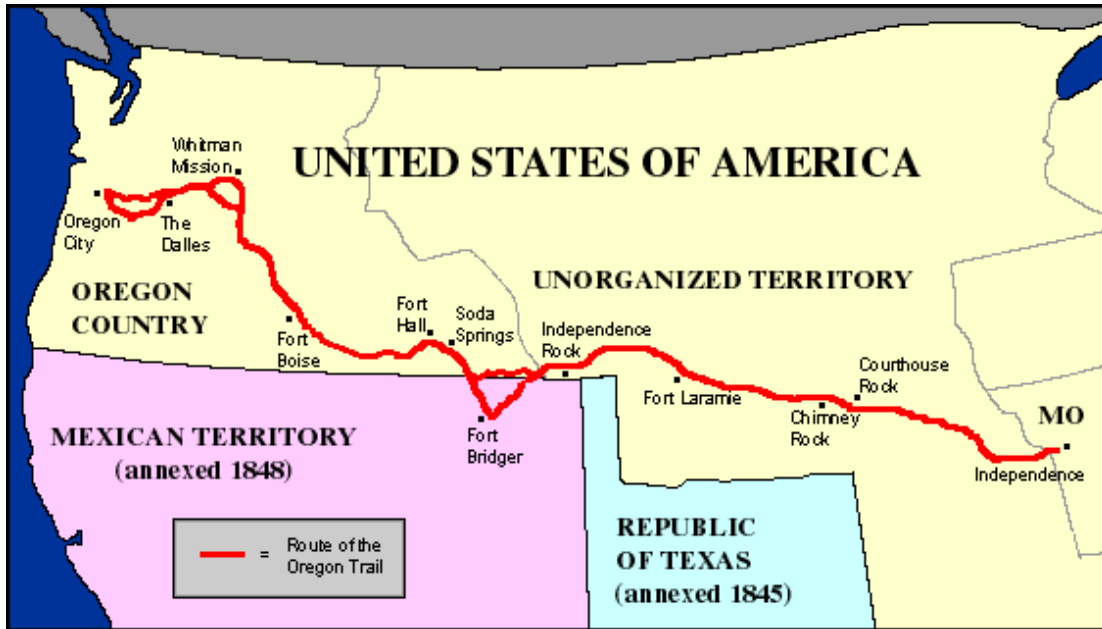


# The Oregon Trail

## Station 1: Interactive Map

Directions: Use the Promethean Board to manipulate an interactive map of the Oregon Trail. Click on each landmark to view a photo and gather information about life on the Oregon Trail.



1. Label the following on the map above

- Republic of Texas
- Oregon City
- Whitman Mission
- Fort Boise
- Fort Hall
- Fort Bridger
- Independence Rock
- Chimney Rock
- Independence, MO

2. Click on Independence, Missouri. Why do you think Independence, Missouri became such a large trading post?

3. Click on Chimney Rock. What did this natural wonder signal for the pioneers on the Oregon Trail?

4. Click on Fort Laramie. How did this fort serve the pioneers along the Oregon Trail?

5. Click on The Dalles. Describe the dangers of the waterway.

6. Click on Oregon City. Why did Oregon City grow as a major economic center?

## Station 2: Children of the Oregon Trail

Directions: Read the article in the folder with your group members, then answer the questions below. Answer each question completely!



1. How would you describe the feelings of pioneer children as they set out westward with their families?

2. How long did it take for pioneers to reach Oregon?

3. How many miles would an average pioneer family travel along the Oregon Trail?

4. How did Mother Nature make life difficult for pioneers on the Oregon Trail?

5. What chores were children responsible for?

6. In your opinion, which chore was the most difficult? Why?

7. Are you familiar with any of the games that pioneer children played? Which ones?

8. Why were pioneer children afraid of interactions with Native Americans?

8) Read the 3 excerpts from letters written by pioneer children. These primary sources, although short, give incredible insight into the life of pioneer children.

- Why are primary sources such an important part of history?

- What kind of information can a primary source provide that secondary sources cannot?

- Which of the 3 letters was the most interesting to you? Why?

### Station 3: Video Clip – The Oregon Trail and the American Dream

Directions: Watch the video clip with your group members, and answer the questions below.



1. Why were covered wagons called prairie schooners?
2. Why did so many Americans move westward to the Oregon Territory?
3. Why didn't pioneers ride in their wagons?
4. Why did pioneers leave the eastern United States in the spring?
5. The Oregon Trail followed several major rivers such as the Missouri & Platte Rivers. Why?
6. What hardships did the pioneers face on the Oregon Trail? List as many as possible:
7. What was the Donation Land Act of 1850?
8. What did the settlement of the western frontier symbolize in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century?
9. Imagine that you are to travel back in time to become an Oregon Trail pioneer. You are allowed to take along one modern invention. What would you take? Why? (Your answer does not have to match that of your group members)

#### Station 4: Imagery of the Oregon Trail

Directions: View the two Bierstadt paintings with your group members. Analyze the paintings as a group, just as you did with the *Apotheosis of Washington*, *Penn's Treaty with the Indians*, and *American Progress*.

Answer the questions below after discussing the paintings with your group.

##### Painting 1: *Oregon Trail*

1. Describe what you see in the painting.



2. What is the mood of the painting? How does it make you feel? Think back to earlier analyses of power, placement, and color.

3. What does this painting suggest about life on the Oregon Trail? How so?

##### Painting 2: *Emigrants Crossing the Plains*

1. Describe what you see in the painting.

2. What is the mood of the painting? How does it make you feel? Think back to earlier analyses of power, placement, and color.

3. What does this painting tell you about when and where it was made? (What do you know about the history and culture of time it was created?)