



National Road Timeline

1752	The Nemacolin Trail is marked by Nemacolin, a Delaware Indian, and Thomas Cresap. It led from Wills Creek on the Potomac River (present day Cumberland, Maryland) to the Monongahela River.
1754	Washington's Road is built by George Washington troops along Nemacolin's Trail during a campaign against the French.
1755	Braddock's Road, built by troops under the command of British General Edward Braddock, improves and extends Washington's road from the year before. Eight miles from Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh) the British are defeated.
1802	The law that allows Ohio to become a state in the United States is passed. The law says that money from the sale of land in Ohio will be used to build a road from the east to the new state of Ohio.
1806	President Thomas Jefferson signs the law establishing the National Road.
1808	Congress approves funding for surveying the National Road.
1811	Construction begins on the National Road and the first 10 miles of road built.
1818	National Road is completed to Wheeling, Virginia. Mail stagecoach use of the road begins.
1830s	The federal government turns over responsibility of the National Road to the states through which the road runs.
1835	Pennsylvania accepts the National Road from the federal government. They have the federal government repair the road and provide money for the construction of tollgates and tollhouses.
1839	The National Road reaches Vandalia, Illinois, where construction of the road stops.
1852/1853	The Pennsylvania Railroad reaches Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reaches Wheeling, Virginia. This new form of transportation will lead to the decline of the National Road.
1880	The safety bicycle is introduced, and the League of American Wheelmen push for better roads.
1926	The National Road becomes part of U.S. Route 40 as a coast-to-coast highway. In most places Route 40 is right on top of the National Road.
1960s	Route 40 is bypassed by Interstate 70.



National Road Bibliography

Resources appropriate for the upper elementary level:

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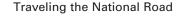
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CD or Cassette Tape:

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Vocabulary

Abolitionist: Someone who worked to get rid of slavery.

Acrobat: A person who performs exciting gymnastic acts that require skill.

Agent: Someone who arranges things for other people.

Anvil: A heavy block of iron on which metals are shaped by hammering.

Arch: A curved structure.

Attractions: Interesting or exciting features.

Auction: A sale where goods are sold to the person who offers the most money for them. The person who sells the goods is called the auctioneer.

Audience: People who watch or listen to a performance or speech.

Barroom: The room in a tavern where alcoholic drinks were sold.

Bellows: A tool used to blow air.

Blacksmith: Someone who makes and fixes things made of iron.

Cast iron: A hard and brittle form of iron made by melting iron with other metals and then pouring the mixture into a mold.

Compete: To try hard to outdo others at a task, race, or contest.

Conestoga wagon: A large wagon with a cream or white cloth cover. The wagon bed was deep, turned up at each end like a boat, and painted red and blue. These wagons could carry up to 10,000 pounds and were pulled by teams of six to eight horses.

Congress: The governmental body of the United States that makes laws.

Convince: To make someone believe you.

Cotillion: A big dance.

Courthouse: A building where trials and government business is conducted.

Crops: Plants grown in large amounts, usually for food.



Traveling the National Road

Vocabulary

Debt: The amount of money that is owed to another business or person.

Drought: A long spell of very dry weather.

Drover: A person who walked farm animals such as pigs, sheep, cattle, or turkeys to market.

Duty: Something a person must do or ought to do.

Elect: To choose someone by voting.

Emigrant: Someone who leaves his or her home in order to live in another place.

Expand: To increase in size.

Forge: A special fireplace where metals are heated.

Freight: Goods or cargo that are carried by some form of transportation.

Frontier: The far edge of a country where few people live.

Funeral: The ceremony held after someone has died when the body is buried.

Gallop: To run as fast as possible, usually referring to a horse.

Glimpse: To see something very briefly.

Grief: A feeling of great sadness.

Grindstone: A special stone used to sharpen something.

Harness: A set of leather straps and metal parts that connects a horse to a stagecoach, wagon, or other vehicle.

Harvest: To gather in the crops that are ripe.

Hitch: To join something to a vehicle.

Hospitable: A way of treating guests so that they feel comfortable and at home.

Integrity: The act of being honest and sticking to what you believe in.

Intelligent: Smart, bright, quick to understand.

Inventor: Someone who thinks up or creates something new.



Traveling the National Road

Vocabulary

Legislature: A group of people who have the power to make or change laws.

Manufactured goods: Items that a made, often with a machine.

Mechanical: Having to do with machines or tools.

Merchant: Someone who sells things, usually in a store.

Mile Marker: A stone or metal post showing the distance in miles to or from a specific place.

Noble: A member of a family of high rank.

On duty: At work.

Outhouse: A small building with a seat over a pit used as an outdoor toilet.

Passenger: Someone besides the driver who travels in a vehicle.

Pitcher: A container with an open top for pouring liquids.

Pole: To push a boat across the water using a long pole.

Politician: Someone who runs for or holds a government office.

Postmaster: The head of the post office.

Privacy: The act of being away from other people or out of their view.

Profit: The amount of money left after all the costs of running a business have been subtracted from all the money earned.

Retire: To give up work.

"S" Bridge: An arched bridge directly across the stream or river with the approaching roads curving to meet it, giving the road an "S" shape.

Shallow: Not deep.

Sharpshooter: A person who drove wagons on the National Road for part of the year.

Shoe: To fit a horse with horseshoes.

Shrink: To become smaller.



Traveling the National Road

Vocabulary

Slavery: The system where one person owns another person.

Soothe: To calm someone who is angry or upset.

Speaker: Someone who gives a speech in public.

Splendid: Very beautiful or impressive.

Stable: A building where horses or cows are kept.

Stagecoach: A lightweight, flat topped, brightly painted coach pulled by four or six horses and used extensively on the National Road. People paid to ride these coaches from one town to another. The coaches had doors and windows.

Suspicious: Feeling something is wrong or bad, but having no proof.

Tavern: A place offering travelers food, drink, and a place to sleep.

Tavern keeper: A person who ran a tavern.

Transportation: A means of moving people and freight from one place to another.

Temporary: Lasting for only a short time.

Toll: A fee paid for using a road, bridge, or tunnel. The money collected on the National Road was used to repair and help maintain the road.

Tollhouse: A place where tolls were collected and the tollkeeper lived.

Tollkeeper: A person who collects tolls.

Tongs: A tool used to pick things up.

Traffic: Moving vehicles.

Utensils: Tools with a special purpose, often used in a kitchen.

Vise: A tool used to hold an object firmly in place.

Vote: To make a choice in an election.

Wagoner: A person who drives a wagon.





National Road Word Hunt

M	T	E	M		G	R	A	N	T	D
	Α	M	O	T	U	0	P	В	0	W
N	J	R	W	A	C	Α	M	E	L	S
S	S	Т	Α	V	K	D	E	N	L	T
S	T	A	G	E	C	0	A	C	Н	T
В	W	Н	O	R	S	E	L	Y	O	Н
R	K	A	N	N	В	Z	X	Q	U	E
	T	R	Α	V	E	L	E	R	S	T
D	Α	Т	R	N	D	R	O	V	E	R
G	M		L	E	M	A	R	K	Ε	R
E	P	N	A	T		0	N	A	L	M

Directions: Find these words (across and down):

Bed Horse Road Tavern
Bridge Meal Stagecoach Wagon

Drover Mile marker Tollhouse Emigrant National Traveler