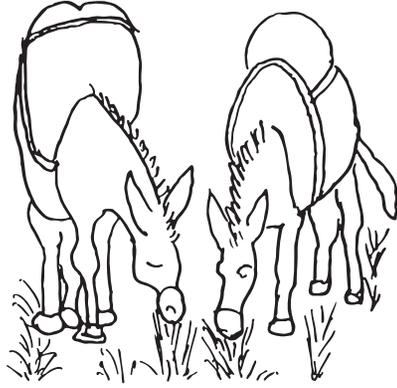


True or False

- _____ Land crossed by trail routes was part of the United States in 1828.
- _____ Skilled mule packers were in demand.
- _____ Wagons carried items to trade and sell on the Old Spanish Trail.
- _____ Mules are intelligent and strong.
- _____ Mules wore a special saddle to support the trade goods carried on their backs.



What's the Big Deal about Trade?

Why do you think traders worked so hard, traveling west to find a route to California to exchange goods?

Is there anyone in your family that works extra hard for you?

Ready for Your Badge?

FIND YOUR PARK DISCOVER YOUR NATIONAL TRAIL

1. Fill out your contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

2. Photograph your completed booklet and email it to:

ntir_information@nps.gov

Learn more about the trail at: nps.gov/olsp

NPS 2020



Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Junior Ranger Program



A Pack Mule Route

The Old Spanish Trail connected Santa Fe to San Gabriel Mission near Los Angeles. It was described as “...the longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America...” Traders carried local merchandise from New Mexico, such as woven blankets, shawls, hides, and quilts to California to trade for horses and mules.



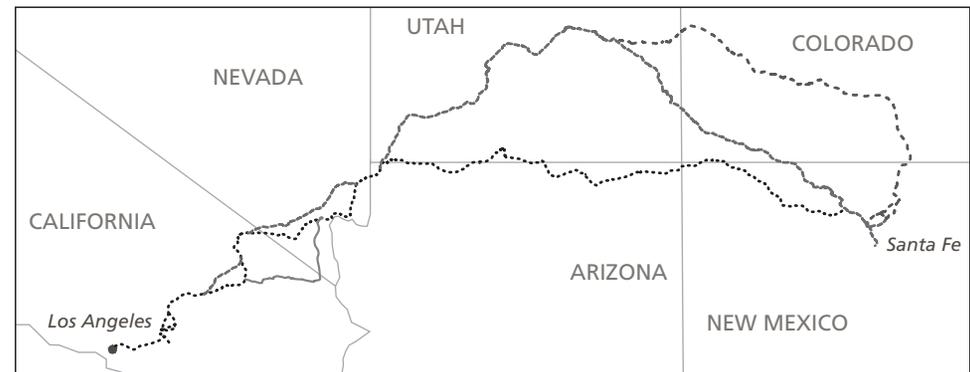
When you look at this painting, what do you learn about the Old Spanish Trail?

Identify two things.

1. _____
2. _____

Choose a Path

Several routes connected New Mexico and California. Trace one of them on this map and circle the states it crosses.





Petroglyphs Show Us...

Witness, paragraph 1

Petroglyphs are rock carvings from people long ago. Petroglyphs show us that the mule caravans were seen by:

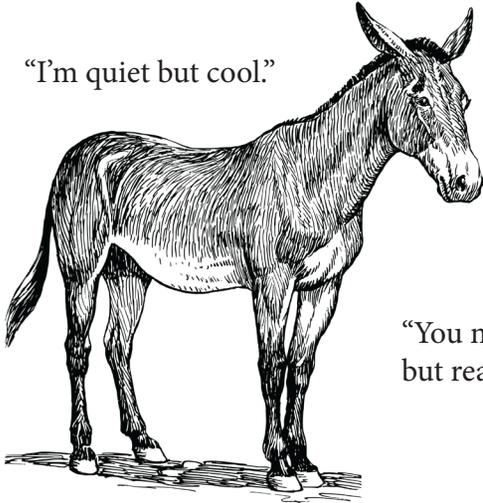
Is it okay to draw carvings into rock today? _____

(Hint: As a Junior Ranger you will protect the trail and things along it.)

Mule Moment

Beasts of Burden

What are two traits of a mule that made it the perfect animal to carry goods on the Old Spanish Trail?



“I’m quiet but cool.”

“You may think I’m stubborn but really I’m just smart.”

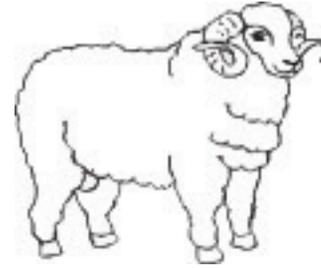
“If you pack me well, I can carry 300 pounds!”

“I’m calm and steady—good in an emergency.”

Don’t Be Sheepish

First paragraph of brochure

In California people wanted woven goods like blankets, socks, and wraps. In New Mexico there were people with sheep ready to meet those needs. Churro sheep came north with the Spanish two centuries earlier on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.



List two woven items traded along the trail:

“Baaaa. I make wool.”

Identify something else that traveled the trail. _____

How to Pack a Mule

Packing the Train, paragraph 1

What are the top three things you need for a successful pack mule train?



New Mexicans had an excellent reputation as muleteers. What two skills amazed watchers?

_____ and _____