

Name: _____

Moving West to Kansas

App developers create apps that people can use on their phones and tablets. Apps are used for different purposes, including education or entertainment!



To become an app developer, you will need to learn to code. “To code” refers to learning a computer language. A computer language is a series of instructions that tell a computer what to do. Examples of computer languages include Python and JavaScript.

Today, you will create a new educational app that students can use in social studies class. The app will help users learn about why people moved west to Kansas in the mid and late 1800s. Follow the steps below to design the app!

Step 1: Learn About Moving West

Read the passage below to learn about why people moved west. Then, answer the questions.

Kansas became an official territory in 1854. This means the United States’ government owns and governs the territory. The territory must follow the laws of the United States.

Between 1854 and 1900, a lot of people moved to Kansas from states that were farther east. People who moved west to Kansas were known as settlers. There are many reasons that settlers moved to Kansas during this time. One reason was because of the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act was a law that was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The law said that people who moved west could buy land from the government. People paid a small amount of money and received 160 acres of land. As part of the law, the government said that people had to live on the land for five years in order to own it. They also had to build a house and farm the land. The people who moved west under the Homestead Act were called homesteaders.

Another reason that people moved to Kansas was to escape racism and violence. Many African Americans experienced racism from white southerners after the Civil War. Even though African Americans were free people, many white southerners did not believe that African Americans deserved the same rights as them. For example, many southerners did not want African Americans to have the right to vote. They passed laws that made it difficult for African Americans to vote. In addition, many white southerners were violent towards African Americans after the war. Sometimes they burned down their houses or tried to hurt or kill them.

As a result, many African Americans decided to move west where they would not experience as much racism. Almost 27,000 African Americans settled in Kansas over a 10-year period. For example, some African Americans created a new community in Kansas called Nicodemus. Other African Americans moved to towns and cities that were already built, like Kansas City and Topeka.

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Moving west was not easy. Many people traveled by covered wagon or used riverboats and wagons to reach their destination. No matter how they got there, the journeys were hard and long. Here are some of the struggles that people faced:

- Getting lost because roads were not marked well.
- Worrying about people and animals dying of thirst because water was hard to find.
- Moving onto Native American lands and being threatened with attacks.
- Getting sick from a disease, like yellow fever.
- Feeling exhausted from traveling by different types of transportation, like boat and wagon, for weeks at a time.

Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

Why would a person in the 1800s want to take advantage of the Homestead Act?

Did everyone move west for the same reasons? Explain why or why not.

What did African Americans hope to find by moving away from the south?

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Step 2: Read Diary Entries

An app developer creating an educational app might look at primary sources to learn about the past. A primary source is a first-hand account. This means that the source is from someone who was living during a certain point in history. One type of primary source is a diary!

Below, you will see excerpts from a diary that belonged to a 15-year-old girl named Luna. An excerpt is a small part of a diary. Luna's family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas. They traveled by train from Jersey City, New Jersey to Solomon, Kansas. In Solomon, they bought a wagon and traveled up the Solomon River Valley to search for land. They finally found land to settle on. Read the excerpts below to learn about what it was like to travel to Kansas. Then, answer the questions.

Excerpt #1

This excerpt was written on March 1st, 1871. Luna is on a train with her family traveling to Kansas.

"I was sick of riding in the cars this morning. I vomited on my handkerchief. We stopped at Harrisburg three hours. We girls all took a walk. We crossed the river before noon, then rode nearly all day by the Juniata River and past the Blue Ridge mountains and through the Alleghenys. We passed through two tunnels - one a mile long."

Excerpt #2

This excerpt was written on March 15th, 1871. Luna and her family have arrived in the town of Solomon. Because they have no place to live yet, they must find shelter in the town.

"Cold and stormy. We moved into a dugout. It is a nasty, dark place. We went to most every house but could not find a warm place. We froze all day and starved too. In the afternoon Mama and I started out to find a place to sleep. We are to sleep in the Post Office. I am awful homesick."

Excerpt #3

This excerpt was written on July 4th, 1871. Luna and her family have been at their homestead for almost six months. Today, they are attending a Fourth of July celebration.

"Cool and pleasant. Mama, Louie, and I went up to the cabin and started with Alf and Arabella for Cawker [a nearby town]. When we got there we went up to the arbor [an outside shelter] made of green boughs[branches]. It had a floor filled with seats and the seats filled with people. They had singing, speaking, and reading. After that some played baseball. They had running in bags and such things. Then they set the tables in the arbor and had dinner. . . . We danced all afternoon."

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Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

How does reading a primary source, like Luna's diary, help people learn about what it was like for people moving to Kansas?

What was Luna's experience like on the journey to Kansas? Was it fun and easy or difficult and dangerous? Explain your answer using information from the diary.

Luna describes attending a Fourth of July celebration. How was the celebration she attended similar to how we celebrate Fourth of July today? How was her experience different?

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Step 3: Design Emojis

It is your job to design an app called “Luna’s Journey to Kansas.” The app will have three sections. Today, you will design the wireframe for the app. A wireframe includes a series of image and words that show what the app will look like once it is built.

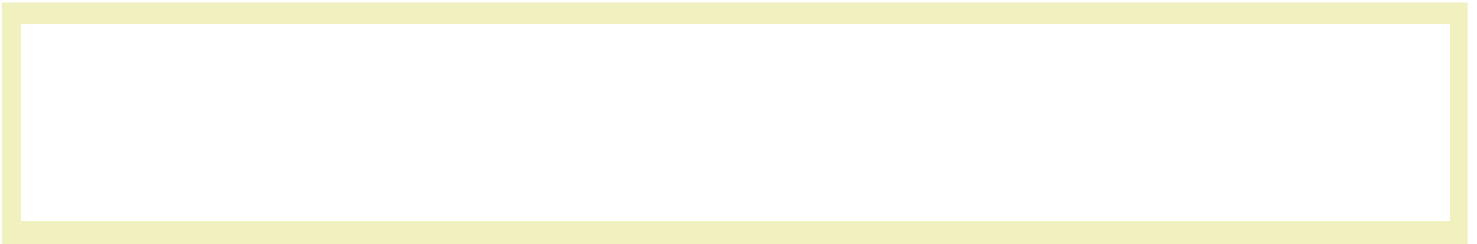
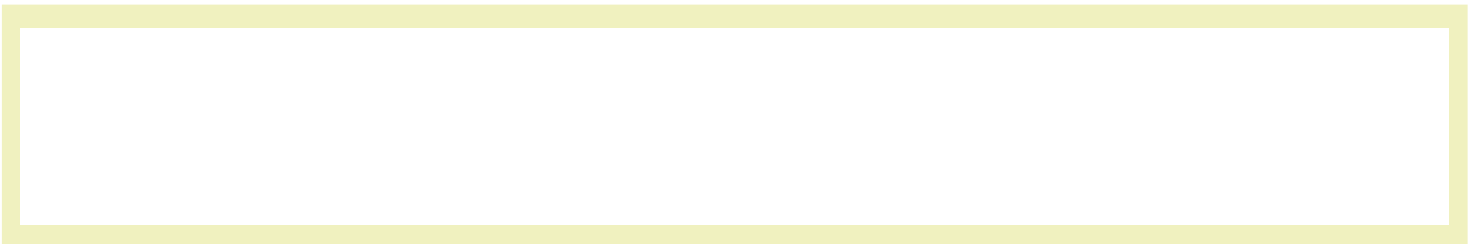
Section 1

In the first section of the app, users will create a text message conversation between Luna and another person. Create an example text message conversation to show users how they can write their conversation. The text message should be written in present tense, meaning the conversation should talk about events as if they are currently happening. Fill out the information below.

- Description of the person that Luna is texting (e.g., a family member, someone she meets on the journey to Kansas, a new neighbor in Kansas)
- Choose a purpose of the conversation from the list below.
 - Explain why her family moved
 - Make a new friend
 - Tell the story of her journey
 - Other (another idea you have)
- Choose at least three pieces of information from the passage. Write down notes below about each piece of information that you will include from the passage.
- Write your conversation using the template on the next page.

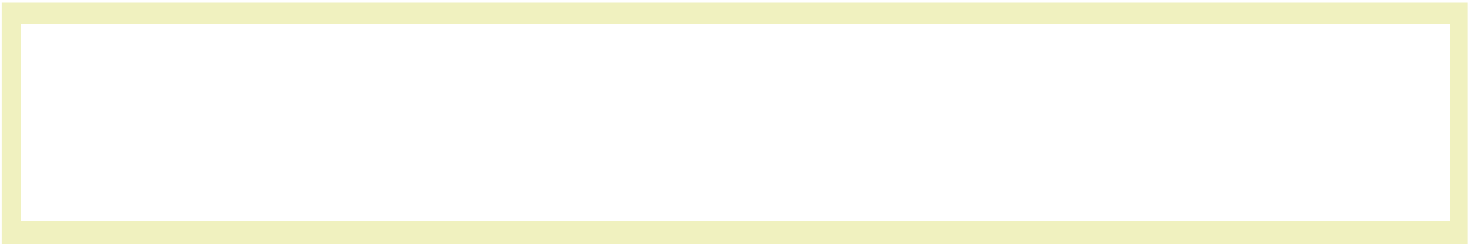
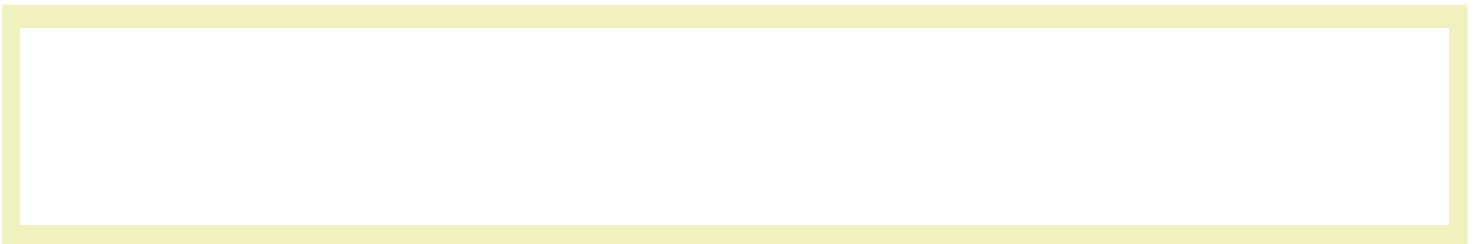
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A large, empty rectangular box with a thick blue border, featuring a small blue triangular pointer at the bottom right corner.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick yellow border, featuring a small yellow triangular pointer at the bottom left corner.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick blue border, featuring a small blue triangular pointer at the bottom right corner.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick yellow border, featuring a small yellow triangular pointer at the bottom left corner.A large, empty rectangular box with a thick blue border, featuring a small blue triangular pointer at the bottom right corner.

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Section 2

In the next section of the app, users will come up with four apps that Luna could have had on her smartphone. These apps can be fictional or can be real apps that people use today, like Instagram. Users will also need to explain why Luna uses each app. Then, users will draw an app icon for each app. An app icon has a small symbol or words on it.

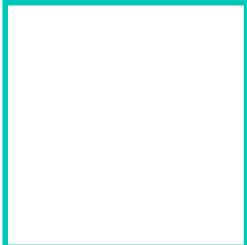
Create a set of example apps that users will see. If you need help getting started, think about the following:

- What apps would Luna use for entertainment?
- What apps would Luna use to learn or go to school?
- What apps would Luna use to find food or places to stay while traveling?
- What apps would Luna use to learn about the new state she lives in?
- What apps would Luna use to find things to do in Kansas?

1) Name of App: _____

What the App Does: _____

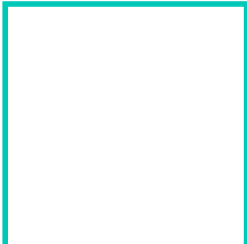
Why Luna downloaded the app: _____

App Icon: 

2) Name of App: _____

What the App Does: _____

Why Luna downloaded the app: _____

App Icon: 

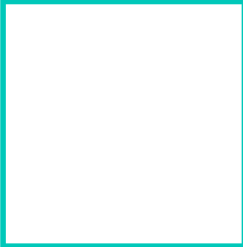
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3) Name of App: _____

What the App Does: _____

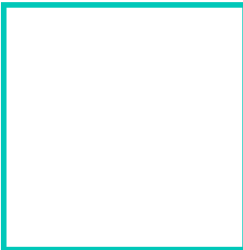
Why Luna downloaded the app: _____

App Icon: 

4) Name of App: _____

What the App Does: _____

Why Luna downloaded the app: _____

App Icon: 

Section 3

In the third section of the app, users will pretend to be Luna and send out an email to family back in Massachusetts after arriving in Kansas. The email should tell her family reasons why her family decided to leave, how the journey to Kansas went, and if she is happy to be in her new home. Your email must be written in real time, meaning it should talk about events as if they are current, not as if they happened thousands of years ago.

Create a sample email on the next page to show users. Your email should include the following:

- At least one reason a family would want to move to Kansas
- A description of the journey to Kansas and if it was fun or difficult
- An explanation of what life is like once she arrived in Kansas

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.