



ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES: El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is an historic trail from Mexico City, Mexico to San Juan Pueblo, near Sante Fe, New Mexico. The name means “The Royal Road of the Interior Land” in Spanish. At one time it was the longest road in North America.

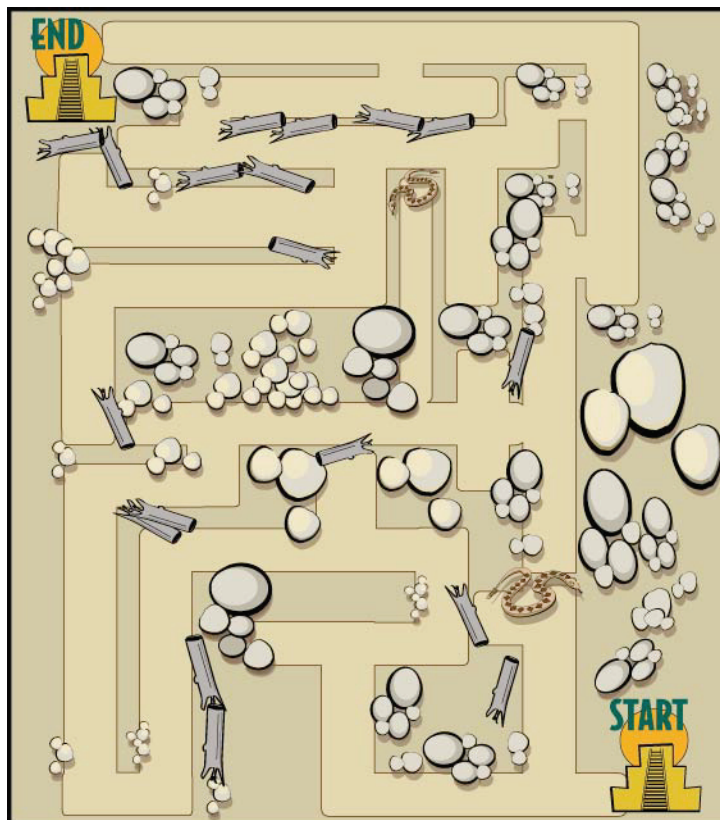
The trail is about 1,600 miles long. Parts of the trail were used by Native Americans around 1000 A.D. as a trade route. They would travel to tribal settlements along the trail to trade goods.

In 1598, the Spanish used the trail to send over 500 settlers to northern New Mexico. This made the trail an official Spanish trade route, which would be used for the next 300 years.

The road has about 400 miles in the United States. It passes through two U.S. states: Texas and New Mexico. It encouraged settlement in the area and made Santa Fe a major center of western travel.



Help the traders find their way north to trade at the pueblo. (*Don't tread on the rattlers.*)



Fill in the Blanks:

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro means

_____ in Spanish.

At one time it was the _____ road in North America.

Native Americans used the road to _____ goods.

The road passes through two U.S. states: _____ and _____.