

Journeys Then and Now

Week 28 • Thursday • Moving West and Moving Today

Reading Time

A pioneer family took six months to cross the country. Today, your family could drive the same distance in about four days — or fly it in five hours!

But some things about journeys have not changed. Pioneers packed carefully, and so do you. Pioneers got bored and asked, "Are we there yet?" Kids today ask the very same question! Pioneers sang songs around the campfire; families today sing along in the car.

It is also important to remember that Native Americans already lived on the lands the pioneers crossed. Moving west changed their lives forever, and many were forced to leave their homes. Every journey in history has more than one side to its story.

Reading Questions

1. How long did pioneers take to cross the country? How about a car today?
2. Name one thing about journeys that has NOT changed.
3. Who already lived on the lands pioneers crossed?
4. How did moving west change Native American lives?

Then or Now?

Write THEN if it describes pioneer travel, or NOW if it describes travel today.

Description	THEN or NOW
The trip takes six months.	
You fly across the country in five hours.	
Oxen pull your covered wagon.	
You stop at gas stations for snacks.	
You cook dinner over a campfire every night.	
You listen to music with headphones.	

My Family Journey

Think about a trip your family has taken — long or short. Interview a grown-up who was there and fill in the table together.

Question	Our answer
Where did we go?	
How did we travel?	
How long did it take?	
What did we pack that mattered most?	
What is our favorite memory from the trip?	

Think About It

1. How would your last family trip have been different in a covered wagon?

2. Why is it important to remember the Native American side of the story?

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ Pioneers crossed the country faster than cars today.
- ☐ Kids on the trail asked 'Are we there yet?'
- ☐ Native Americans already lived in the West.
- ☐ Moving west changed Native American lives forever.
- ☐ Journeys today still need careful packing.
- ☐ Every history story has only one side.

Review

I learned...	Circle one
How travel then compares to travel now	YES / NOT YET
The Native American side of the story	YES / NOT YET
About my own family's journeys	YES / NOT YET