Missouri Trailblazers

Trailblazer (noun) *trail, blaz-er* | \'tāl blā-zər\ | *a person who makes, does or discovers something new and that makes it more possible or popular*

We, the trailblazing and Missouri-proud students of Fox Meadow Elementary, acknowledge that we gather on these lands and habitat that have been the ground we stand on for generations long before European explorers ever knew North America existed. For tens of thousands of years, Native peoples established St. Louis as a thriving business center on the Mississippi River. Across the state of Missouri, explorers such as Lewis and Clark, Meriwether Lewis and Daniel Boone opened new doors for westward settlers to make their homes in Missouri and the west.

Missouri's ancient geography did not come as a surprise to Missourians. It is no coincidence that we're known as the Gateway State with Edward "Ted" Dilly's The Gateway Arch is not Missouri's only monolithic piece of architecture and engineering that the Show-Me State has been dedicated Missourians for decades. These successes are what, but they are not always simply stepping stones for the trailblazers of Missouri's past. Our state's rich trailblazing continues to this day. Over the last 200 years, Missourians have been pioneers in medicine, technology, aviation, education, civil rights and more. Our story is ground in discovery.

Explorers looking for a shortcut to the west found more than simply a "gateway to the west." Missouri's resources, like wild game, pure water, and rich soil, have proved to be a key to settlers' success and continued growth. Other Missourians' unusual, creative, and sometimes trailblazing ideas are only noted as a footnote in history. The chapters in this story mean that we continually reevaluate how to get credit for all who've come before us. Missouri's story, like ours, is
TRAILBLAZING.