

# THE NATIONAL ROAD

The Historic National Road is a landmark representing the beginning and progress of the United States of America. The original National Road was 800 miles long beginning in Cumberland, Maryland and ending in Vandalia, Illinois. It was the first federally funded interstate highway venturing from the original thirteen colonies across the Allegheny Mountains and into the unknowns of the Northwest Territory.

The National Road helped American pioneers to reach their dreams of manifest destiny by providing them away to travel west. In turn, these pioneers created business and trade along the way and eventually settling in towns along the road.

The idea of a national road began with George Washington. He said, "Settling the west will fulfill the first and greatest-commandment, increase and multiply". Then Thomas Jefferson took hold of the idea and got congress to federally fund building this all-weather road. The construction of the road began in Cumberland, Maryland in 1811.

Within two decades, the road passed through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and into the states of the Northwest Territory which are now Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The National Road had to cross much of Eastern Ohio's rugged terrain. To accomplish this, magnificently crafted stone bridges and S-curves were constructed. Many of these bridges remain today as evidence of their extreme craftsmanship.

The National Road also provided a land link across many major mid-continent river systems such as the Ohio, Monongahela, Muskingum, Scioto, Miami, and Wabash. In addition, by doing so, this gave better access to the great Mississippi River and many isolated settlements along it. The original construction of the National Road ended in Vandalia,

Illinois in 1839.

Over 200,000 people traveled the National Road annually and unlike many privately owned roads, this road was free to travel. At the beginning, pioneers traveled by foot, bicycle, horseback, wagon and stagecoach following the mile markers along the highway. A wagon could travel ten to fifteen miles per day while a stagecoach could make thirty miles in a day.

Taverns and inns were created at every mile to provide food and lodging for the travelers. The Pennsylvania house is still located in Springfield, Ohio reminding us of the beginnings of westward travel. Towns sprang up along the roads as pioneers decided to settle and prosper from the traffic along the national road.

By the 1830's, the road passed through Ohio to the Indiana border. The National Road not only provided industry along the road, but also gave access to industries such as coal mining and provided more land for farming. While the eastern travelers brought with them either races, culture, and religion, the Midwest was able to sell their products back in the growing eastern markets enabling them to share in the wealth. During the period of 1820 to 1840, Indiana's population alone quadrupled due to the establishment of the National road.

Unfortunately, with increased access to new products and population brought about new inventions and change. The invention of the railroad allowed travelers to venture west faster and without as many stops. This devastated the towns along the National Road forcing the foreclosure of business and eventually towns just died out.

Fortunately in the early 1900's, industry created more change. Automobiles were made more available to consumers. Although, travel was still faster, automobiles

were able to stop wherever they needed. At first, travelers simply camped out when they wanted to stop, but soon businesses caught on and taverns, lodges, and inn reopened helping the towns prosper and grow once again.

The National Road was designated an All American Road in 2002. As the first federally funded highway, pioneers were able to venture westward expanding our nation and allowing access to industry and opportunity. The National Road was a huge step in leading our nation where it is today.

## QUESTIONS

1. What was the length of the original National Road?
2. Where and when did the construction of the National Road begin?
3. Name four ways pioneers could travel on the National Road.
4. Name two rivers the National Road crossed.

5. Name two types of bridges built to cross these rivers.
6. What happened to Indiana as a direct result of the National Road?
7. What major industry did the National Road give access? What other industry carry developed as a result of this access?
8. What made the towns along the National Road die out? Why?
9. What helped the towns along the National Road thrive again? Why?
10. Why was the National Road designated an All-American Road in 2002?

### EXTENDED RESPONSE QUESTION (4pts)

When the National Road was first constructed, towns grow and prospered. Why did they grow and prosper? What caused the towns along the National Road to eventually die out and why? Later, what revived these towns once again and why? Is the National Road still in use today? Explain.

### BONUS

Name one unique fact about The National Road.

## 5 W's and the H- Primary Source Lesson

Given a primary source picture pertaining to the National Road, answer 5/6 of the following questions:

1. Who is traveling on the National Road?
2. What is this picture of?
3. When do you think this picture was taken?
4. Where do you think this picture was taken?
5. Why is this picture important to the development of the National Road?
6. How does this picture relate understanding the history of the development of the National Road?

## PRIMARY SOURCE POEM ACTIVITY (EXTENSION)

Students are to write a poem using Primary Source picture or topic relating to the National Road.

They may choose to either to write an Acrostic, Cinquain or create an original poem with or without rhyme. Examples are provided below.

### ACROSTIC

In Acrostic poems, the first letter of each line of the poem spells the word relating to your topic when read going down.

Example:

**H**ard to handle  
**O**rnery  
**R**ough ride  
**S**ore bottom  
**E**asy does it!

### CINQUAIN

Cinquains have five lines coming from the Spanish word for five: Cinco

Line 1: Title- 1 word

Line 2: Description- 2 words

Line 3: Action- 3 words

Line 4: Feelings and/or phrase: 4 words

Line 5: Title (Synonym for title)- 1 word

Horse  
Wild, Strong  
Walk, trot, gallop  
Crazy, wild ride  
Stallion

## A POEM WITH RHYME

Example:

Do you want to travel  
The National Road?  
If you walk on foot  
You'll be as slow as a toad.  
If you ride a horse,  
It will be a rough course.  
If you go by wagon,  
10-15 miles a day would make me think again.  
Stage Coach would be the way to go,  
The cost is high, but you won't go slow!

## WITHOUT RHYME

Example:

Our wagon is packed  
Full of our life's belongings  
Go West! is all we know  
Our destiny lays ahead  
Somewhere on this National Road...



## **The National Road**

Vocabulary:

national    conestoga    wagon    car    byway

road    scenic    America    Ohio    history    highway

miles    Illinois    s-bridges    Maryland    business

Madonna    bicycles    Pennsylvania    Indiana    trains

West Virginia    Route Forty    states    interstate

## **Map Activities**

1. Label the states, rivers, and mountains. Connect the cities labeled along the National Road. Color.

2. a) The entire road is 824 miles long. A conestoga wagon traveled 10-15 miles per day. On the average, how many days would it take for a wagon to travel the length of the trail?

b) Using Map Quest, how long will it take to drive from Cumberland, MD to Vandalia, Illinois?

c) Compare and contrast the answers to a and b.

## EXTENSION MAP ACTIVITIES

1. Joseph Keifer of Springfield, Ohio

documented he spent \$40 to travel 660 miles in

48 days. What was the cost per mile of travel?

How much would it cost to travel the same

distance on today's highway?

2. Use current road maps to follow route 40's modern day path from coast to coast.

3. Where are the twelve Madonna of the Trail statues located? Find these cities on the map. Compare their location with the current path of route 40.

What conclusions would you make from this information?

## **Sequencing**

Put these phrases in the correct order from oldest to newest.

\_\_\_\_Route 40 is named a Historic National Road and state scenic byway in Ohio in 2000.

\_\_\_\_Trains traveled faster so people stopped using the National Road.

\_\_\_\_President Jefferson led Congress in funding the first interstate highway.

\_\_\_\_Towns lost business and people lost jobs.

\_\_\_\_Businesses came back to the towns when people driving through needed food, places to stay, fuel, car repairs, and wanted to shop.

\_\_\_\_Two kinds of taverns were built along the National Road: wagon stations and stagecoach taverns.

\_\_\_\_ People bought automobiles and started to travel on the National Road again.

\_\_\_\_ In 1928-29, the Madonna of the Trail statues were built.

\_\_\_\_ Interstate 70 was constructed taking traffic away from the towns along the National Road.

\_\_\_\_ Route 40 is named an All America Road National Scenic Byway by the Federal government in 2002.

# National Road Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Find these words associated with the Historic National Road | A | P | E | N | N | S | Y | L | V | A | N | I | A | T |
| Cars  | B | Y | A | W | Y | B | I | C | Y | C | L | E | S | R |
| Byway   | D | L | D | F | I | R | N | M | J | T | Q | K | Q | X |
| America   | R | G | N | A | T | I | O | N | A | L | R | O | A | D |
| National Road   | F | L | H | F | D | D | Q | I | P | D | T | E | Y | R |
| Bridges   | K | E | N | L | K | G | O | F | T | S | O | H | S | Z |
| Route Forty   | P | R | O | U | T | E | F | O | R | T | Y | N | Y | D |
| Madonna   | H | M | I | L | E | S | P | A | D | X | O | Z | N | Z |
| Ohio  | I | E | H | G | J | U | C | E | L | G | I | A | R | A |
| Pennsylvania  | S | I | O | N | I | L | L | I | A | T | L | F | D | O |
| Illinois  | T | G | H | U | Q | K | I | W | L | Y | F | X | G | M |
| Maryland  | O | R | W | E | S | T | V | I | R | G | I | N | I | A |
| Indiana   | R | Q | V | N | V | A | N | A | I | D | N | I | Y | M |
| West Virginia   | Y | W | E | F | J | A | M | E | R | I | C | A | E | Q |
| Miles   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| History   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Bicycles  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Wagons  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**FACT:** In 2002, the Historic National Road was designated an All-American Road, the highest designation of a scenic byway.

**FACT:** The Historic National Road extends a total of 824.15 miles across six states.

**FACT:** One of twelve Madonna of the Trail statues constructed in 1928-29 along route 40 is in Springfield, Ohio. Each of the other eleven is in a different state.

**FACT:** The National Road (route 40) was named a Historic Road and state scenic byway in Ohio by 2000.

**FACT:** The National Road was the first Interstate highway built in the USA and was funded with Jefferson as President.

**FACT:** Interstate 70 closely follows route 40, but causes traffic to bypass the towns causing many business and towns to die.







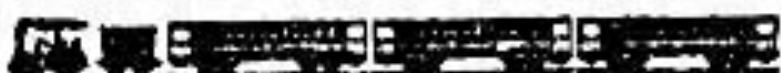




*Courtesy of Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., Staunton, Virginia*



# CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD



**O**N AND AFTER THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1883, until further notice, the trains of the Central Pacific Railroad will run as follows:

## Going East.

Mail and passenger train will leave Sacramento at 8:30 A. M., arrive at Colfax at 9:25 A. M.

Freight and passenger train leave Sacramento at 1:30 P. M., arrive at Colfax at 7 P. M.

## Going West.

Mail and passenger train leave Colfax at 10:05 A. M., arrive at Sacramento at 1 P. M.

Freight and passenger train leave Colfax at 11 A. M., arrive at Sacramento at 5:10 P. M.

Freight to and from Colfax and intermediate stations will be taken on all trains except the mail and passenger train.

The morning Passenger Trains connect at Auburn with stages for Yankee Jim's, Forest Hill and Michigan Bluff; and at Colfax with stages for Grass Valley, Nevada, San Juan, Minidotown, Gold Run, Dutch Flat and Virginia City.

The 6:30 A. M. up train connects at the Junction with the cars of the California Central Railroad for Lincoln and Marysville and all points North.

On Sunday one train only will be run, leaving Sacramento at 8:30 A. M., and Colfax at 10:05 A. M.

Conveyances can be had at Newcastle for Alabaster Cave, six miles distant.

**O. CROOKER,**

Superintendent C. P. R. R.

**G. F. HARTWELL,** Assistant Superintendent.

