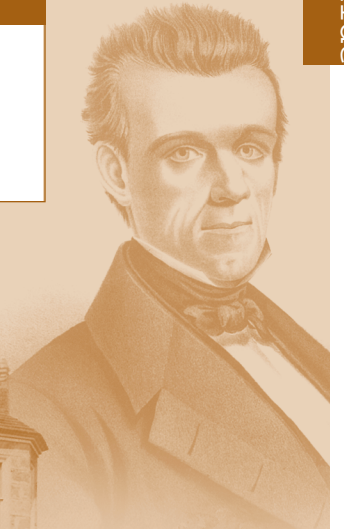


3rd Grade

Traveling the National Road

3

Teacher's Guide



61 TO Cumberland to Smithfield 20

70 TO WHEELING to Uniontown 2

PENNSYLVANIA MARYLAND

CLIFFS

FROSTBURG

CLARYSVILLE

CUMBERLAND

WEST BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER

0 1 2 3 4



Overview of the National Road

improve trade between the east and the emerging western frontier. Many people feared that without a good road the western territories, such as Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, might decide to trade with the British in Canada or the Spanish in the Louisiana Territory. A good road was needed to help bind the nation together.

In 1806, President Thomas Jefferson signed an act to establish the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, Virginia. This section was completed in 1818.

There were very few roads across the Appalachian Mountains, and most of them were not very good. By contrast the National Road was one of the best and most substantial roads that had ever been built in the United States. Henry Clay related that it had taken him and his family all day to travel 9 miles on the Braddock Road and that he could cover 79 miles in the same time on the National Road.

Vast numbers of people and animals moved over the National Road. Stagecoaches carried passengers and mail. Wagons brought flour, whiskey, and bacon east, then loaded up with iron, salt, and every imaginable type of

manufactured merchandise and headed west. Numerous trains of wagons laden with families and household goods carried emigrants to new homes in Ohio and beyond. The long lines of cattle, sheep, and pigs that were driven from frontier farms to markets in the east were described as “almost endless and countless.”

The National Road intersected with the Monongahela River at Brownsville, Pennsylvania, and with the Ohio River at Wheeling. Travelers and freight often left the National Road to continue their journey via river. River travel was smoother for passengers, and freight was more easily transported.

The National Road, the first federal highway, succeeded beyond the expectations of its planners. It served the nation for many years. Then in the early 1850s the railroads made it across the Allegheny Mountains. They moved people faster and carried freight more cheaply. The National Road turned into a local route. It would be resurrected again with the advent of the motor car. In the 1920s the majority of the National Road became part of the new U.S. Route 40. Today, in most places, Route 40 is still on top of the old National Road.

Additional Information

1. The following **Biography Card** provides additional information:
 - Albert Gallatin
2. The following **Occupation Card** provides additional information:
 - Politician

Supplemental Activities

1. Use a map of the United States to talk about westward expansion.
2. Ask the students if they have seen or visited any historic sites associated with the National Road. Have the students share their experiences with the class.



Student Reading: The National Road

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **The National Road**.

Objectives

After reading the student reading and answering the thought question, students will be able to

- Name one reason the National Road was important to the people of the United States.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 A
- 8.2.3 C
- 8.3.3 B

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.2.3 H
- 6.2.3 I



Procedures

1. Make a copy of the reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students read and answer the thought question.
3. Discuss the thought question.

Thought Question Answers

Any of the following could be correct answers:

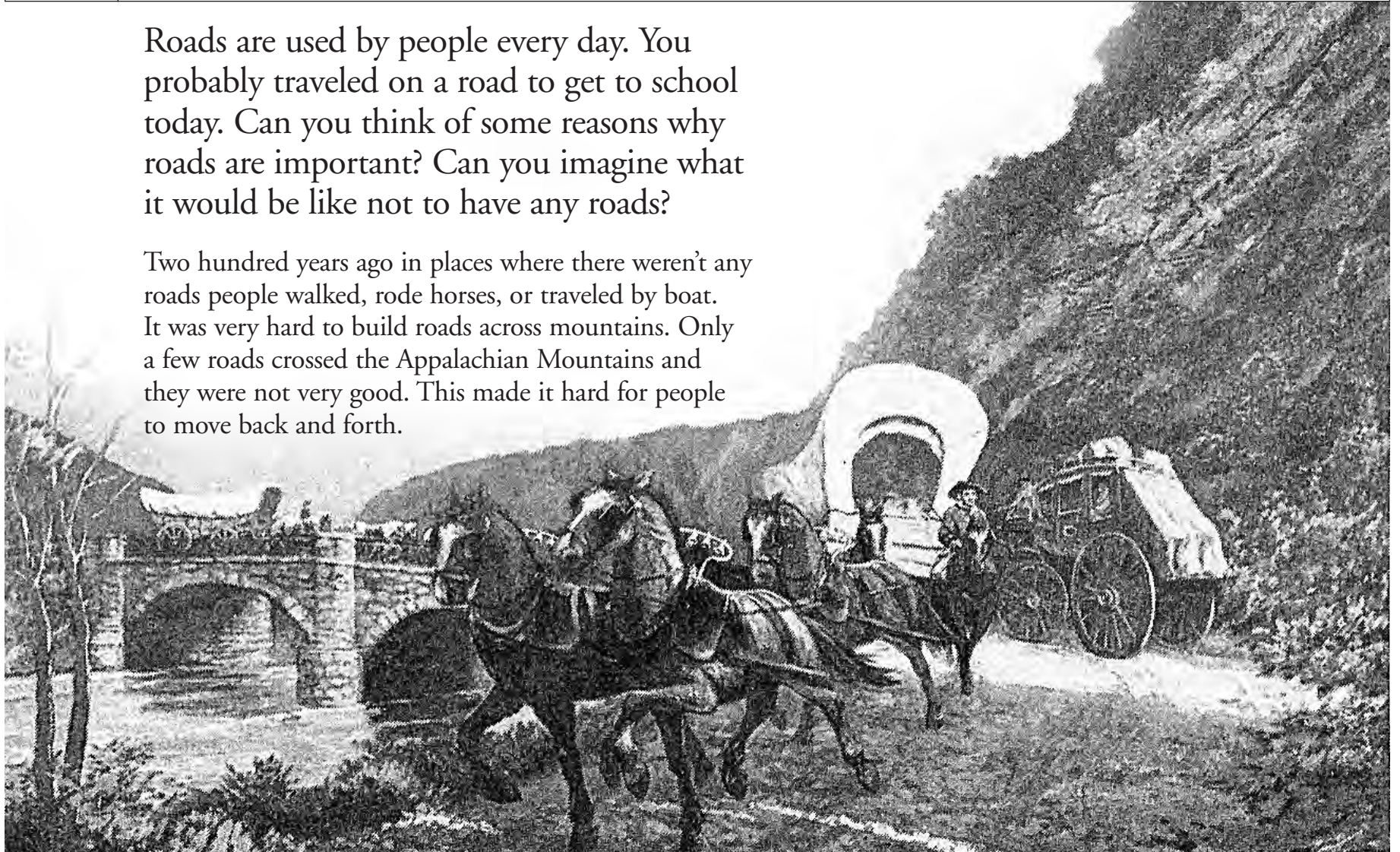
- It was a good road across the mountains.
- It connected the nation.
- It was the first federally built road.



The National Road

Roads are used by people every day. You probably traveled on a road to get to school today. Can you think of some reasons why roads are important? Can you imagine what it would be like not to have any roads?

Two hundred years ago in places where there weren't any roads people walked, rode horses, or traveled by boat. It was very hard to build roads across mountains. Only a few roads crossed the Appalachian Mountains and they were not very good. This made it hard for people to move back and forth.





The National Road

Americans wanted the country to grow. More and more people settled on the frontier—on the west side of the mountains. But bad roads cut them off from the rest of the United States. They needed a good road across the mountains. In 1806, President Thomas Jefferson signed a law saying a road would be built from Cumberland, Maryland, into Ohio. This road was called the Cumberland Road or the National Road.

When the National Road opened, it was one of the best roads in the nation. It made it easy for wagons to

bring loads of bacon and flour to the cities to be sold. In the cities the wagons were loaded with iron, salt, cloth, and all sorts of items the settlers wanted to buy. The National Road also made it easier for people to travel. Stagecoaches filled with passengers regularly traveled the road.

The National Road was the first, and only, highway paid for entirely by the United States government. It helped connect areas of the growing country.



Thought Question:

Name one reason the National Road was important to the people of the United States.



Student Activity: Map of the National Road

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **Map of the National Road**.
- Crayons and pencils.

Objectives

After coloring the map and answering the thought questions students will be able to

- Identify the course of the National Road.
- Explain what was the biggest barrier to travelers before the National Road was built.
- Identify which side of the map had cities and was settled and which side had many unsettled parts.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 B
- 8.2.3 B
- 8.2.3 C
- 8.3.3.B

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.2.3 H
- 6.2.3 I



Procedures

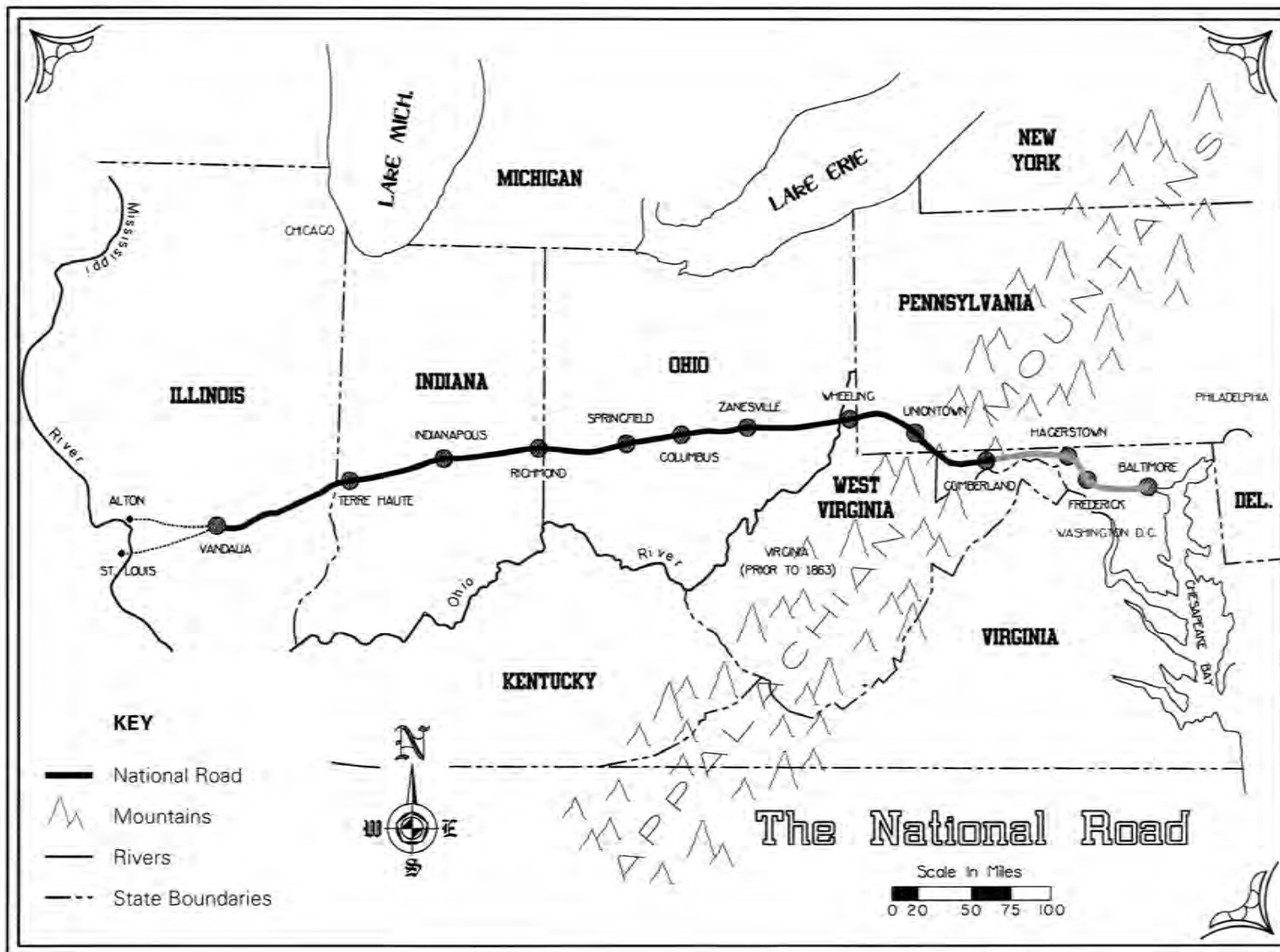
1. Make a copy of the reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students color the map according to the instructions.
3. Discuss the thought questions.

Thought Question Answers

- Before the National Road was built mountains were the biggest problem.
- Travelers continued their journey by boat on the Ohio River.



Map of the National Road





Map of the National Road

Directions: Follow the steps below to color the map of the National Road. Answer the thought questions.

1. Color the National Road **YELLOW**.
2. Color the area marked Appalachian Mountains **GREEN**.
3. Color these states **ORANGE**:
Delaware
Maryland
(Baltimore and Cumberland are in Maryland)
4. Color the right side of the state, or the area east of the Appalachian Mountains, **ORANGE**:
New York
Pennsylvania
Virginia/West Virginia
5. Color the left side of the state, or the area west of the Appalachian Mountains, **BLUE**:
New York
Pennsylvania
Virginia/West Virginia
6. Color these states **BLUE**:
Ohio
Indiana
Illinois
Michigan
Kentucky



Thought Questions:

1. The orange sections of the map were where the cities were located and most of the people lived. Many parts of the blue section of the map were unsettled.

In the early 1800s a lot of land was available for sale in the blue section of the map. Many people wanted to move there. Before the National Road was built what do you think was the biggest problem in moving from the orange area of the map to the blue?

2. Many travelers took the National Road as far as Wheeling and then continued their journey by another method of transportation. How did the travelers continue?



Student Activity: The National Road in Pennsylvania

Materials

- Copies of the reproducible pages **The National Road in Pennsylvania**.
- Rulers or string.

Objectives

After completing the student activity and answering the thought questions, students will be able to

- Identify the course of the National Road in Pennsylvania.
- List one National Road site in Pennsylvania that is still standing.

Standards

Pennsylvania Standards for History

- 8.1.3 A
- 8.2.3 B
- 8.2.3 C
- 8.3.3 B

Pennsylvania Standards for Economics

- 6.2.3 H
- 6.2.3 I



Procedures

1. Make a copy of the reproducible pages for each student.
2. Have the students use the map to answer the questions.

Activity Answers

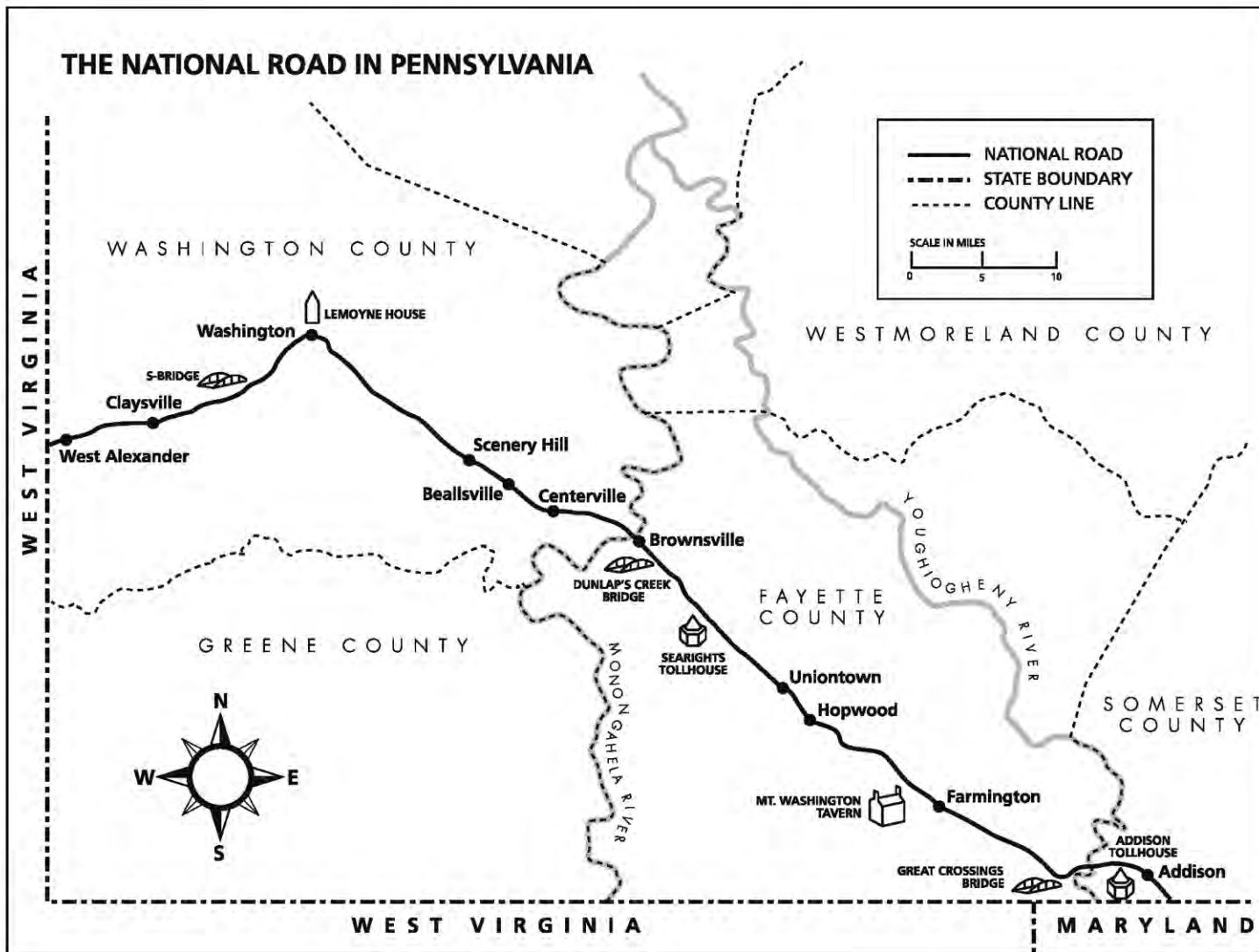
- **#2.** About 90 miles.
- **#3.** The Monongahela River was used for traveling. The Youghiogheny River was too rough to travel by boat.

Thought Question Answer

- River travel was smoother and faster.



The National Road in Pennsylvania





The National Road in Pennsylvania

Directions: Use the National Road in Pennsylvania map to answer the following questions and the thought questions.

1. Mark a red X on the map where your school is (ask your teacher for help if you need to).
2. Use the scale to calculate the length of the National Road in Pennsylvania: _____miles.
3. The National Road crosses two rivers in Pennsylvania. Which river did people use for traveling?
4. Below are sites seen along the National Road today that were also seen by travelers in the 1800s. Circle each of them on the map:
 - Addison Tollhouse
 - Dunlap’s Creek Iron Bridge
 - LeMoyne House
 - Mount Washington Tavern
 - “S” Bridge
 - Searights Tollhouse



Thought Question:

Why did people want to travel by boat on a river instead of traveling on a road?
