

# Pow Wow Trails

## Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Mathematics  
Grade Level: Grade 3  
Suggested Duration:

## Stage 1 Desired Results

### Established Goals

#### Montana Content Standards

**Numbers and Operations in Base Ten 2.NBT.7** Add and subtract within 1000 using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method. Understand that in adding or subtracting three-digit numbers, one adds or subtracts hundreds and hundreds, tens and tens, ones and ones; and sometimes it is necessary to compose or decompose tens or hundreds.

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking 3.OA.3** Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

#### Indian Education for All Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians

**IEFA Essential Understanding 1** There is great diversity among the twelve sovereign tribes of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. Each tribe has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

**IEFA Essential Understanding 3** The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral histories, which are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the “discovery” of North America.

### Understandings

- Pow wows are an important part of some Native American lifestyles.
- Some families travel many miles across the state to attend different pow wows.



## Essential Questions

- What are the different reasons families travel on the pow wow circuit?
- What is the history of pow wows in Native American culture?

## Students will be able to...

- calculate the miles traveled on the pow wow circuit.
- locate different towns of Montana on the map.

## Students will know...

- pow wows are still in existence and families use them as a time of gathering and sharing with other families and friends.
- pow wows are a source of competition and there are many different types of contests at each pow wow.

## Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

### Performance Tasks

1. Students will complete a table that calculates the distance traveled on a particular pow wow circuit.

### Other Evidence

1. Students will track the pow wow circuit on a map of Montana

## Stage 3 Learning Plan

### Learning Activities

Introduce the history of powwows and the different competitions held within a pow wow. Some American Indian families travel from pow wow to pow wow on what is called the “pow wow circuit” in Montana, using the time to camp and compete.

Explain that the students will be tracing a circuit that will take them throughout the state of Montana, marking the places of the pow wows on a map, and computing the miles traveled and the amount of gas used. Explain that pow wows are typically held on the weekends, but people traveling the circuit do not go home between each celebration. Instead they travel from one town to the next. That is how the miles traveled will be computed.

Give students a map of Montana and introduce the circuit to be traveled. Ask students to locate each town on the map and trace the main highways between the cities. Start at your own town and travel from there. Students will need to fill in your town in the first cell of the table and the last stopping point of the table.

There are three options for finding the mileage – choose whichever one is appropriate for your class (or have different students use different methods).

- Give the mileage information on a piece of paper.
- Have students use the internet and a mileage calculation site to fill in the table on their own.
- Using a map and the scale, students figure the mileage on their own.

Have students complete the table. As they find the mileage between each town, have them look at the map so they can see the distance on the map in relation to the mileage reported. Also, at each stop, have students choose one competition to research and give a brief description of the event. Each powwow needs to have different competitions so students become more familiar with all the competitions.

Once students have found the mileage, go to the next step of computing the amount of gas used on the trip.

The final step is to compute the amount of money spent on gas using a rounded amount. You may change the price of gas for students who need differentiation.

### Materials/Resources Needed

[\*Your Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Pow Wows\*](#). Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2009

Student worksheet, attached

Road map of Montana

Internet mileage calculation site such as [Google maps](#) or [MapQuest](#)

[Montana Content Standards and IEFA Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians](#)

[Montana Content Standards for Mathematics – Grade 2](#)

[Montana Content Standards for Mathematics – Grade 3](#)

[Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians](#)

# Student Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Town	Stopping Town	Miles Traveled This Segment	Total Miles Traveled	Competition Entered and Description
	Brockton			
Brockton	Arlee			
Arlee	Browning			
Browning	Rocky Boy			
Rocky Boy	Crow Agency			
Crow Agency				

The car you are traveling in gets 20 miles to the gallon. The gas tank holds 10 gallons. How many miles can you travel on one tank of gas?

Gas costs \$3.00 per gallon. What will the total cost of gas be for your pow wow trip?

Explain how you got your answer.

# Answer Key

Answers are based on leaving from Lewistown, Montana

Starting Town	Stopping Town	Miles Traveled – This Segment	Total Miles Traveled	Competition Entered and Description
Lewistown	Brockton	275	275	
Brockton	Arlee	545	820	
Arlee	Browning	178	998	
Browning	Rocky Boy	183	1181	
Rocky Boy	Crow Agency	330	1511	
Crow Agency	Lewistown	179	1690	

The car you are traveling in gets 20 miles to the gallon. The gas tank holds 10 gallons. How many miles can you travel on one tank of gas? **200 miles**

Gas costs \$3.00 per gallon. What will the total cost of gas be for your pow wow trip? **\$255 or \$253.50**

Explain how you got your answer. **You need to get gas every 200 miles. When you fill a tank, it costs \$30. There are approximately 8.5 groups of 200 in the total miles traveled, so you will need to fuel up 9 times (one time being half-way full).  $8.5 \times \$30 = \$255$**

Or

**For the number of miles going, would use 84.5 gallons  $1690 \div 20 = 84.5$  gallons.  $84.5 \times \$3.00$  per gallon = \$253.50**

# Dances

**Men's Traditional Dance:** A traditional dance where war parties dance out the story of the battle or hunters dance their story of tracking an enemy or prey.

**Men's Fancy Dance:** Relatively new dance where dancers have colorful outfits

**Men's Grass Dance:** Popular dance where the outfits feature a colorful fringe, replacing the grass dancers originally tucked into their belts.

**Sneak-up Dance:** Follows the definite pattern of drum rolls. Dancers shake their bells and make gestures of either following or seeking out the enemy.

**The War Dance:** Demonstration of dancing ability and is a major contest dance category

**Traditional Women's Dance:** Consists of remaining stationary and bending the knee with a slight up and down movement of the body.

**Women's Fancy Shawl Dance:** Outfit consists of a decorative knee-length cloth dress, beaded moccasins with matching leggings, a fancy shawl, and various pieces of jewelry.

**Jingle Dress Dance:** The dress is made from cloth with hundreds of metal cones or jingles covering it.

**Team Dancers:** Three or four members make up a team and they all dance in the same style.

**Owl Dance:** This is performed by couples to the beat of a hand drum.

**Round Dance (Friendship Dance):** Dance of friendship and is performed by all ages. Everyone is encouraged to dance.

**The Crow Hop:** Developed in the 1900s and done with a specific rhythm of the drum beat

**Intertribal Dance:** Everyone is welcome to dance in the Intertribal Dance – even tourists. Dancers move around the arbor sunwise – clockwise.

**The Blanket Dance:** Means of gaining contributions for a cause from the audience.

**Dropped Eagle Feather Dance:** To most Native Americans, the eagle feather is sacred, so when a feather falls from the dancer's outfit, the powwow must stop and a special ceremony must be performed.

**Honoring Veterans:** Veterans are honored because they were willing to give their lives so people could live.

Definitions from *Your Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Pow Wows*.