

Summary: Settlers in St. Louis

St. Louis's First Years

In 1764, St. Louis was a trading post. During the 1800s, many people moved west. Some settled in St. Louis. The city is located close to where the Mississippi River and the Missouri River meet. Its location helped it to grow.

In the 1800s, people used rivers to travel and to move goods. As more people used the rivers for travel and trade, St. Louis became a busy place. It was a good starting point for settlers moving west. Pioneers bought wagons, saddles, plows, and many other supplies in St. Louis. Other people stayed in St. Louis and found work. Some farmed or started businesses. Newcomers from Germany and Ireland settled there. People built stores and houses. Soon trains connected St. Louis to the East. By 1860, thousands of steamboats docked at St. Louis each year.

Business Boosts St. Louis

As more people came to St. Louis, its economy grew. People wanted services. The settlers provided them. Boat captains carried people and goods along the Mississippi River. Entrepreneurs started newspapers. Some people started mills. Others raised mules to sell to pioneers going west. Successful businesses and entrepreneurs made profits.

Today, St. Louis is the second largest city in Missouri. It has changed in many ways. Today, many families live in tall buildings. Companies make trucks with motors, instead of wagons pulled by mules. But ships still carry goods on the river.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

goods *noun*, things people buy or sell

service *noun*, work that one person does for another

entrepreneur *noun*, a person who takes a risk, or a chance, and starts a business

profit *noun*, the money a business earns after paying all its costs



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways did the rivers help St. Louis grow?

Circle the names of the rivers. Highlight the sentences that tell how the rivers were used.

REVIEW What made the economy of St. Louis grow?

Highlight the sentences that tell about new settlers.