

Name: _____

Date: _____

Westward Expansion Vocabulary Unit 9

Gold Rush: noun

a large-scale and hasty movement of people to a region where gold has been discovered, as to California in 1849.

Prospector: noun

a type of explorer looking for minerals in the ground- during the Gold Rush, it was any man who went out West in search of gold.

Boomtown: noun

a town that has grown very rapidly as a result of sudden prosperity (like during the Gold Rush).

Expedition: noun

an excursion, journey, or voyage made for some specific purpose, as of war or exploration.

Wagon train: noun

a train of wagons and horses, as one carrying or transporting settlers in the westward migration.

Ranch: noun

a large farm used primarily to raise one kind of crop or animal.

Stake a Claim: verb

indicate something as one's own. (This term, dating from the mid-1800s, originally meant "register a claim to land by marking it with stakes.")

Corps (core) of Discovery: noun

a specially-established unit of the United States Army which formed the basis for the Lewis and Clark Expedition that took place between May 1804 and September 1806.

Trading post: noun

a store established in an unsettled or thinly settled region by a trader or trading company to obtain furs and local products in exchange for supplies, clothing, other goods, or for cash.

Pony Express: noun

former system in the American West of carrying mail and express by relays of riders mounted on ponies, especially the system operating (1860–61) between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.

Covered (Conestoga) wagon: noun

a large, heavy, broad-wheeled covered wagon, used especially for transporting pioneers and freight across North America during the westward migration. Also called a prairie schooner.

Oregon Trail: noun

a route used during the U.S. westward migrations, especially in the period from 1840 to 1860, sw (3200 km) long.