

Lesson Title: Load Up
Lesson Design By: Sondra Ussary
Amazonia School
4th Grade
Social Studies

July 2005

Lesson Overview: In this lesson students become familiar with the hardships that came with westward expansion when traveling by wagon. Students will experience the limited space of the wagon. They will also learn about the necessities that were carried on the wagon. Students will journal their thoughts and feelings how it might feel to be an early traveler.

Objectives: After completing this lesson the student will be able to:

- Describe in detail the hardships that came with covered wagon travel (SStudies GLE – 2A, Process Stand. 1.10, 2.1, 4.1)
- Reflect in writing facts and feelings of what it would be like to traveling during the 19th century across the plains (CA Writing GLE - 3D, Process Stand. 1.8, 2.1)
- Follow directions to complete a two-step task. (C Arts GLE – 1A) (Process Stand – CA 5,6 1.5,1.6, 1.10)

Materials: Technology:
CD-Rom
The Oregon Trail 3rd Edition, 1998. Travel on the Oregon Trail in 1848 and experience the hardships encountered on the trip.

Printed Resource:
Pathways to America, the Oregon Trail, Hatch, Lydia. 1994
Map – Oregon Trail
Mormon Pioneer Trail

Class Time: 2 – 50 minute class period

Teacher Input: Introduce pioneer life on the westward expansion. Before the lesson starts, tape a 4' X 12' rectangle on the floor. Group the students and have a piece of paper and pencil available for each group. Have the groups elect a secretary for their group. Explain that the class is taking a trip. The trip will take three months and we need to prepare for the trip.

Engagement question:

Q. What do you think you will need to take if you were going to be gone from home for three months? Don't forget to tell them that they will be traveling in a covered wagon.

A. Answers will vary. Instruct each group to make a list of things that they will need during the trip.

After about 10 minutes, bring the groups together and discuss some of the things that they came up with.

Followed by: Read the information from the Oregon Trail Pamphlet, and the Mormon Pioneer Trail Pamphlet.

- Discussion about what early pioneers actually took on their trip through the west. (list attached)
- Discuss what some of the terrain might be like to travel over in a covered wagon.
- Other problems with living in a covered wagon.

These descriptions can be found in the foldable pamphlet that can be obtained through the National Park System.

Activity: How Much Space Is There?

Direct the student's attention to the 4' x 12' rectangle that is on the floor. Tell them that this is about the same area that is covered by a standard covered wagon.

- Have each group predict how many classmates can get into the space.
- Have them test their predictions.
- Remind the students that they will travel along way, plus they need to remember that they will also have supplies to load in the wagon.

Questions for review:

- How would your group revise your supply list?
- Is there anything major you would have to leave at home?
- How many of you would like to travel for 3 months in a covered wagon? Why or why not?

Closure: After reviewing the concepts, students will have a guided writing for their journal entry.

Assessment: Journal entry. Write about your thoughts of covered wagon travel.
Tell me 4 things you wanted to take on the trip but couldn't and why you can't take them.

References: National Park Service – Mormon Pioneer Trail
 National Park Service – Oregon Trail
 The Oregon Trail 3rd Edition, CD-ROM, 1998.
 Pathways to America, the Oregon Trail, Hatch, Lydia. 1994.
<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>
<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001587/supplylist.htm>

RubiStar

Load Up

Teacher Name: **Sondra Ussary**

Student Name:

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Amount of Information	All topics are addressed and all questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed and most questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed, and most questions answered with 1 sentence about each.	One or more topics were not addressed.
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.

Paragraph Construction	All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.
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Date Created: Jul 08, 2005 12:25 pm (CDT)

Supply List

When families traveled on the pioneer trail, they had to take all the items that they would need in order to live while they were on the trail. They could only take what they could fit in their wagons on this journey. Below is a list of various items they might need in order to survive.

To do this activity, pretend that you are beginning a journey on the pioneer trail. Your wagon is only able to carry 1,500 pounds of supplies. What items would you take on your journey and how much of each item? Make sure you don't go over the 1,500 limit. Talk about why you decided to take the items you took.

Wagon Train Supply List

FOOD	LBS.	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	LBS.
apples	45	baby cradle	60
bacon	100	bench	75
barrel of water	355	blankets	20
buffalo meat	300	bookcase	90
carrots	12	broom	2
	4	butter churn	45

hatchet	4	fiddle	6
hoe	2	first aid kit	1
hunting	8	harmonica	1
knife	5	jump rope	1
pick ax	6	kaleidoscope	3
pistol	63	longjohns	4
pitch fork	8	pair of pants	3
plow	3	shirt	4
rifle	8	shoes	7
rope	8	snowshoes	1
saw	24	stationery	1
shovel	16	wooden top	10
wagon		wool coat	
canvas			
wagon			
wheel			