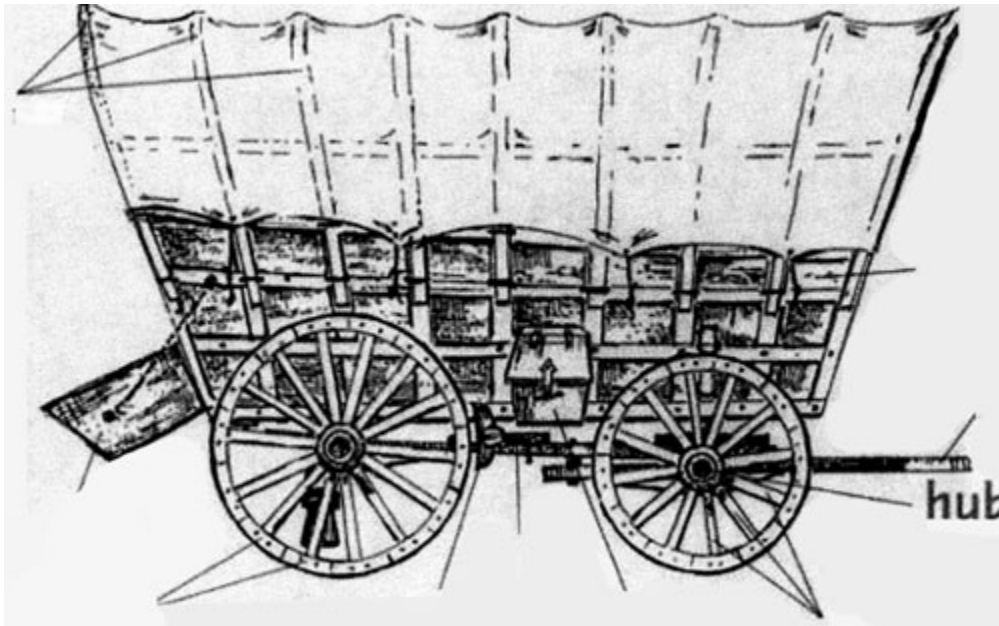


Santa Fe Trail Activity Page

Large freight wagons were vital to the Santa Fe Trail. Freighters could choose from Conestoga wagons which were well-built wagons manufactured in Pennsylvania or a variety of wagons made by other wheelwrights such as J. Murphy. These wagons ranged in price from \$130 to 200. Traders were able to load two to three tons of goods into some of these wagons. The capacity of the wagon was important because in 1839, Mexico increased the duty fees to \$500 per wagon.



Trail Schooner picture used with permission from Dave Webb, *Santa Fe Trail Adventures*, ©1999

Match the wagon parts from the picture to the description below.

- ___ This curved piece of wood, called a **brake shoe**, was controlled by the driver and could stop the wagon. Prior to this invention, stopping the wagon was difficult and many devices were tried.
- ___ The canvas cover of the wagon was stretched tightly over the curved **bows to** protect the contents.
- ___ **The wagon tongue** was attached to the animal harnesses or to the oxen yoke.
- ___ The curved portion of the wheel which formed the outer rim was made with sections of wood called **felloes**.
- ___ The body of the wagon was called a **bed**.
- ___ Mounted on the side of the wagon was a wooden box filled with tools called a **tool box**.
- ___ **Wooden spokes** connected the hub of the wagon to the felloes. The wheel was held together with an iron band or "tire".
- ___ Some wagons featured a wooden **feed trough**, which could be filled with grain from which the animals ate.