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Date _____

Oregon Trail Map: The Wagon Train of 1843



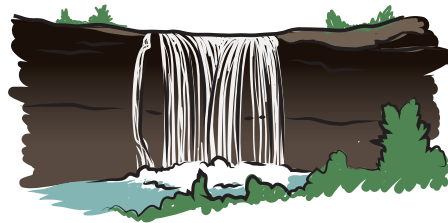
The Great Migration of 1843

Directions: Read the information below and find the locations on the map. Draw the route that helped people head west. Then, complete the written reflection.

1. In May 1843, almost 1,000 people with 120 wagons and several thousand cattle left Independence, MO. It was the largest group at the time to travel west. They didn't know it yet, but their successes would spur other Americans dreaming of Manifest Destiny.

2. Shawnee Mission was an outpost built by the Methodist church in the 1830s, and the first night's camp of many emigrants.

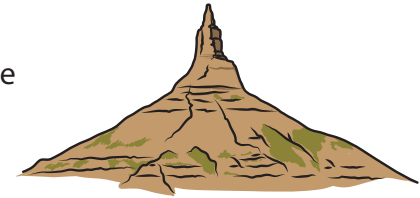
3. Alcove Spring rewarded travelers with a restful, green place for fresh water. And by the time they reached this place, they needed it! Travelers had gone over 165 miles from Independence, and most of them traveled on foot.



Alcove Spring

4. Traveling hundreds of miles along the southern side of the Platte River, emigrants had to ford across the river before it forked to reach the North Platte River and continue west. Nearby, Ash Hollow offered clear, spring water. But first, travelers had to climb a dangerous, steep hill. After drinking muddy Platte water for so long, many thought it was worth the risk.

5. Chimney Rock inspired pioneers to have some fun and climb as high as they could. The landmark was taller than 325 feet from the spire to the base!



Chimney Rock

6. Reaching Fort William (called Ft. Laramie since 1850) meant that emigrants were a third of the way there. The fort also marked the start of the Rocky Mountains.
7. Emigrants reached Independence Rock by Independence Day. After 1843, migrations were an annual event and travelers knew that if they hadn't reached there by July 4th, they were behind schedule and in danger of being trapped in the mountains during winter.



Independence Rock

8. The most important trail site was the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains — an opening in the mountain range about 20 miles wide. It was the halfway point of the trail. Wagons would not have had access to the western territories without it.
9. Built at the Black Fork of the Green River in 1843, Ft. Bridger was started by Jim Bridger and Louis Vasquez to resupply the emigrants to Oregon.

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10. Fort Hall was owned by the British business, Hudson's Bay Company. Employees at the fort had been convincing travelers to abandon their wagons, and generally discouraged people from going to Oregon Country. Led by Dr. Marcus Whitman, most of the wagon train in 1843 pressed on, but some split toward California.

11. Shoshone Falls on the Snake River was a short side trip for some. It was a remarkable sight, higher than Niagara Falls.



12. There were still 400 miles to go from Boise, and many people worried about getting to Willamette Valley before winter.
13. The green Grande Ronde valley was a welcome sight after traveling dry plains, but it was still far from settlements or protection.
14. When the wagon train reached The Dalles, they were stopped short by Mount Hood. Wagons had to be disassembled and floated down the Columbia River, and cattle had to be lead around the mountain.
15. In October 1843, the wagon train made it to Oregon City, the hub of the Willamette Valley. And the end of the 2,000 mile trek!

Written Reflection

Which three stops were the most important to the survival of the pioneers on the Oregon Trail? Use text evidence to support your conclusion.
