Brandon Valley School District

District Learning Plan

April 13-17, 2020

Grade 5 Social Studies

Brandon Valley School District Distance Learning Plan

LESSON/UNIT: Oregon Trail **SUBJECT/GRADE: 5th grade Social Studies** **DATES: April 13-17**

What do students need to do? **Link to important video message** **Link to BV instructional video for week of April 13-17, 2020**	• **Monday, April 13** -- NO SCHOOL • **Tuesday, April 14** -- Read from "A Brief History of the Oregon Trail" -- pages 8, 9 and 10. There is a glossary at the end of this reading packet for some words that you might not be familiar with. • **Wednesday, April 15** -- Read from "A Brief History of the Oregon Trail" -- pages 11, 12, and 13. There is a glossary at the end of this reading packet for some of the words that you might not be familiar with. • **Thursday, April 16** -- Using the reading packet, "A Brief History of the Oregon Trail" you will be answering the 9 questions on the BINGO card! • **Friday, April 17** -- Today you will be making a decision whether or not your family would have made the decision to travel down the Oregon Trail! You will be taking a look at 2 editorial pages with different opinions and pieces of information on them to help you make your decision. Also, remember everything that you read about this week, as this will help you will complete the "Decisions! Decisions!" page.
What do students need to bring back to school?	1. BINGO card -- 9 questions answered 2. Decisions! Decisions! page Social Studies magazines once we return back to school.
What standards do the lessons cover?	• 5.H.2.3 -- Identify the key changes leading to tand resulting from growth and invention in the U.S. between the Revolution and 1865. • 5.H.2.4 -- Evaluate the influence, impact, and interactions of various cultures, philosophies, and religions on the development of the U.S.
What materials do students need? What extra resources can students use?	• Oregon Trail reading • BINGO card • Oregon Trail editorials • Decisions! Decisions! page • pencil
What can students do if they finish early?	• Watch CNN10 -- daily student news program -- https://www.cnn.com/cnn10

Who can we contact if we have questions?	**Brandon Valley Intermediate School** **Principal-** Mr. Skibsted- Nick.Skibsted@k12.sd.us **Assistant Principal**- Mr. Pearson- Rick.Pearson@k12.sd.us **Social Studies Teachers:** Ms. Klumper- Abby.Klumper@k12.sd.us (silver team) Ms. Lubinus- Michelle.Lubinus@k12.sd.us (red team) Ms. Farmen- Lindsey.Farmen@k12.sd.us (white team) Ms. Strand- Jennifer.Strand@k12.sd.us (blue team)
Notes:	

Instructional materials are posted below (if applicable)

Heading West on the Oregon Trail!

It's been a long trip over bumpy land and rushing rivers, but your family has finally come to Independence, Missouri! Many pioneers are gathering in this busy town, buying supplies for their journey west down the Oregon Trail! Will you and your family make the decision to head west down the long and difficult Oregon Trail???

Here is your schedule for the week:

Monday, April 13 -- NO SCHOOL (Easter break)

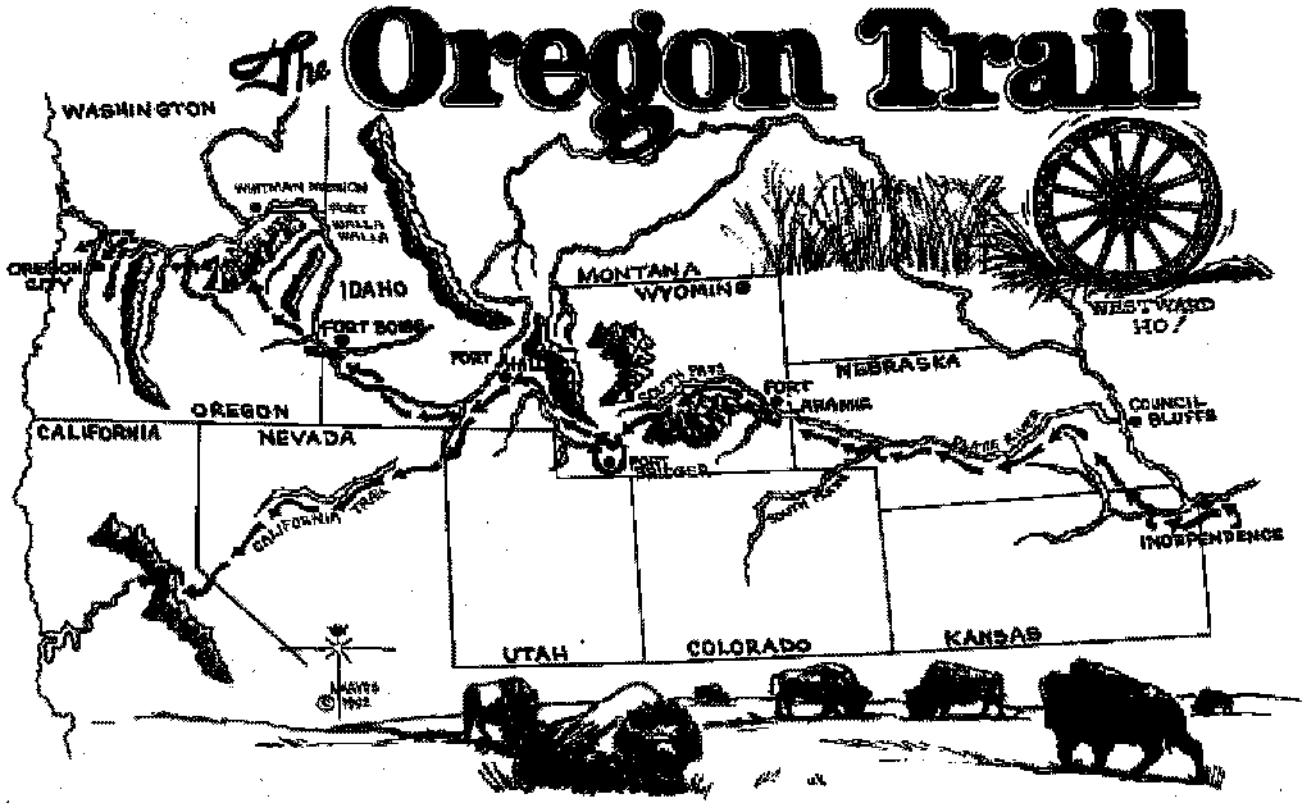
Tuesday, April 14 -- Read from **"A Brief History of the Oregon Trail"** -- **pages 8, 9 and 10**. There is a glossary at the end of this reading packet for some words that you might not be familiar with.

Wednesday, April 15 -- Read from **"A Brief History of the Oregon Trail"** -- **pages 11, 12, and 13**. There is a glossary at the end of this reading packet for some of the words that you might not be familiar with.

Thursday, April 16 -- Using the reading packet, "A Brief History of the Oregon Trail" you will be answering the **9 questions on the BINGO card**! You can answer each question right in the BINGO square! (See attached BINGO card.) If you are not able to print the BINGO sheet, just number a blank sheet of paper and write out your answers there.

Friday, April 17 -- Today you will be making a decision whether or not your family would have made the decision to travel down the Oregon Trail! You will be taking a look at 2 editorial pages with different opinions and pieces of information on them to help you make your decision. Also remember everything that you read about this week, as this will help you will complete the **"Decisions! Decisions!" page**. (See the instructions on the Decisions! Decisions! page.)

A Brief History of...



The Oregon Trail was a major migration across North America in the mid-1800s. It was a 2, 000 mile journey that became a passage to the "Land of Plenty" for many of the emigrants who traveled it. They hoped it would lead them to more freedom, good farm land, better health, or to escape poverty. Dreams drove their journey, but for some the dream died.

During this era, nearly 1 of every 20 Americans relocated west of the Missouri River. Though many found adventure and success on their journey, the trail was full of tragic encounters and testing times. The road to the West, known as the Oregon Trail, began as a series of trails used by Native Americans and fur traders. Its first real emigrant traffic came in 1843 when a wagon train of about 1,000 people left Independence, Missouri bound for Oregon. From that time on, the Oregon Trail saw hundreds of thousands of travelers until the late 1860's, when a transcontinental railroad offered new ways to reach the West.

The start of the journey basically followed the Platte River through present day Nebraska. To the northwest loomed the great Rocky Mountains, and to the south lay the desert. The Platte River offered a central corridor to those heading West. Much of this land was already occupied by Native Americans. Pawnee, Kansas, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Lakota-Sioux, Shoshone, Bannock, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla, and Chinook were some of the nations populating this vast area.

Pioneers were called emigrants, as they were relocating out of the United States into frontier territory. They journeyed up the Platte, to the North Platte, then to the Sweetwater River which led them to South Pass. From South Pass, their routes went either along the Snake and Columbia Rivers to Oregon, or the Humboldt River toward California.

Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri were common "jumping off" places. Large numbers of emigrants gathered there before heading towards the West. This was the place to make sure your "outfit" was fully assembled and equipped. A wagon, draft animals, food, tools and clothing were gathered together to sustain a family for up to five or six months of trail travel and camping out.

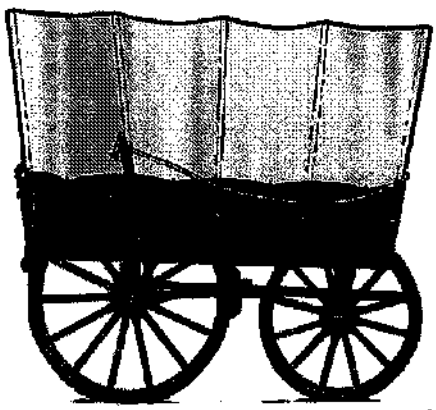
Draft Animals

The Oregon Trail migrations happened before the invention of automobiles, or the existence of railroad lines in the west. Draft animals provided the power. Oxen were the number-one draft animal of the migrations. About 80% of the wagons in 1850 were hauled by these beasts of burden. Why oxen instead of horses? Horses were expensive and their upkeep was demanding. Horses needed grain to supplement their diet, and were bothered by insects and bad water. Mules were a popular choice as they were strong, tough, could move at a fairly fast pace, and were able to survive on grass available along the trail. But mules were expensive, in short supply, and sometimes had a contrary nature that made them difficult to control. Plains Indians and rustlers sometimes stole horses and mules. Oxen were not so tempting to thieves. Oxen were slow, but very strong, adaptable and calm. They survived on the dry prairie grasses. Oxen were much cheaper. And, if things got bad on the trail, an ox could be slaughtered for beef to feed hungry pioneers.

It was best to have at least four oxen to pull each wagon, and if possible, a spare pair would be taken along. Oxen hooves required attention, and shoes were applied to their feet to protect them. If iron shoes were not available, emigrants nailed sole leather on the bottoms of the oxen feet or smeared the hooves with tar or grease and fastened on boots made of buffalo hide. Families had great affection for their oxen, often giving them names. When oxen died, the whole family grieved as though a family member had been lost.

Wagons

Wagons used on the Oregon Trail were not the huge, boat-shaped Conestoga, but more of a reinforced farm wagon, capable of hauling anywhere from 1,600 to 2,500 pounds. Cargos were protected with bows reaching about five feet above the wagon bed and covered with some type of heavy, canvas-like material. Spare parts, tongues, spokes, and axles were carried, and were often slung underneath the wagon bed. Grease buckets, heavy rope (at least 100 feet was recommended), and chains completed the running gear accessories. When store-bought grease (necessary for wheels) was exhausted, boiled buffalo or wolf grease served the purpose.



Supplies

In preparing supplies, a delicate balance was necessary. Hauling too much would wear down the animals. Too little could result in starvation or deprivation. Food was the most important supply.

Wild berries, roots, greens, and fish might supplement the diet, but it was risky to depend on these. Hunting or foraging on the dry plains was good some days, but yielded nothing on other days. In some places along the trail, emigrants bartered with Indians for game, salmon, and vegetables in exchange for tools and clothing. Prior to 1849, there were few stores or trading posts along the route. Even after establishment of trading posts at Scott's Bluff, Ft. Bridger, Fort Kearny and Fort Laramie, supplies were meager and extremely high priced.

Early guide books recommended that each emigrant be supplied with 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon, ten pounds of coffee, 20 pounds of sugar and ten pounds of salt. Basic kitchen equipment consisted of a cooking kettle (Dutch oven), fry pan, coffee pot, tin plates, cups, knives and forks.

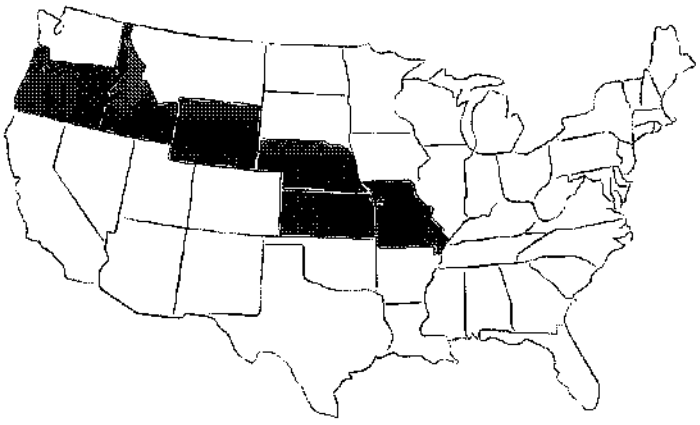
Provisions were of vital importance to the emigrant. Food had to be preserved so it would not spoil along the trail. Preserved food included drying, smoking or pickling. Bread, bacon and coffee were the staple diet during the entire trip west. Dried beans, rice, dried fruit, tea, vinegar, pickles, and saleratus (baking soda) were frequent supplies.

Camping supplies such as tents, rain tarps, blankets and bedrolls were included. Each emigrant needed some sturdy clothing and a hat to shield themselves from harsh weather and burning sun. Many carried a firearm for hunting and protection, and basic tools for cutting wood and making minor repairs. There was only a little room for non-essential supplies. Favorite books, a musical instrument, art supplies, fancy clothes, or tools for setting up a new home in the west had to be squeezed in any available space. Many goods were discarded along the trail when heavy wagons needed to be lightened to save exhausted draft animals.

While pioneer women were used to baking bread at home, it took some experimenting to bake bread in a Dutch oven outdoors with a buffalo chip fire, blowing ashes, dust, insects, rain and wind. Dried hardtack biscuits were also a common provision to last the five-month journey. The food supply was the heaviest and most essential part of the covered wagon cargo. Some pioneers brought a few chickens along in cages tied to the side of the wagon, but otherwise, there were no eggs. Many, especially those with small children, brought milk cows. Milk and butter were a health-giving supplement to a family diet of mainly meat and bread.

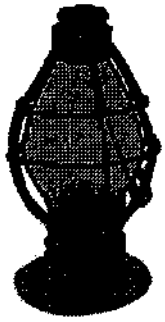
Traveling Along the Trail

The standard date for departure from the jumping-off towns was April 15, give or take a week or two. Any earlier, and the trail was too muddy; later the prairie grasses would be over-grazed and pioneers risked meeting winter weather at the end of their trip.



Expected arrival in Oregon or California was mid-September to early October. An ideal crossing was 120 days for the 2,000 mile trip with a daily average of 15 miles per day. A more realistic crossing took two to four weeks longer than this estimate. On a good day, more than

15 miles could be covered at top oxen-speed of about two miles per hour. On a bad day with river crossings or rough weather, much less distance was made.



In many wide open places, wagon trains broke up into two or more columns, spreading out to relieve the pressure on the road. In many other places, it was "once in line, stay in line." Large herds of cattle often times accompanied the wagon trains, causing further crowding on the trail and raising huge clouds of choking dust.

The day usually started at sunrise and lasted until early evening with a one hour rest at noon. This "nooning" was essential because it gave man, woman and beast a much needed rest. The oxen were not unyoked, but they were allowed to graze if forage was available.

Emigrants were always on the lookout for the perfect campsite with water, firewood, and grass for grazing their animals. Good campsites were well known and well used. The first order of business at the end of the day was forming a corral by pulling the wagons into a circle. It was normally a circular or oblong shape with the tongue of one wagon chained to the rear of a neighbor's to form a fence. Originally designed to form a corral for some of the livestock, it became an institution, as much for companionship as anything else. An opening or two was left for passage of livestock and could be closed with the tongue of a wagon.

The evening campfire provided comforting warmth, a place to dry wet clothes, and to cook a hot supper. While river bottoms along the trail are thick with trees today, 150 years ago frequent prairie fires kept the trees from maturing. How did the emigrants keep warm, fry their bacon, or bake their bread? This was accomplished by burning drift wood, breaking up the occasional abandoned wagon box, or twisting dry grass into tight bundles. When crossing buffalo country, the pioneers burned dry "buffalo chips," the dried bison dung sometimes called 'prairie coal.'

Traveling Conditions

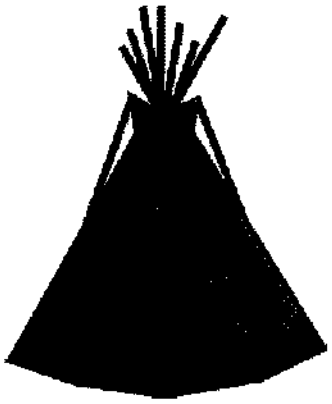
Water was important along the entire length of the trail, and the route followed rivers as much as possible. Along the Platte River, travelers described the muddy water as "too thick to drink and too thin to plow." Some tried to filter out sand and other particles found in river water by straining the water through fabric. Some boiled their water, not so much to ensure its safety, but to "kill the wiggle-tails". Drinking untreated water caused a lot of sickness and death on the trail. Springs also provided watering spots, but alkali springs were poisonous to man and animals, and were marked with warning signs. In some stretches of trail – especially through Idaho, eastern Oregon, or the Nevada desert –emigrants had to haul water for long stretches between rivers and springs.

The Oregon migrations were a family affair, sometimes with at least 50 percent women and children. There were courting and marriages among the young and unmarried members of numerous wagon trains. Babies were born on the journey. Interestingly, those who kept diaries made no mention of an impending birth until a short entry announced the arrival of a new member of the family. Tragically, the chance of death for both mother and infant during childbirth was high.

Sleeping arrangements were elementary and primitive. Sick persons or small children might sleep in the wagon, but the most common bed was a blanket, a piece of canvas or India rubber cloth or a buffalo robe on

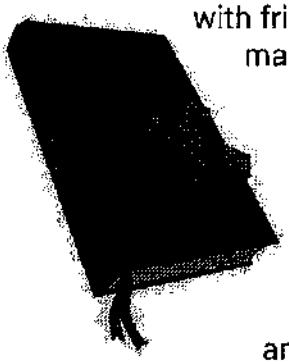
the ground. Some had tents, but they often blew away in the wind, or were so cumbersome to deal with that they were discarded along the way. Emigrants had no trouble falling asleep—fatigue and exhaustion made the ground seem soft and quite welcome to lay down upon after a long day on the trail.

Given the extremes which tested the emigrants to the limit of their endurance and fortitude, the evidence of crime among the travelers was low. Under the circumstances, the vast majority of folks behaved admirably. There were no civil laws, no marshals, sheriffs, or courts of law to protect those who crossed the plains. The military offered some protection near the forts, but that was limited. Wagon trains carried out their own justice and made their own laws.



Native Americans living along the route were wary of the travelers crossing their territory. Many of the pioneers had read propaganda that depicted Native Americans as hostile and dangerous, and so were fearful. Most of the interactions with pioneers and Native Americans were peaceful trading, or exchanging information or offering guide services. But some hostile incidents did occur over the thirty or more years of the migration, which eventually led to more fear and suspicion. This increased as pioneers became settlers, and conflicts for land and resources led to problems and difficult relations.

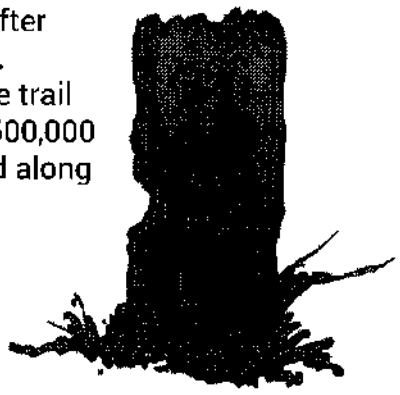
Religion played a large role in the westward migration, for a majority of these pioneers were devout Christian churchgoers. While it was not practical to lay over every Sunday while traveling the trail, some sort of Sabbath observance was usually held. If the train rested on the Sabbath, the women washed clothes or did some extra cooking. The men repaired wagons, harnesses, etc.



Many pioneers recorded their experiences in diaries or journals, which were later shared with friends and relatives. These personal writings indicate pioneers experienced many tedious days and hardships, but also enjoyed taking short walks and exploring the new land. They express wonderment at huge herds of bison, and unfamiliar wildlife like pronghorn, prairie dogs and coyotes. The vast open landscapes were different from their homes in the east. They wrote of prairie entertainment like playing music, games and cards, and celebrating holidays such as the 4th of July. Children might play games such as tag or blind man's bluff, but many had to leave toys behind. Songs such as "Oh, Susannah" and "Home, Sweet Home" were popular during the pioneer days, and especially among pioneers feeling homesick or trying to keep up their spirits.

Hardships

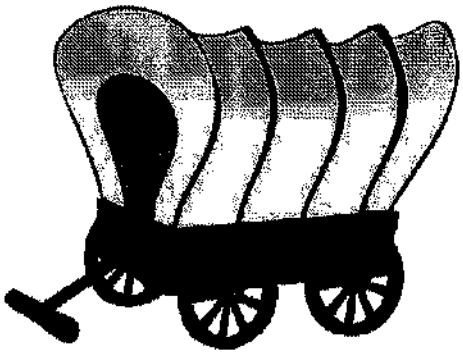
While some people seemed to thrive on the excitement and adventure of the journey across the plains, for others it was simply an ongoing ordeal. After surviving untold hardships, there arose the threat of disease and death. Statistics on the number of emigrants, and the number of deaths on the trail vary widely. Different historians have estimated between 200,000 and 500,000 people crossed the overland trail, and 20,000 to 30,000 deaths occurred along the 2,000 mile trail, averaging ten or more graves per mile.



Often the deaths occurred from poor sanitation practices in cooking and food storage, bad water, and bad living conditions. Some people suffering from "consumption" or tuberculosis, tried to make the trip because it was believed that outdoor exercise would overcome

the disease. What better exercise than walking across the prairie! Pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, smallpox and various other sicknesses also caused many deaths. Cholera, a contagious bacterial disease, was the greatest killer on the trail.

Accidents associated with wagon travel also took their toll. Drowning, being run over by a wagon, accidental shootings and accidents from handling animals caused injuries, maiming, and deaths. Fatigue often resulted in carelessness and led to accidents.

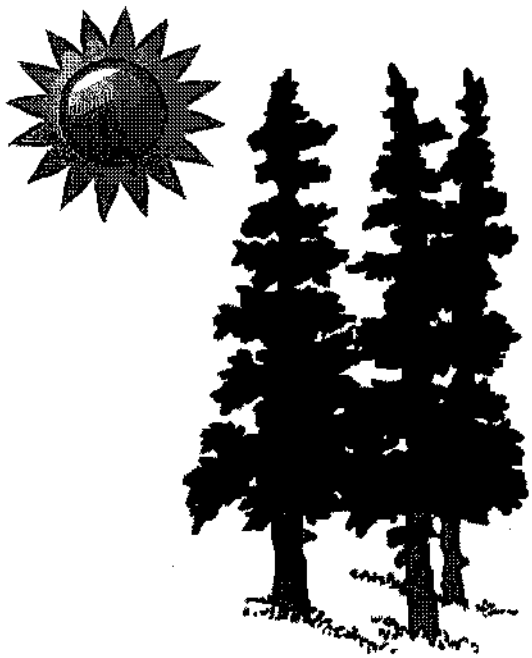


The weather played a key role in trail life, and was one which simply had to be endured. April and May could be cold and wet, and since the emigrants traveled with a meager supply of clothes and bedding, many were uncomfortable. Later, heat and dust became the enemy. When it rained, low places became bogs where wagons could mire down, and rivers that had to be crossed became raging torrents.

It was tiring to walk ten to fifteen miles per day. Children were constantly foraging and looking for firewood along the way. Men drove the animals, did heavy work of repairing wagons and managing river crossings, and were always on the look-out for a chance to hunt for fresh meat. Women set up camp and prepared food at morning, noon and night, and broke camp to reload wagons when it was time to get back on the road.

After surviving the great prairies and Rocky Mountains, making their way along the Sweetwater and Snake Rivers, the Blue Mountains still had to be crossed. Many found the road through the Blues more difficult than crossing the Rockies. Travelers then journeyed across Northeastern Oregon to the Columbia. Some historians say the Oregon Trail ended at The Dalles, but most believe its true end is at Oregon City. After reaching The Dalles, wagons floated down the Columbia on rafts. In 1846 the Barlow Road was built around Mount Hood, giving travelers an alternative to river travel.

Finally, the Valley of the Willamette!! Located here was the land office where you could file your land claim. Here, hopes and dreams either blossomed and bore fruit--or died. Those who had endured the incredible hardships of the journey, now behind them, came to this valley to seize the land, settle it, come to terms with it, and to call it home. Arriving exhausted from the journey, and with few supplies, many struggled through their first years. But many also found the new life and opportunities that inspired their journey.



Oregon Trail Vocabulary

Abandonment – leaving possessions along the trail when necessitated by a weakening team; a common occurrence on the Oregon Trail.

Bison – North American Bison, also called buffalo, were one of the most iconic animals emigrants encountered on the Great Plains.

Buffalo Chips – dried buffalo dung was gathered in treeless terrain and sometimes used for fuel by Oregon Trail emigrants.

Cholera – a deadly infectious disease which ravaged the Oregon Trail during the mid–19th century. It spread by contaminated water, caused severe diarrhea, and sometimes death within a few hours. The years 1849, 1850 & 1853 were hard hit; some trains lost two thirds of their party to this disease.

Constitution – a document drawn prior to the departure of a party which regulated conduct and set laws the party would abide by in the wilderness.

Corral – circling of the wagons at night to provide an enclosure for protection and to prevent stock from scattering. Ropes or chains were often tied between wagons to complete the enclosure.

Cut – a shortcut or branch of a trail, often named after the first person who used it.

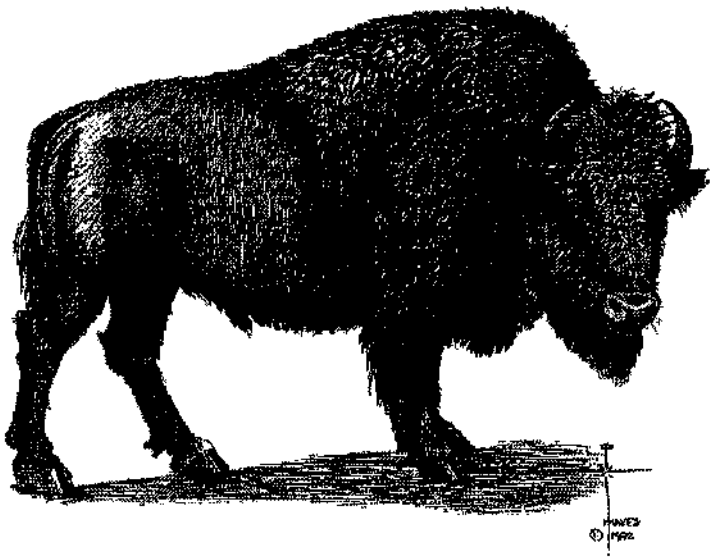
Dutch Oven – a deep cast iron vessel on legs with a lipped lid, used primarily for cooking & baking by placing coals under the base and on top of the lid.

Emigrant – a person leaving one area to move to another, such as emigrants on the Oregon Trail leaving the Midwest for the West coast.

Frontier – the part of a settled country that lies next to a region that is unsettled.

Great Basin – the region between the Sierra Nevada and Wasatch Mountains including most of Nevada and parts of California, Idaho, and Utah.

Gold Fever – a blind desire to discover gold. When gold was discovered out West, this craze caused the 1849 rush of emigrants to Oregon and California.



Gold Rush – large scale migration of prospectors to gold fields. The California Gold Rush is the most famous, but there were also gold rushes in Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and South Dakota.

Guidebook – publications which gave advice to Oregon Trail emigrants as to provisions and equipment needed for journey and routes to follow. Some guidebooks gave bad advice.

Oregon Trail Vocabulary

Jumping off – to leave the civilized world on a 2,000 mile journey through the western wilderness. The Missouri River towns from which emigrants departed were known as "jumping off towns." These were important supply points.

Laying over– to remain in camp for a day; sometimes because of deaths or births, some parties laid over on Sundays. When laying over, emigrants tended to do jobs which required them to remain stationary, such as laundry.

Nooning – to stop for a noon meal which was almost always cold. Parties stopped for about an hour and rested before the afternoon stretch.

Manifest Destiny – the belief that expansion of the United States was justifiable and inevitable.

Migration – the act of moving from one region or country to another.

Oregon Fever – a desire to migrate to Oregon Territory during the mid-19th century, for its rich soil and healthful climate.

Outfit – the wagon and the animals that pulled it; the single most important element to the success of a trip on the Oregon Trail.

Oxen – common domestic cattle used especially for hauling loads. An ox (or oxen, the plural) is an adult, castrated male of any breed of cattle. They are trained to pull vehicles and plows, and in North America they were the most widely used draft animal up to about the 1850s.

Party – The group of people traveling together on a westward migration, often held together by a constitution.

Pioneer – a person who goes into unknown areas, opening up the way for others to follow.

Propaganda – an organized spreading of ideas to promote a cause.

Provisions – the food and food preparation equipment carried in the wagon: the most important part of the cargo.

Stampede – a sudden, frenzied rush of frightened animals often caused by lightning. Stampedes of emigrants' stock or buffalo herds could be disastrous to parties.

Team – two draft animals hitched together form a team. Most emigrant wagons required two teams or four animals, usually oxen.

Train – the group of wagons traveling together on a westward migration.

Turnarounds – emigrants who "turned around" for one reason or another to return home.

Viameter – a crude odometer using gears to count wheel revolutions and estimate mileage.

Name: _____

Oregon Trail **BINGO**

Answer the following 9 questions from the reading about the Oregon Trail! You can answer each question right in the BINGO square! If you are not able to print this sheet, number a blank sheet of paper and write out your answers there.

1. In which month did the pioneers usually start down the trail?	**2. The Oregon Trail went through which 6 states?**	**3. Name 3 supplies pioneers needed on the wagon trip.**
4. Name 3 reasons the pioneers traveled to Oregon.	**5. Name 4 dangers for pioneers on the trail.**	**6. Name an emotion felt by the pioneers on the Oregon Trail.**
7. Name 1 disease that killed pioneers on the Oregon Trail.	**8. Name a game that children could play on the trail.**	**9. How long was the Oregon Trail?**

Editorials saying "Go to Oregon!"

ST. LOUIS GAZETTE

The Rocky Mountains can be crossed by wagons and families. There is no obstruction the whole route that any person would dare call a mountain. Even delicate missionary women have crossed the mountains with no ill effects.

Missouri Gazette

The Indians are hostile, true, but overlanders traveling together in large wagon trains are safe. In all probability, they would not meet with an Indian to interrupt their progress. The army has forts and soldiers to protect travelers and more will be provided.

New Orleans Daily Picayune

Those bound for Oregon are Pioneers, like those of Israel that followed Moses through the wilderness. Going to Oregon is also patriotic. It is our manifest destiny to settle the west.

ST. LOUIS GAZETTE

In Oregon, there are spacious, fertile valleys where good crops can be grown, and free land is available. Although there is still land to be had back east, prices are rising and economic conditions are poor. No one need starve on the overland journey if they plan carefully. Provisions can be taken to last for months and game is plentiful. In fact, the health of overlanders should improve in the great outdoors.

Editorials saying "Don't Go to Oregon!"

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW

Why go to Oregon to get land? An Illinois farm of the finest land would be far superior.

Daily Missouri Republican

Families with wagons will never be able to cross the mountains. Men should not subject their wives and children to all degrees of suffering.

New Orleans Weekly Bulletin

The Indians in the west are hostile. The wagon trains would be in constant jeopardy.

THE NEW YORK AURORA

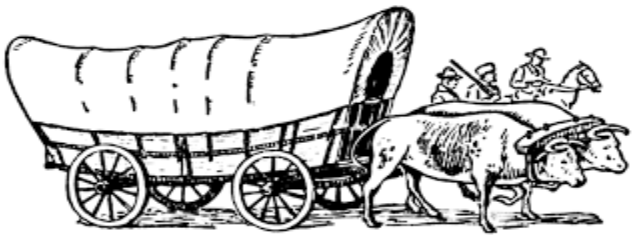
Most of the overlanders and their animals will die of starvation and exposure in the vast desert areas of the west. It is madness and a folly to attempt a trip to Oregon.

LIVERPOOL TIMES

The country is expanding too fast. Besides, the Oregon Country is claimed by the British. If war comes it would be impossible to defend it.

Name: _____

“Go to Oregon?!” --“Don’t go to Oregon?!”



Decisions! Decisions!

Instructions:

1. Read the 2 pages of “Go to Oregon?!” and “Don’t go to Oregon?!” editorials showing the PROS and CONS for going to the Oregon Country.
2. Think about these PROS and CONS. Where do you feel your family would stand on going to Oregon Country? Would they go? Why or why not?
3. Put an X by the choice -- WOULD or WOULD NOT.
4. Then explain your decision on the lines below. Make sure to use good complete sentences with a good explanation as to why or why not.

I think my family _____ WOULD / _____ WOULD NOT have gone to Oregon because:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____