



Creating a Community Guidebook (Grade 2)

Description: Students will create a “guidebook” for their community and make a connection to the guidebooks used by emigrants traveling along the overland trails.

Note for the Teacher:

Maps and information provided relate to the greater Casper area. Lesson could easily be adapted to a different community to meet classroom needs.

Materials Needed:

- Map Template
- Access to Maps, Google Earth, etc.
- Computer/Projector

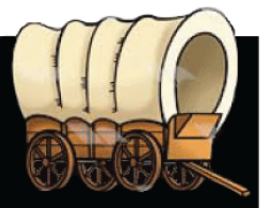
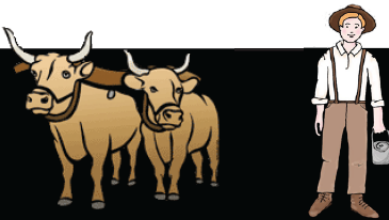
Activity Procedure:

1. Ask students to share what they know about the following terms:
 - a. Landmark
 - b. Map
 - c. Guidebook
 - d. Trail
2. Ask students to think about going on a walk across Casper and thinking about what they might need to make their journey successful.

If student conversation doesn't lead to discussion of maps/phones/GPS, lead it that way.
3. Ask students to think about how their answer might change if we were traveling in the 1850s like the pioneers? How did they know where to go?
4. Introduce the concept of a Guidebook. Tell students that guidebooks were written to help pioneers on their journey west. Most guidebooks told how far it took to get between major landmarks. Some guidebooks also included information about availability of wood, grass, water, hazards, landmarks and forts.
5. Show students the example emigrant guidebook map for the Casper area. Ask them to share their observations and noticings.
6. Introduce activity: students will be making a guidebook for a 2nd Grader traveling west in modern times from Hat 6 Travel Plaza on the east side of Casper to Natrona County International Airport, west of Casper.
 - a. Ask students what landmarks in Casper might be helpful to guide someone in their journey?
 - b. What other important information might be needed?
 - c. Describe parameters of map. Students will create a guidebook map with 10 landmarks.

Teacher Tip:

Students can work in pairs to complete this activity. Providing a variety of paper and electronic maps for students to access will increase student schema with working with maps. If students don't have a lot of experience with maps, it may be helpful to scaffold by looking at a variety of maps and sharing noticings/observations as a whole group.





U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Helpful Map Resources:

-Visit Casper and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center have a variety of great printed maps available for free. Gathering a collection of maps may be helpful for students to see and identify map characteristics.

Casper, WY Google Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Casper,+WY/@42.8252892,-106.3254347,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x87609365c85e7a63:0x69cefc3917343e53!8m2!3d42.848709!4d-106.2980824>

Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo Parade Route Map

<https://oilcity.news/community/2022/07/11/map-2022-central-wyoming-fair-rodeo-parade-route/>

NHTIC Junior Ranger - Would You Rather Book

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2020-12/NHTIC_Junior%20Ranger%20Book.pdf

There is a two-page map of Casper on pages 30-31 of the Junior Ranger Guidebook.

NHTIC Junior Explorer Book

<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2020-12/JEbooklet.pdf>

There is a simple landmark map on page 4 of the Explorer Booklet.

Platte River Trails Maps

<https://www.platterivertrails.com/trail-maps.html>

Visit Casper! Historic Downtown Walking Map

https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/casper/DowntownMap_Guide_2019_b0085530-cd00-4270-b278-84f5b58badb1.pdf

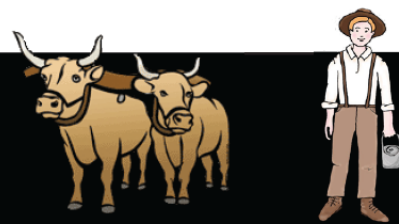
Horn's Overland Trail Guide, 1852:

Use this link to explore photographs of pages from the Horn's Overland Trail Guidebook, published in 1852. Use these as the basis for some class discussion/noticings.

http://www.cpr.org/Museum/Overland_Guide-Horn_1852/

Discussion Questions:

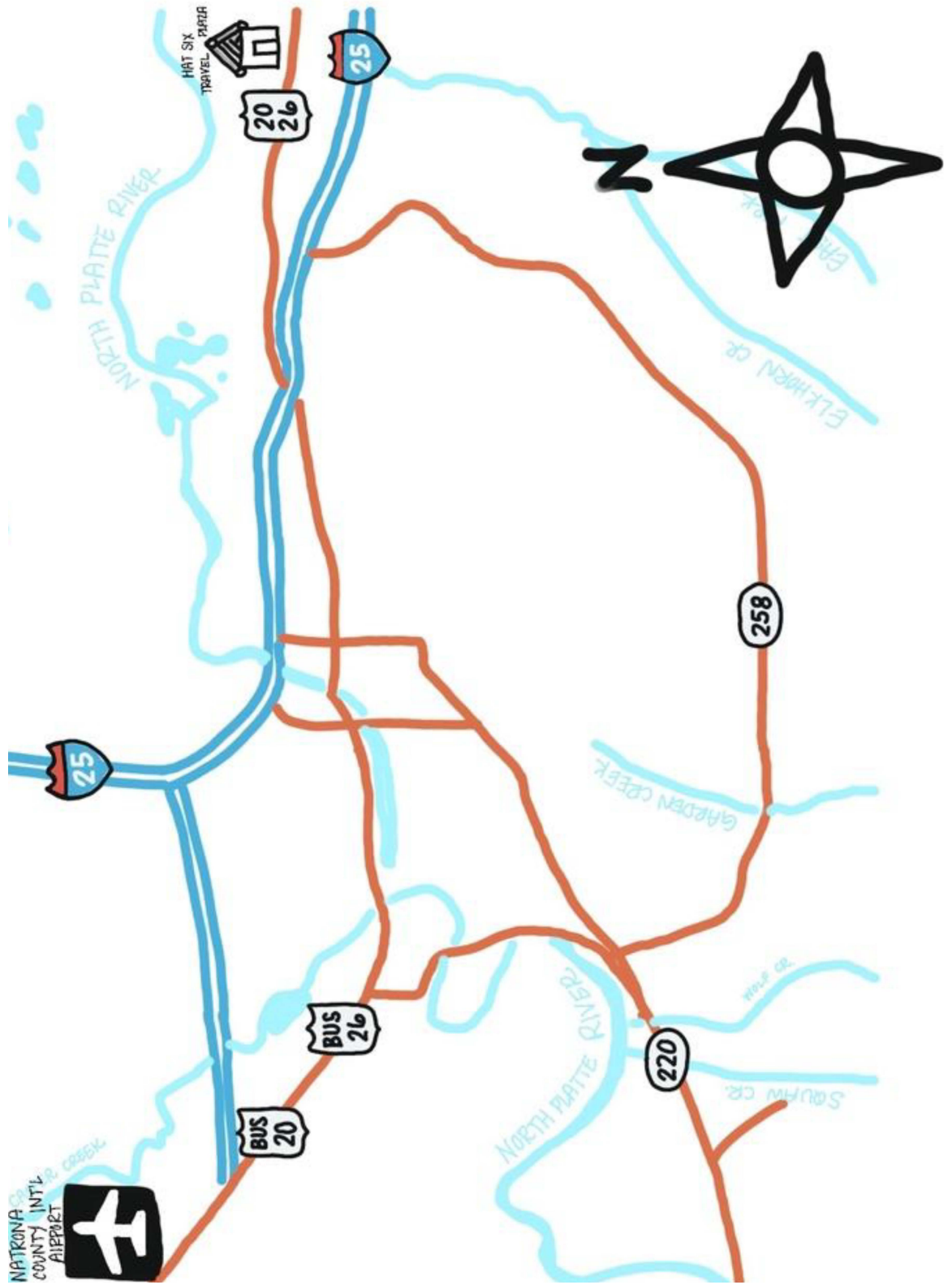
- What features do you notice on this map?
- Can you figure out where Casper would be?
- How is our town today different from 1852?



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