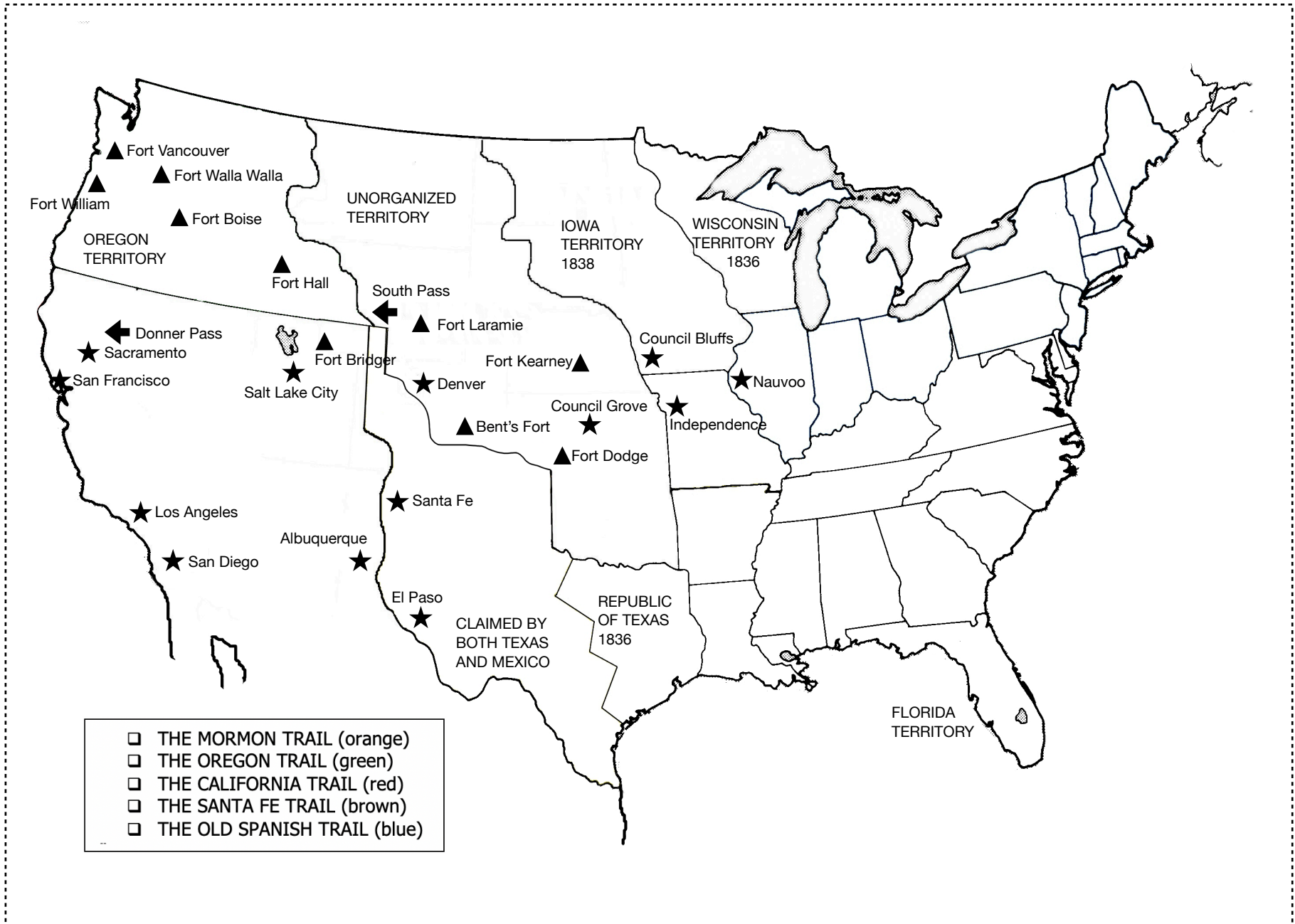


Name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____



Map of 1840 (Save. Do not paste into notebook.)

Directions: You will draw the most famous and well-traveled trails in the American West. Following the instructions below for each trail, draw a line completing the trail from its starting point to its end point. Use a different color for each trail and identify that trail by coloring the key provided. If trails overlap, draw them side-by-side so both trails are visible.

Old Spanish Trail (blue): Established by the conquistadors of Spain, this trail served as a means to cross the deserts from Santa Fe to Los Angeles. Travelers left Santa Fe and traveled northwest to just below Salt Lake City. From there, they turned southwest to Los Angeles.

Oregon Trail (green): In 1827, Jedediah Smith returned from the West, after crossing the Sierra-Nevada Mountains with stories of California and Oregon. Settlers, eager for a better life, left the “jumping off place” at Independence, Missouri, and traveled on to Fort Kearney, established in 1848. The wagons then headed out to Fort Laramie and across South Pass, an important crossing through the Rocky Mountains found by Smith in 1823. From there they traveled to a new trading post called Fort Bridger, located near the Green River. The wagons moved on to Fort Hall, following the paths left by previous mountain men. Following the Snake River, settlers moved through Fort Boise and arrived at Fort William.

Mormon Trail (orange): The Mormons settled in Nauvoo, Illinois. After the killing of their leader and founder Joseph Smith (June 27, 1845), the Mormons decided they must move west. Brigham Young led the Mormons from Nauvoo through Council Bluffs and beyond. For their safety, Young believed the Mormons needed to isolate themselves from others. The desert of the West provided that protection. The Mormons moved by the future site of Fort Kearney and traveled on to Fort Laramie to arrive at South Pass in 1847. They met mountain man Jim Bridger who warned that the Great Salt Lake was too cold to grow corn. Nevertheless, the Mormons moved on passing Fort Bridger and founding Salt Lake City.

California Trail (red): For those pioneers going to California, they left the Oregon Trail at Fort Hall. They headed southwest past the Great Salt Lake before turning west to reach Donner Pass, named after the ill-fated Donner Party that got caught in the cold Sierra snow. The survivors of the Donner Party ate the dead until a rescue party from Sutter’s Fort reached them. From Donner Pass, the pioneers on the California Trail traveled to Sacramento.

Santa Fe Trail (brown): After Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, William Becknell left Independence, Missouri, to trade with the Mexicans. Over the years, this became a major trade route until 1880 when the railroad was finally established. Merchants and travelers passed through Council Grove and Fort Dodge. Then, they turned west up to Bent’s Fort then moved down to Santa Fe.