

# Oregon Trail - Donner Party Packet Quick Preview



## Oregon Trail Packet 20+ pages Notebook Pages & Lapbook

**Oregon Trail**

- The Oregon Trail started in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
- People used \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to pull their wagons.
- A pioneer is someone who \_\_\_\_\_.
- What are some reasons a family might take the Oregon Trail?
- List as many things as you can that people needed to bring with them they traveled on the Oregon Trail.

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4. Why did families start as wagon trains?

7. What was it good to be the wagon in the front?

8. How did wagons cross over streams and rivers?

9. Describe the Great Plains.

10. Why was it important to have goods at night?

11. What were some of the dangers of the Oregon Trail?

How long did it take to get to Oregon?

How long did pioneers cook their food?

How long did it take to get to Oregon?

**Oregon Trail Answers**

1. Oregon
2. oxen, mules
3. someone who moves from one place to another to start a new life
4. Looking for a better life, escaping persecution, etc.
5. Food, clothing, tools, weapons, etc.

**The Donner Party Expedition**

Where did the Donner Party begin their journey?

Where were they headed?

On the map below find the Great Salt Lake and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The pioneers brought lots of supplies with them, but what animals did the pioneers hunt along the way to supplement their food supplies?

What were some of the Indian tribes the pioneers encountered as they made their way West?

**Donner Party (page 1)**

Get these cut and glue them onto the notebook page (page 1)

Question 1:

Question 4:

State the two paintings on the left over done by the artist. State the year and the location of the paintings.

Donner Party	John C. Fremont	James W. Wadsworth	John S. Henshaw
Donner Party was a group of pioneers who were trapped in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winter of 1846-1847.	John C. Fremont was an explorer and military officer who led the first expedition to the Pacific Ocean.	James W. Wadsworth was a pioneer who traveled the Oregon Trail.	John S. Henshaw was a pioneer who traveled the Oregon Trail.

This is a painting by John Bennett of the Donner Party. In the background there is a Native American which could be seen from the trail. What is it called? Donner Party. How tall is it? 100 feet tall.

What is the name of the mountain range that the Donner Party was stuck in?

What is the name of the mountain range that the Donner Party was stuck in?





## Oregon Trail



1. The Oregon Trail started in the state of \_\_\_\_\_  
2. People used \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to pull their wagons.

3. A pioneer is someone who \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some reasons a family might take the Oregon Trail?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List as many things as you can that people needed to bring with them when they traveled on the Oregon Trail:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# Oregon Trail Notebook Pages (and answer sheet!)

12. What did pioneers eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



How did pioneers cook their food? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long did it take to get to Oregon? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why did families travel in wagon trains?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. Why was it good to be the wagon in the front?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How did wagons cross over streams and rivers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Describe the Great Plains.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why was it important to have guards at night?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What were some of the dangers of the Oregon Trail?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Chimney Rock, Nebraska  
Drawing by Frederick Peery (1855)



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### Oregon Trail Answers

- Illness
- oxen (which could eat the dried grasses along the way) and mules (which were more expensive)
- Pioneers were people who migrated West to settle in a new area.
- Families wanted to start a new life and to be able to obtain a large tract of land. Some went for the adventure or to escape from their problems. Propaganda from the trappers, missionaries, and government officials told about the rich fertile land and great opportunities out West. Some were during the California Gold Rush in hopes of getting rich.
- Food, clothing, tools, cooking equipment, seeds, spare parts, animals, seedlings, everything they needed to start their new life as the West Coast pioneers succeeded in bringing over, clothes and pigs.)
- for defense and to help one another on the dangerous journey
- Wagons kicked up a lot of dust. The wagon in front generally did not have to contend with its own dust.
- Often they bridged the streams and rivers by driving the oxen or cows into the water and having their animals swim across. This was dangerous as many wagons tipped over or animals or people were swept downstream and sometimes drowned. In some places, there were ferries to shuttle the wagons across.
- fat, grease, mule manure with buffalo and other animals
- to prevent theft as animals from straying away. While pioneer trains did circle their wagons at night, it was usually to keep their draft animals from wandering off, not protect against Indian attacks.
- disease, accidents, runaway wagons, running out of clean water, running out of fresh grass for their animals, theft by Indians (though Indians were often seen as a help to the pioneers than portrayed as hostile and marauding), poisonous plants, gun accidents, drowning in river crossings, falling off oxen or horses
- They brought flour, sugar, cornmeal, coffee, dried beans, rice, lard and salt pork and dried their own meat. For breakfast they ate beans, cornmeal mush, Johnny cakes of pancakes and coffee. Lunch was something quick and easy (like dried meat or hardtack). For dinner, they made stew and baked bread.
- Pioneers gathered wood or buffalo chips (dried dung) for their cooking fires.
- It took about six months to get to Oregon.

6. Why did families travel in wagon trains?  
More safe  
people can help you out  
It's more fun  
you meet new people



7. Why was it good to be the wagon in the front? there is a lot of dust that gets kicked up

8. How did wagons cross over streams and rivers? sometimes ferries, if shallow enough they'd wade across, build a raft.

9. Describe the Great Plains. a big expanse of grass, not a lot of clouds

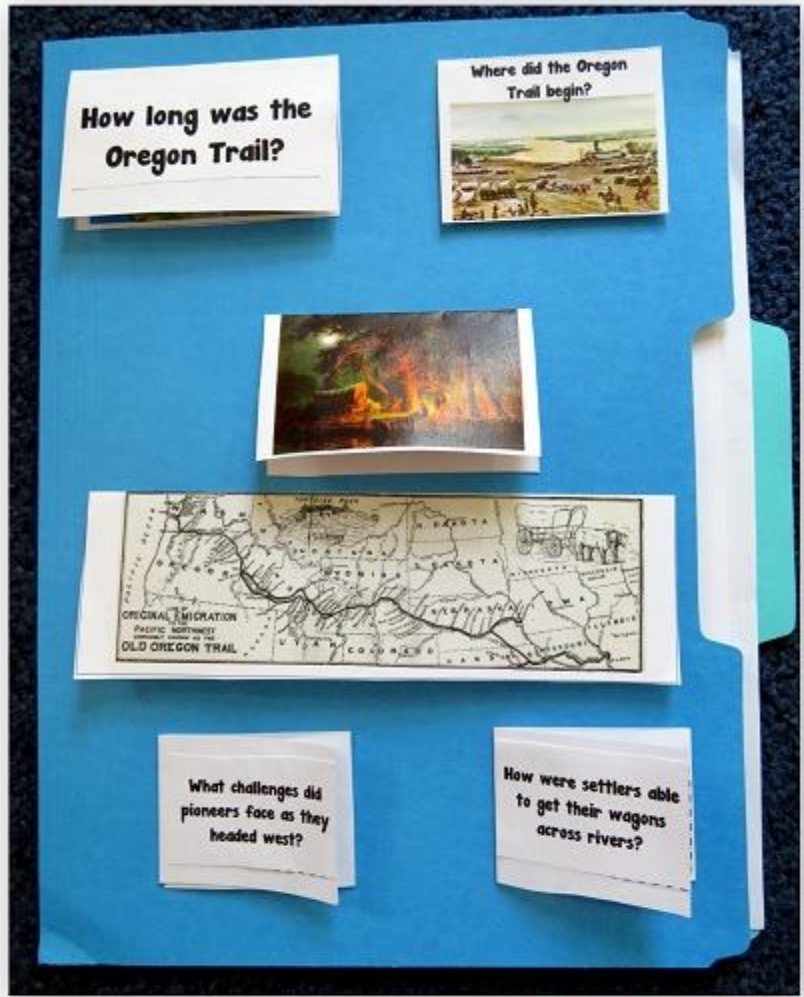
10. Why was it important to have guards at night? indians, wild animals scavenging, a thief, to keep draft animals from wandering off.

11. What were some of the dangers of the Oregon Trail?  
Runaway wagons, lack of food, water, shelter, mountains, deserts, food shortage, trap, wild animals, human over-caring, plants, diseases, accidents, runaway wagons, running out of clean water, running out of fresh grass for their animals, theft by Indians (though Indians were often seen as a help to the pioneers than portrayed as hostile and marauding), poisonous plants, gun accidents, drowning in river crossings, falling off oxen or horses

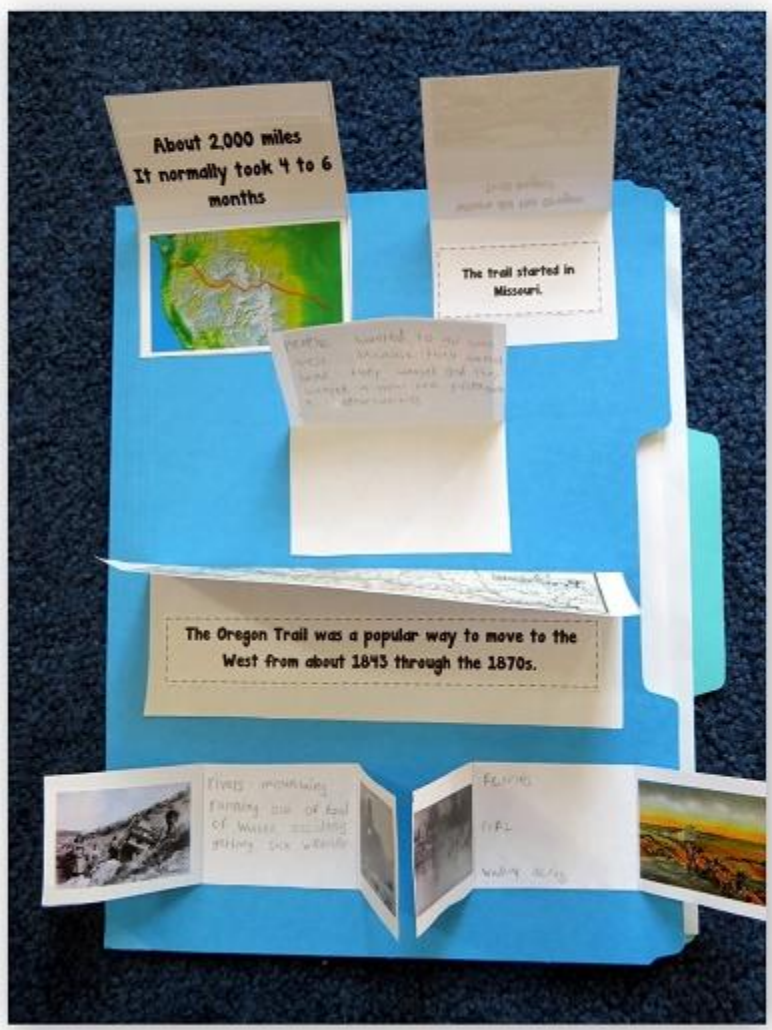


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**FOOD:** Flour (100 lbs.), Bacon (100 lbs.), Coffee (100 lbs.), Baking soda, corn meal, flour, salt, dried beans, dried milk, dried beef, molasses, vinegar, prunes, eggs, salt, sugar (100 lbs.), rice, tea (14 lbs.), lard (200 lbs.), **BEVERAGES:** Tea, coffee, molasses, ground coffee, glucose, milk, jam, molasses, sugar.

**Buffalo Chips**

**California Goldfields**

The names of gold brought some 500,000 people to California.

The California Gold Rush began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California.

Which Native American Tribes might the pioneers encounter on their way west?

How many people came to California?

When and where did the California Gold Rush begin?

**Oregon Trail**

1. The Oregon Trail started in the state of Missouri.

2. People used Oxen or mules to pull their wagons.

3. A pioneer is someone who migrated west.

4. What are some reasons a family might take the Oregon Trail?  
Start a new life, land, escape problems, gold rush, adventure, propaganda, fertile land, and opportunities.

5. List as many things as you can that people needed to bring with them as they traveled on the Oregon Trail:

Food	a saw
water	nails
dress's collar	spit pots
a hatch axe	cons
memories	chicken
cooking equipment	guns
seeds	animals
an axe	water bottle

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# Donner Party Notebook Pages

### The Donner Party Expedition

Where did the Donner Party begin their journey?



Where were they headed?

On the map below find the Great Salt Lake and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.



The pioneers brought lots of supplies with them, but what animals did the pioneers hunt along the way to supplement their food supplies?



What were some of the Indian tribes the pioneers encountered as they made their way west?



In the plains, what would the settlers see for their cooking fires?




Show me a painting by Albert Bierstadt of a Snowy Range. In the background, there is a landmark which could be seen from nearly 50 miles away. What is it called?

To the settlers, it appeared that the second phase of their long journey west—the difficult mountain passage—was about to begin.


What hardships did pioneers face along the way?





The Donner Party decided to take a "shortcut." How did they learn about this? Why did they decide to go?




The Donner Party got trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Above (right) is a painting of the Sierra Nevada Mountains done in 1855 by the famous American painter, Albert Bierstadt. Describe the mountains you see. How would it be to take a shortcut across these mountains?



By early November 1846, winter set in and the Donner Party was trapped near Donner Lake (pictured in the photograph below). What did they call this lake? Describe their plight.

### Key people of the Donner Party

George & James Donner	Jacob & Margaret Reed	Leontine Hastings	Charles Bennett
			
George Donner had an American-born partner who was chosen to be the leader of the group in 1846. They set out in 1846 to find a shortcut to California. The group was a mix of people from all over the United States. Some were farmers, some were businessmen, and some were just looking for a better life.	Jacob Reed was the first to suggest a "shortcut" across the mountains. He was a man of many talents, including being a doctor and a surveyor. He was also a member of the Donner Party.	Leontine Hastings was a woman of many talents. She was a doctor, a surveyor, and a member of the Donner Party. She was also a member of the Donner Party.	Charles Bennett was a man of many talents. He was a doctor, a surveyor, and a member of the Donner Party. He was also a member of the Donner Party.

What was the "Futuro Hope"?

Of the 17 people who entered the mountains, 3 took \_\_\_\_\_ routes.

### Manifest Destiny

What is Manifest Destiny?



American Progress (1876) by John Philip Faucher, showing a woman in a white dress holding a torch, symbolizing Manifest Destiny.



What was the "Futuro Hope"?

Of the 17 people who entered the mountains, 3 took \_\_\_\_\_ routes.

Of the 17 people who entered the mountains, 10 survived. It took 7 rescue attempts to save the survivors. James Reed led one of the rescue attempts.

## Oregon Trail

- The Oregon Trail started in the state of \_\_\_\_\_
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- A pioneer is someone who \_\_\_\_\_
- What are some reasons a family might take the Oregon Trail?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List as many things as you can that people needed to bring with them as they traveled on the Oregon Trail:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- Why did families travel in wagon trains?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why was it good to be the wagon in the front?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did wagons cross over streams and rivers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe the Great Plains.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- What did pioneers eat?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How did pioneers cook their food?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How long did it take to get to Oregon?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



How long was the Oregon Trail?  
About 2,000 miles  
It normally took 4 to 6 months

## The Oregon Trail was a popular way to move to the West from about 1843 through the 1870s.

Left: This was one of the first maps of the Oregon Trail.

The trail started in Missouri.

California Goldfields

Where did the Oregon Trail begin?

When and where did the California Gold Rush begin?  
Left: This is the site of the first gold mine in California.

How many people came to California?  
Left: This is the site of the first gold mine in California.

The California Gold Rush began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Wicks.

The news of gold brought over 100,000 people to California.

# Oregon Trail Notebook Pages and Lapbook

## The Oregon Trail



## Oregon Trail Answers

- Missouri
- oxen (which could eat the dried grass along the way and mules (which were more expensive)
- Pioneers were people who migrated West to settle in a new area.
- Families wanted to start a new life and to be able to obtain a large tract of land. Some went for the adventure or to escape from their problems. Pioneers drove for freedom, excitement, and government officials told about the rich fertile land and great opportunities out West. Some went during the California Gold Rush in hopes of getting rich.
- Food, clothing, tools, cooking equipment, seeds, spare parts, animals, seedlings, everything they needed to start their new life in the West (Some pioneers succeeded in bringing corn, chickens and pigs.)
- For defense and to help one another on the dangerous journey
- Wagons leaked up a lot of dust. The wagons in front generally did not have to contend with as much dust.
- Others they forded the streams and rivers by driving the wagons or oxen into the water and having their animals wade across. This was dangerous as many wagons tipped over or animals or people were caught downstream and sometimes drowned. In some places, there were ferries to shuttle the wagons across.
- But, grass, wild grapes with buffalo and other animals
- to prevent dust or animals from staying away. While pioneer teams did circle their wagons at night, it was mostly to keep their draft animals from wandering off, not protect against an Indian ambush.
- beavers, accidents, runaway wagons, running out of dried meat, running out of fresh grass for their animals, death by Indians (though Indians were often more of a help to the pioneers than portrayed as hostile and marauding), poisonous plants, gun accidents, drinking in river crossings, falling off mules or horses
- They brought flour, sugar, cornmeal, coffee, dried beans, rice, bacon and salt pork and dried beef with them. For breakfast they ate bacon, cornmeal mush, Johnny cakes of potatoes and coffee. Lunch was something quick and easy (like dried meat or hardtack). For dinner, they made stew and baked bread.
- Pioneers gathered wood or buffalo chips (dried dung) for their cooking fires
- It took about six months to get to Oregon.

How were settlers able to get their wagons across rivers?  
Buffalo Chips

What challenges did pioneers face as they headed west?  
On the next page: Cut Native American cutback pieces out. Fold the pictures in. On the inside, place the questions. Successful answers are in the box (below right), or you can label the pictures (the box below left).

Which Native American Tribes might the pioneers encounter on their way West?  
Ojibwa, Pawnee, Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa (Crow), Apache, Shoshone, Crow, Cheyenne, Navaho, Pawnee, Sioux

What kinds of supplies did settlers carry with them on the Oregon Trail?  
Pioneers carried supplies such as flour, cornmeal, dried beans, rice, bacon, salt pork, coffee, sugar, cornmeal, and hardtack. They also carried tools, clothing, and other necessities.