

## Sample Grade 5 Social Studies Lesson

### Inquiry Objectives:

INQ 5.5 Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration the different opinions people have about how to answer the questions.

INQ 5.7 Identify evidence that draws information from multiple sources in response to compelling questions.

### Disciplinary Objectives:

GEO 5.3 Explain how human settlements and movements relate to the locations and use of various natural resources

The teacher begins her lesson on the trails west by stating, “Today we are going to try to begin to answer the question, How does geography of a place and technology of the time help you map the best route to travel west? We will look at a series of maps—topographical, political, climate, and physical—and you will work with your group to plan your trip west. Then you are going to take this transparency, and you are going to overlay the routes of trails that settlers did take going west: The Oregon Trail, the Overland Trail, the Mormon Trail, and the California Trail. We will color the trails different colors, so we can see the differences in your route. We will discuss what might have caused the differences in your designed route and the actual route. Here are some resources for you to use, but you have to decide what materials are going to help you. Let’s talk about travel. Who can tell me how settlers traveled west? And what obstacles may have been in the way?” The teacher calls for students to respond and gives feedback. Then they conduct a close read of two primary source diaries from the time of Westward Expansion. Students are then asked to form groups and begin working on their designs.