

## THE WILD WEST ERA

The real American frontier holds a mythic space in our imaginations. Because of that, it's a place we envision more through the stories of the Wild West than through its actual history.

The real American frontier wasn't always as dramatic as it's made out to be in films and TV sitcoms, but it was a dangerous place, an untamed land. The settlers who traveled out West during the 1800s had to live in defiance of nature and the elements without the comforts of civilization.

Whole families would gather together in wagons and ride off into the unknown, sometimes spending months living in carriages that pull them westward. Men, women and children alike would endure hardships as they crossed over mountains, across rivers, and through deserts in search of a new home and a better life.

### Suggested list of Topics (or choose one of your own)

1. The early path finders: Zebulon, Lewis and Clark (1803).
2. The life of saloon girls (also know as soiled doves).
3. Mountain men: Jedediah Smith, Joe Walker and Kit Carson.
4. The great trek(the land rush).
5. The Gold Rush.
6. The Cattle Barons.
7. A Cowboy's Life.
8. The James brothers.
9. Billy the Kid
10. The Gunfight at the OK Corral.
11. Butch Cassidy.
12. Native American Culture(the era of broken Treaties).
13. Commander George Armstrong Custer and the Cavalry.
14. Lawmen such as Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok.
15. History of the Wild West Wardrobe (for both men and women).

The internet is a good source to research your topics. If you want a hard copy, there are books that should cover the topic you choose. A few examples are: 1. Historic Photos of Hero's of the Old west, by Mike Cox; 2. Outlaws & Pease officers: Memoirs of Crime and Punishment in the Old West, by Stephen Brennan; and 3. True Tales and Amazing Legends of the Old West, from True West magazine, by Editors of True West. There are many other books, work with what's best for you.