8th Grade American Studies
Unit 7 – Westward Expansion
Topic: Trails To The West

Directions: Using pages 346 – 349 in the textbook, please complete the following chart.

Name	KEY	
Date		
Period		

Trails	What Was It	Travellers (Who went?)	Motives (Why go?)	Hardships Faced Along The Way
Oregon Trail	2,000 mile trail stretching through the Great Plains from western Missouri to the Oregon Territory	Young families ("Wagon trains") Pioneers	Rich, abundant natural resources Mild Climate Plentiful land	Long journey (6 months) Cost (almost \$600) Rough weather Shortages of food & supplies Geographic Barriers, such as rivers & mountains
Santa Fe Trail	An important trade trail west from Independence, MO to Santa Fe, NM	Traders looking to exchange eastern manufactured goods for horses, mules, and silver	Economic Make a profit	Long journey Rough weather Shortages of food & supplies Geographic Barriers, such as rivers & mountains, blazing hot deserts
California Trail	2,000 mile trail that followed the same route as the Oregon Trail, but forked south to California after crossing the Rocky Mountains	Young families ("Wagon trains") Pioneers Traders looking to make money	Rich, abundant natural resources Mild Climate Plentiful land Economic Make a profit	Long journey (6 months) Cost (almost \$600) Rough weather Shortages of food & supplies Geographic Barriers, such as rivers & mountains
Mormon Trail	1,300 mile trail from Nauvoo, IL to Salt Lake City, UT; used by the Mormons as the headed west to escape religious persecution	Followers of Joseph Smith / Brigham Young (members of the Mormon Religion)	Escape religious persecution Looking for a site to establish up a permanent settlement	Long journey Cost (almost \$600) Rough weather Shortages of food & supplies Geographic Barriers, such as rivers & mountains