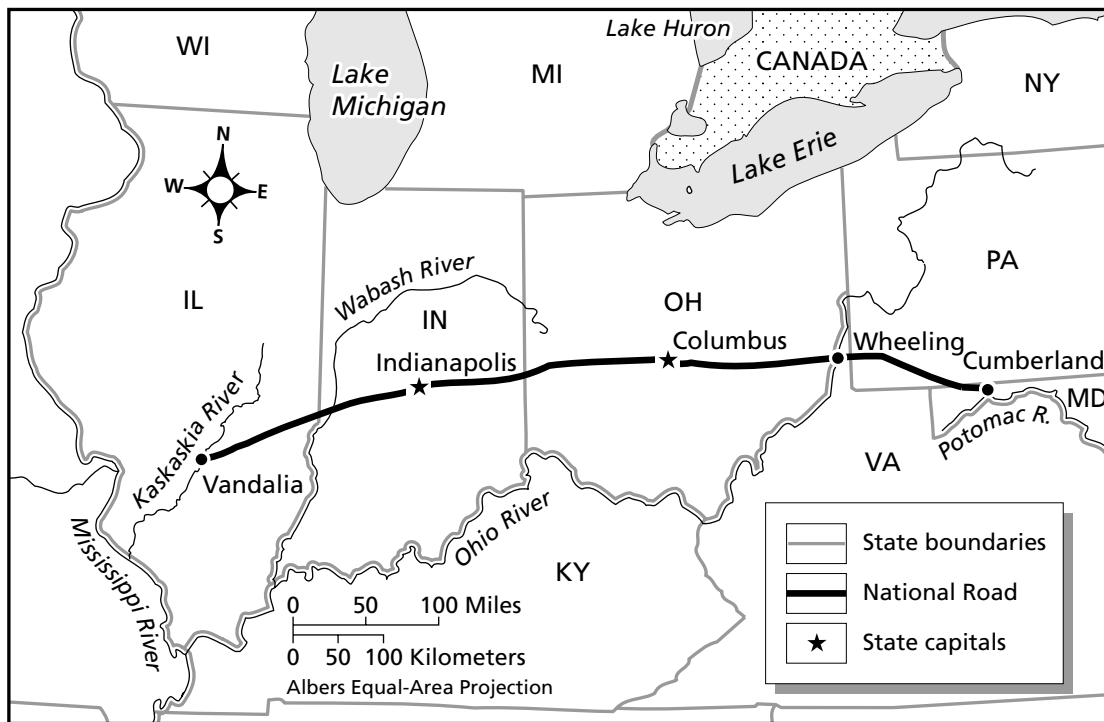


The National Road

Recognizing the need to tie East and West together, Congress passed a law in 1806 that provided money to build a road between Baltimore, Maryland, and the Mississippi River. Construction on the Cumberland Road began in 1815 in Cumberland, Maryland. By 1818 the road reached Wheeling, a town on the Ohio River in what is now West Virginia. In the 1820s, construction began to extend the road. By 1833 the National Road, as the extension became known, ran to Columbus, Ohio, and by 1850 it reached Vandalia, Illinois. The final stretch of road to the Mississippi River was never built, however. The map below shows the route of the National Road. Study the map. Then complete the activity and answer the questions that follow.

The National Road



MAP ACTIVITY

1. On the map, place an X on each end of the National Road.
2. Use a bright color to trace the Cumberland Road.
3. Use a second bright color to trace the part of the National Road that extended beyond the Cumberland Road.
4. Circle the state capitals through which the National Road passed.
5. Update the map legend to reflect the colors you added to the map.

ANALYZING MAPS

- 1. Movement** Approximately how many miles long was the Cumberland Road?
Approximately how long was the entire National Road?

- 2. Location** What rivers did the National Road cross, and what states did it pass through?

- 3. Region** Why do you think that construction on the Cumberland Road was begun in Cumberland, Maryland, and not at the Mississippi River?

- 4. Draw Conclusions** Why might settlements and towns along the National Road have grown faster than settlements and towns located away from the road?
