PEOPLE GO WEST



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Detail from Emmanuel Leutze's 1861 mural study—"Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way"—depicts individuals who are part of America's westward expansion. Click on the image for a better view.

Although the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, many western-bound settlers still depended on <u>wagons</u>, <u>stagecoaches</u>, <u>boats</u>, horses, and <u>oxen</u> to reach their destination. Sometimes the food ran out, even for <u>soldiers</u>.

For those in the northern part of the territories, gorgeous scenery could suddenly be obscured by snowstorms. Life was hard, and it showed on the faces of many pioneers.

- In Loup Valley (Nebraska) an 1886 <u>family</u>, searching for a new homestead, pose with their covered wagon.
- One family found land they wanted in Guthrie (now Oklahoma).
- Blacksmith shops were a necessity for folks traveling West. The one in Guthrie was open-air.
- About 36,000 people processed their land registrations in nine Orlando (Oklahoma Territory) booths.

• On September 16, 1893, people bound for <u>Perry</u> (Oklahoma Territory) <u>raced</u> to claim land. At 9 a.m., seven days later, a long line had formed at the <u>U. S. Land Office</u> as claimants (like <u>W. H. McCoy</u>) waited to file.

• <u>Cornfields</u> like those in Anadarko (Oklahoma Territory), <u>served</u> as <u>tent towns</u> while settlers staked out land claims.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PEOPLE-GO-WEST-Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PEOPLE-GO-WEST-Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion</u>

Media Stream



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