that Thomas Jefferson designed and built. You can also see Jefferson's home on the back of a U. S. five-cent piece.

Thomas Jefferson and most of Congress were glad when they learned about the purchase. The Louisiana Territory is one of the largest pieces of land any country has ever gained without war.

Now the U. S. was like a man with a small family living in a very, very large house. Jefferson wanted

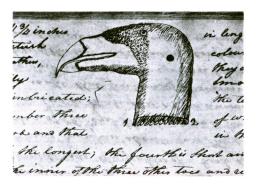


Louisiana Purchase. These men made an agreement in Paris in 1803 for France to sell a very large piece of land to the U. S. The representative of France shows Louisiana on a map. The Americans, James Madison and Robert Livingston, are seated. This painting is in the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D. C.

to find out what the new part of the house was like. Late in 1803 he sent out two men to explore the Louisiana Territory.

The men were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They traveled up the Missouri River and through the Rocky Mountains. A young Indian woman, Sacajawea (SAK uh juh WEE uh), was their guide. She was the wife of a French trader. Sacajawea with her new baby traveled through much rugged territory, guiding the explorers.

Lewis and Clark kept records of their travels for President Jefferson. They traveled beyond the Louisiana Territory through Ore-



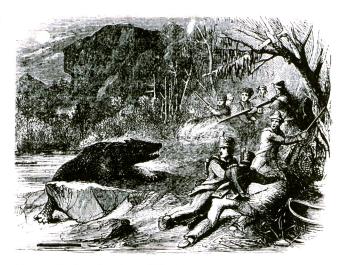
William Clark kept a journal recording what he saw as he explored the Louisiana Territory. On this part of a page from his journal, Clark has drawn the head of a vulture.

gon to the Pacific and back. Their exploration helped give the U. S. a claim to the Oregon Territory, which was also claimed by Great Britain.

British explorers had been traveling this same area too. Alexander Mackenzie climbed and canoed through the mountains in what is now British Columbia to the Pacific. These mountains are very rugged, and the streams rage down over jagged rocks.

Mackenzie had a way of pushing himself and his men to get where he wanted to go. Indian guides often turned back after a day or two of travel with him.

When Mackenzie finally



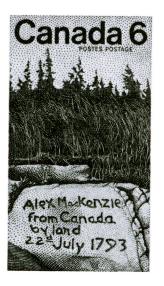
A bear attacks. Lewis and Clark had many exciting adventures as they explored Louisiana for President Jefferson.



Lewis, Clark, Sacajawea, and her French husband land on the banks of the Missouri River and prepare to camp for the winter.

reached the Pacific Coast, he painted his name on the rocks as you can see on the stamp on the right. If Mackenzie had been a few weeks earlier, he could have met George Vancouver. Vancouver was sailing along the Pacific Coast, mapping it for Great Britain.

Another outstanding British explorer was David Thompson. He traveled in what is now western Canada and the northwestern United States. Thompson had a

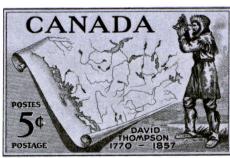


Alexander Mackenzie crossed the mountains of Western Canada eleven years before the Lewis and Clark expedition.

keen interest in writing down what he saw of plants, animals, and Indians on his trips. He was especially good at mapmaking. Maps of parts of western Canada are still based on notes he made.



Mackenzie and his men reach the Pacific Ocean. Earlier Mackenzie had traveled to the Arctic Ocean on the great river which now has his name.



David Thompson, explorer and mapmaker.



What do you say?

- 1. Why did the British government not want the colonists to move west of the Appalachians?
- 2. When did many more pioneers begin to move west?
- 3. Name a famous pioneer who took his family west.
- 4. Why was John Chapman called Johnny Appleseed?
- 5. Name the first states west of the Appalachians to become part of the U. S.
- 6. What was the main trade route between the newly-settled West and the East Coast?
- 7. Who was President of the U. S. in 1803?
- 8. How much did the Louisiana Purchase increase the size of the U. S.?
- 9. About how much did the Louisiana Territory cost per acre?
- 10. After 1803 how was the U. S. like a large house with unexplored parts? Who was sent to explore the new parts?
- 11. Who was Sacajawea?
- 12. What two British explorers nearly met in western Canada?



Harder question

1. Why did Ohio (1803) become a state before Indiana (1816)?



For you to do

- 1. Give a report on the design of the U. S. five-cent piece.
- 2. Suppose your class is a group of explorers in the Far West. Explain the following things you notice:
 - a. Snow in midsummer.
 - b. Sea animals in the river.
 - c. Indians with iron kettles.
 - d. Today the streams are flowing west, but the streams you saw yesterday were flowing east.
 - e. Water in the river begins to taste salty.

What Was the "Trail of Tears"?

We have been talking about how white settlers moved west. We want to see how another group of