

## **Gershom Flagg Letter Activity**

**Who wrote this letter?** Gershom Flagg

**Who was he writing to?** His Brother

**Where is he writing from?** Springfield, Ohio

**In the second paragraph, he describes his journey. Underline the names of all the places he passed through. Now write down the names. Don't forget to add the state to each name:**

Richmond, VT  
Troy, NY  
Schenectady, NY  
Utica, NY  
Canadaigua, NY  
Rochester, NY  
Lewiston, NY  
Buffalo, NY  
Erie, PA  
Meadville, PA  
Mercer, PA  
New Castle, PA  
Greensburg, PA  
New Lisbon, OH  
Cadiz, OH  
Cambridge, OH  
Zanesville, OH  
New Lancaster, OH  
Columbus, OH  
Worthington, OH  
Springfield, OH

Either plot these locations on a map and connect the dots or go to:  
<http://maps.google.com/> . Cut and paste the list of locations below into the map box.

troy, ny to:Schenectady, ny to:Utica, ny to:canadaigua, ny to:Rochester, ny to:Lewiston,  
ny to:buffalo, ny to:erie, pa to:Meadville, pa to:mercercastile, pa to:new castle, pa  
to:Greensburg, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, United States to:cadiz, oh to:cambridge, oh  
to:zanesville, oh to:new lancaster, oh to:columbus, oh to:worthington, oh to:springfield,  
oh

**How many miles did he travel?** 898

**When did he start his trip?** September 23, 1816

**When did he end his trip?** November 8, 1816

**How many days did he travel?** 47

**How many miles did he manage per day?** about 19 miles/day

**How fast is that if he traveled from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.?** 1.5 miles/hr

**How long did Google Maps say it would take to make the trip today?** 20 hours, 38 minutes.

**What does he say in paragraph 3 about what the settlers grew?**

Wheat, Corn, Milk Cows

**Go to Google Maps and zoom in on the terrain of Vermont. What geographical features do you see? No zoom in on the terrain of Ohio. What is missing?** Mountains!

**In paragraph four he talks about why a farmer might move to Ohio from Vermont. Why do you think he might have moved West?**

He feels that it would be much easier to farm in Ohio than Vermont even though the roads and bridges are still bad.

**What conclusions could you make about traveling West in 1816?**

Travel was by horse or oxen and wagon. It was very slow. There were few roads or bridges. Settlers in Ohio were growing successful crops and were finding the work easier than in Vermont.