Overview:
The purpose of this lesson will be to have students understand that people travelled through Kansas in the mid 1800’s using the Santa Fe and Oregon/California trails for specific purposes. The student will be able to identify the trails on a map using geographic skills and make critical decisions while viewing photographs and drawings of the time period. Finally, the student will be able to identify the main idea of the lesson and write about their findings. This lesson will take one class period of approximately 60 minutes.

Standards:
Geography:
4.1.1 (A) applies geographic tools, including grid systems, symbols, legends, scales, and a compass rose to construct and interpret maps.
History:
4.2.4 (A) identifies and compares information from primary and secondary sources
4.2.5 (A) compares and contrasts the purposes of the Santa Fe and Oregon-California Trails (e.g., commercial vs. migration).

Common Core R.7 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Objectives:

Content:
- The student will identify the specific reasons people travelled through Kansas on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails

Skills:
- Identify both trails on an original map using geographic skills
- Look at original photographs and paintings and make critical decisions about where each group is travelling based on their knowledge of the trails

Essential Questions:
Why do people travel?
Lesson plan

1. The teacher will present information from *The Kansas Journey* (pages 60-63) using an Elmo or similar projection technology or will use other material to introduce the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails to the students.

2. Students will all get copies of the worksheet *Crossing Kansas* and as a small group, they will read and discuss the important purposes for both the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails (commerce and emigration).

3. The teacher will show a copy of the early Kansas map and distribute copies to each small group of students so that they can use skills learned in geography to read a Legend and find both trails on the maps. (First item on Resource List)

4. Teacher will show a photograph or painting on the Elmo and model how to read a photograph or painting.

5. The teacher will pass out five photographs and painting (Resource List) to each small group of four students. The teacher could find additional resources on the Kansas Memory or Library of Congress websites.

6. The students will look at photographs and paintings of early travelers and decide which trail the people in the photos and paintings will most likely take. They will read the photographs and painting, as modeled, and make critical decisions based on which trail they think the piece represents, putting each work under the correct heading, Santa Fe-Commerce, Oregon-Emigration. Conversation will be monitored anecdotally by the teacher and the teacher will pose questions to direct stalled conversations. Their decisions will be made by using their prior knowledge and observations from Reading the Photographs and Paintings. It is expected that students will discuss their reasoning with each other as the teacher circulates around classroom and notes individual participation.

7. Students will then gather and discuss, as a class, their findings and reasoning about the categories of each photograph.

8. As an assessment, students will fill out the attached “Big Idea” sheet (see attachment).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Image](image1.jpg) | Detailed map of Early Kansas  
Kansas: early routes, old trails, historic sites, landmarks, etc. – | Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory.  
| ![Image](image2.jpg) | Emigrant Camp and Wagon Train  
A painting by Henry Worrall. Born in 1825 in Liverpool, England, Worrall came to Kansas in 1868 for health reasons. A self-taught artist, he became a regular contributor to eastern journals, such as "Harper's Weekly" and "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper." Worrall's illustrations have been described as "journalism in pictures."  
Creator: Worrall, Henry  
Date: 1890 | Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory.  
| ![Image](image3.jpg) | Arrival of the Caravan at Santa Fe  
This illustration from Josiah Gregg's Commerce on the Prairies depicts a caravan of Americans arriving in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Santa Fe Trail, opened in 1821 by William Bucknell, served as a freight route and passed through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico.  
Date: Between 1844 and 1845 | Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory.  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Image](image1.png) | **Cattle fording the Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth, Kansas.** On the old Santa Fe crossing 508 miles west of St. Louis, Mo.  
  
  A stereograph showing cattle crossing the Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth, Kansas. Visible in the stereograph is a covered wagon. From Alexander Gardner’s series, Across the Continent on the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division.  
  
  Creator: Gardner, Alexander, 1821-1882  
| ![Image](image2.png) | **The Oregon Trail in South Pass, 1852**  
  - Date Created/Published: c1930.  
  - Medium: 1 photographic print.  
  - Summary: Shows long line of covered wagons, people, cattle and horses. | Library of Congress [http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a51186](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a51186) | [http://www.loc.gov/rr/phot/195_copr.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/phot/195_copr.html) |
| ![Image](image3.png) | **On the Oregon Trail / W.H. Jackson.**  
  - Title: On the Oregon Trail / W.H. Jackson.  
  - Creator(s): Jackson, William Henry, 1843-1942, artist  
  - Date Created/Published: c1930.  
  - Medium: 1 photographic print.  
Assessment

The student will fill out a “Big Idea” sheet giving their ideas of the main idea of the lesson. Teacher will move on or re-teach depending on the results of this assessment.

For the Teacher

The teacher will find background information about the trails stated very succinctly in The Kansas Journey, pages 60-63.

Background Information for Teachers

- William Becknell is often credited with being the father of the Santa Fe Trail
- He decided to haul goods from Kansas City to Santa Fe to sell
- First he used pack mules eventually going wagons, increasing amounts and profit
- The Santa Fe Trail made money for entrepreneurs
- Siting the Pawnee Rock, travellers knew they were halfway to their destination
- Travel on this trail took people through Indian homelands and hunting grounds
- The Oregon Trail moved people travelling west for a better life.
- It took six months to make the trip and was a 2,000 mile journey
- Small wagons were used to transport their supplies
- Over 1,000 pounds of food were necessary to make the journey
- Travel on this trail was seasonal starting in late April so arrival would be before winter

Make copies of heading sheets for Oregon Trail – Emigration and Santa Fe Trail – Commerce.

Make copies of the “Big Idea” worksheet.

Make copies of the “Crossing Kansas” worksheet.

Reading the photographs and paintings means that the students will use their observation skills along with magnifying glasses to look carefully at the photos and paintings and write down the things that they see in the works which would indicate either commerce or emigration.

Answer Key

The reason for travel on the Santa Fe Trail was primarily for commerce.
The reason for travel on the Oregon Train was primarily for emigration.

These answers, in the students’ own words, will appear on their “Big Idea” sheet.
NAME: __________________________________________

DATE: __________________________________________

Based on today’s lesson, the most important information I learned was that
SANTA FE TRAIL - COMMERCE
OREGON TRAIL - EMIGRATION
Crossing Kansas Worksheet

In the early 1800’s, people traveled through Kansas to trade or settle in the West. Long before air travel and interstate highways, people traveled west on trails. Two great trails of the 19th century went through Kansas. The Santa Fe Trail was primarily a commerce route, connecting the United States to Mexico. The Oregon-California Trail was an emigrant trail, carrying families west to find prosperity and new lives.