

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade American Studies**  
**Unit 7 Performance-Based Assessment**

**2014-2015**

**Directions:** Please read the scenario below. After you are finished reading, please complete each step of the Unit 7 Performance-Based Assessment.

*The year is 1858. You and your family currently reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, along the Ohio River. The rising tensions over the issue of slavery seem to have swept throughout all of the states east of the Mississippi River. Rather than subject your family to the social and political firestorm that is the “slavery issue,” you have decided that you and your family are going pack up your belongings and head west to begin a new life. Based what you have read in the local newspapers, you have narrowed your possible destination down to one of FIVE choices. These possible “new homes” are:*

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*  
*San Francisco, California*  
*Austin, Texas*  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*  
*Willamette Valley [present -day Portland], Oregon*

*For this assignment, you are to pick ONE (1) of the above locations as the site of your future home and, using your current “home city” of Cincinnati, complete the following sections of this performance-based assessment. Be sure to read ALL additional directions as you work your way through this assignment. PLACE ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS IN THE TEXT BOXES PROVIDED WITH EACH QUESTION.*

**Which location did you choose?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**What is the distance that you will have to travel to get to your new “home?” Remember, you are leaving from Cincinnati, Ohio, but you have to stop off in St. Louis, MO for supplies before you make the long haul westward.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**Based on an AVERAGE rate of travel of 11 miles per day, how long will it take you & your family to get to your new home?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**What significant geographic features will you encounter on your journey? These may include major rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, etc.) Be sure to use COMPLETE SENTENCES when answering this portion of your Performance-Based Assessment.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**Which Native American Tribes could be found in the vicinity of your new home? Be sure to use COMPLETE SENTENCES when answering this portion of your Performance-Based Assessment.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**Why did you choose the “new” home that you did? Please include several examples of reasons why this location would have drawn travellers from the East. These could include climate, natural resources, geographic features, and / or economic opportunities. Be sure to use COMPLETE SENTENCES when answering this portion of your Performance-Based Assessment.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**What types of hardships might you face on your journey from Cincinnati, Ohio to your new home? When completing this portion of the assessment, please include examples of "actual events" that may have occurred to people travelling to your destination. This can be done by researching and reading primary source documents such as journals, letters, and diaries. Be sure to include as much information as available when citing your source.**

**Be sure to use COMPLETE SENTENCES when answering this portion of your Performance-Based Assessment.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)