

Rolling Down the Oregon Trail

Week 28 • Tuesday • Life on the Wagon Trail

Reading Time

The most famous path west was the **Oregon Trail** — about 2,000 miles long! Pioneer families traveled it in **covered wagons** pulled by strong oxen.

The trip took four to six months. Wagons rolled about fifteen miles a day — slower than you ride your bike! Kids walked beside the wagons, gathered firewood, and helped care for the animals.

Pioneers crossed wide rivers, hot plains, and steep mountains. They faced storms, sickness, and broken wagon wheels. At night, families circled their wagons, cooked over campfires, and told stories under the stars. When they finally reached Oregon, they cheered — a new home at last!

Reading Questions

1. How long was the Oregon Trail?

2. What pulled the covered wagons?

3. What jobs did pioneer kids do?

4. What dangers did pioneers face on the trail?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

oxen

plains

campfire

supplies

river crossing

settle

True or False

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

- ☐ The Oregon Trail was about 2,000 miles long.
- ☐ The trip took only two days.
- ☐ Oxen pulled the covered wagons.
- ☐ Kids rode in comfy seats and played video games.
- ☐ Pioneers crossed rivers, plains, and mountains.
- ☐ Families cooked over campfires at night.

A Day on the Trail

Number these parts of a pioneer day 1 to 4 in order.

Event	Order (1-4)
Circle the wagons and cook dinner over the fire.	
Wake at sunrise and hitch the oxen.	
Tell stories and sleep under the stars.	
Walk beside the wagon for many miles.	

Think About It

1. The wagon was small, so pioneers could only bring a little. What three things would you pack, and why?

Fill in the Blanks

Oregon wagons months fifteen campfires stars

1. The most famous path west was the _____ Trail.
2. Families traveled in covered _____.
3. The trip took four to six _____.
4. Wagons rolled about _____ miles a day.
5. Families cooked over _____.
6. They told stories under the _____.

Draw It!

Draw a covered wagon rolling down the trail. Include the oxen, the family, and the wide open land!



Review

I learned...	Circle one
What the Oregon Trail was	YES / NOT YET
What daily life on the trail was like	YES / NOT YET
What dangers pioneers faced	YES / NOT YET