GLOSSARY

acquisition - Something that is acquired or gained.
alkaline - Having a pH (measurement of acidity) higher than 7. Numbers below 7 increase in acidity and numbers above 7 increase in alkalinity.
argonaut - An adventurer engaged in a quest, especially one for gold.
booster - An enthusiastic supporter.
California Trail - Beginning about 1841, an offshoot of the Oregon Trail that began either at Fort Bridger, Wyoming, or Soda Springs, Idaho, and ended near Sacramento, California.
Catholic - A member of the universal Christian church.
Cayuse - A Native American group of Oregon and Washington.
census - A periodic count of a population.
cholera - A disease of humans and domestic animals caused by a poison produced by a comma-shaped bacterium.
clergy - People ordained to serve as ministers, pastors, or priests in a church.
continental - Relating to a continent, especially the part of a country on a specific continent or land mass.
covered wagon - A wagon with a canvas top supported by curved strips of wood or metal.
decade - A period of 10 years.
doctrine - A statement of government policy, especially in international relations.
economy - Careful use of resources; the economic structure of a country.
emigrant - A person who leaves his or her place of residence or country to live elsewhere.
epidemic - Tending to affect a large number of individuals, spreading among them rapidly.
exansionist - A person who believes that a nation should expand its territory.
fertile - Productive; capable of growing, developing, or reproducing.
Flathead - A group of Native Americans in the area of Montana.
Fort Bridger - A supply post built by Jim Bridger in 1841-43 east of the Great Salt Lake.
Fort Hall - A supply post Nat Wyeth built in 1834 on the Snake River in southern Idaho.
Fort Laramie - A trading post originally built in 1835 as Fort William in present-day southeast Wyoming, and later rebuilt as Fort Laramie.
frontier - A border between two countries; a region on the edge of developed territory.
humid - Containing noticeable moisture; very damp.
immigrant - A person who moves into a country from somewhere else.
impervious - Not able to be pierced.
in hospitable - Not friendly or receptive.
institution - An established organization or a significant practice.
Jesuit - A member of the Roman Catholic Society of Jesus founded in 1534.
Lewis and Clark Expedition - Exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and the country beyond, ordered by President Jefferson and carried out from 1804 to 1806 by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.
malaria - A human disease caused by parasites in the red blood cells and spread by the bites of mosquitoes.
maneuver - To make changes in direction and position.
Methodist - A branch of the Protestant church descended from the Church of England.
migrant - A person or animal who moves from place to place.
migrate - To move from one country or place to another.
migration - Movement from one country or place to another.
militia - A body of citizens organized as for military service.
mis sionary - A person undertaking a mission, especially a religious mission.
Mormon - Relating to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
mountain man - An American frontiersman who usually began as a beaver trapper and ended up as an explorer, guide, or settler.
Nez Percé - A Native American group of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.
Oregon Trail - Emigrant route to the Northwest, reaching from Independence,
Missouri, to the mouth of the Columbia River.

**parallel** - When referring to latitude, a line running east-west around the globe and measured from the equator to describe a location on the earth.

**perilous** - Full of danger.

**persecution** - The practice of harassing, to the point of injury, people who differ (for example in origin or beliefs) from the people in charge.

**pioneer** - First in anything; one of the first to settle a territory.

**Plains** - Relating to the Native Americans of the Great Plains.

**Plateau** - Relating to Native Americans belonging to more than two dozen tribes who lived on the Columbia Plateau of the Pacific Northwest.

**platform** - Declaration of principles and policies by a group or candidate.

**portage** - The work of carrying or transporting goods, especially overland.

**Preemption Act** - A law Congress passed in 1841 giving first right of land purchase to settlers on unclaimed land.

**Presbyterian** - A branch of the Protestant Church founded in 16th century Scotland.

**prodigious** - Extraordinary in size or quantity; exciting amazement or wonder.

**rationale** - An underlying reason or explanation.

**recession** - A period of reduced economic activity.

**republic** - A government having a chief of state who is not a monarch, but usually a president.

**scarlet fever** - A contagious disease characterized by fever, red rash, and infection of nose, throat, and mouth.

**Shoshone** - A Native American group originally ranging from California through Wyoming and speaking an Uto-Aztecan language.

**Sierra Nevada** - Spanish for “snowy saw-toothed mountains”; a high mountain system in eastern California.

**teem** - To be filled to overflowing; present in large quantity.

**terrain** - The physical features of a tract of land or region.

**territory** - A geographical area; in the United States, an area under its control, with a separate legislature, but not yet a state.

**transcontinental** - Extending across a continent, such as a railway.

**tuberculosis** - A somewhat contagious disease caused by a bacterium and affecting the lungs.

**typhoid** - An infectious disease caused by a bacterium and marked by fever and intestinal inflammation.

**War of 1812** - Conflict between the U.S. and Britain (1812-1815) triggered by the British seizing U.S. sailors to serve on British warships.

**Wyandot** - Refers to a Native American group formed in the 17th century by Hurons and other eastern tribes.