

WAGON MASTER

C · H · A · L · L · E · N · G · E

The trade on the Santa Fe Trail didn't go only one way.

The Mexican trade from Santa Fe to Missouri was also very important. In fact, in some years more Mexican merchants than Anglo-Americans traveled the trail. One of these merchants was Mariano Yrissarri. In 1853, he traveled to St. Louis to purchase items to take back to Santa Fe. The following list is a sample of the items he bought and the price he paid for each.



Combs: \$0.07 each

Men's shoes: \$16.00 a pair

Nails: \$5.25 barrel

Umbrellas: \$0.88 each

Needles: \$0.10 for 10

Wallpaper: \$0.13 per piece

White shirts: \$0.50 each

Violin strings: \$0.50 per bundle

Imagine that you are a villager in Santa Fe and have waited for Yrissarri to return from his trip to St. Louis. You are able to buy several of the items he has brought back to your village. Decide how many you will purchase and figure the total cost of each.

If you could buy only one of the items in the list above, what would it be? Why?

I WOULD BUY _____ BECAUSE

ITEM	NUMBER BOUGHT	COST OF EACH	TOTAL COST
Combs	_____	_____	_____
Nails	_____	_____	_____
Needles	_____	_____	_____
White shirts	_____	_____	_____
Men's shoes	_____	_____	_____
Umbrellas	_____	_____	_____
Wallpaper	_____	_____	_____
Violin strings	_____	_____	_____
Total Cost of Purchases	_____	_____	_____
