

Pack Your Wagon!

Week 28 • Wednesday • Hands-On: Plan a Pioneer Journey

Reading Time

A covered wagon looked big, but it could not carry everything. Most of the space was filled with food: flour, bacon, beans, coffee, and dried fruit for six long months.

Pioneers also packed tools, a water barrel, blankets, a rifle for hunting, medicine, and spare wagon parts. There was almost no room for toys or fancy furniture. Some families packed too much, and their tired oxen could not pull the heavy load. Along the trail, people had to leave chairs, tables, and even pianos behind!

Smart pioneers packed only what they truly needed. Today, YOU are the wagon boss. Choose wisely!

Reading Questions

1. What filled most of the wagon's space?

2. Name three things pioneers packed besides food.

3. What happened when families packed too much?

Hands-On: Wagon Boss Challenge

Your wagon can hold only 8 things. Circle exactly 8 items from this list:

flour • teddy bear • water barrel • piano • blankets • beans • video games • medicine • rope • spare wheel • candy • bacon • tools • fancy mirror • matches • rocking chair

Now explain your choices in the table below.

Question	My answer
Which item was hardest to leave behind?	
Which item do you think matters most? Why?	
What did you skip that a pioneer would also skip?	

Draw It!

Draw the inside of your packed wagon showing your 8 chosen items.



Fill in the Blanks

food tools oxen heavy behind needed

- Most wagon space was filled with _____.
- Pioneers packed _____, blankets, and medicine.
- Tired _____ could not pull too much weight.
- Some loads were too _____.
- People left chairs and pianos _____ on the trail.
- Smart pioneers packed only what they truly _____.

Think About It

- Why do you think some families brought pianos even though wagons were small?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
What pioneers packed in wagons	YES / NOT YET
Why packing light mattered	YES / NOT YET
I made my own wagon plan	YES / NOT YET