



Girl Scout
Gold Award Project

Pioneers of the West

ACTIVITY #1: LOG CABIN

Try your hand at building a miniature log cabin, similar to the ones the pioneers settled in.

ACTIVITY #2: BOARD GAME

How hard was it really to cross the country in a covered wagon? Find out by making your own trip with a board game.



Survey



Thank you! Your feedback helps
improve my Gold Award project!



Log Cabin

ACTIVITY #1

🕒 30 minutes

SUPPLIES:

2 flat base pieces

16 wooden logs

2 long logs

2 triangle roof pieces

6 flat green roof pieces

1 red chimney piece

6 Challenge Cards

Once pioneers reached the west, there were no houses ready for them to live in, so they would have to build their own.



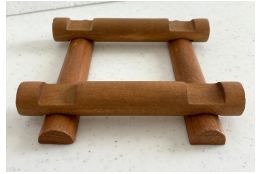
In areas where trees were plentiful, pioneers were able to build log cabins. However, there were no trees, or very few trees, pioneers made their homes out of pieces of stacked sod called a “soddy.”

Log Cabin

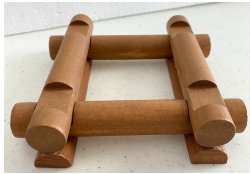
INSTRUCTIONS



1. On a flat surface, lay down the two flat pieces across from each other.



2. Stack two logs, with each side connecting to the flat base.



3. Continue to stack logs until you have only two logs left.



4. Place the longer logs on top. They should hang over on both sides.



5. Add the final two normal logs to the top.

Log Cabin

INSTRUCTIONS



6. Place the triangle roof supports. They should line up with the longer log pieces.



7. Lay the green roof pieces on the triangle supports, allowing them to slot into the longer log pieces.



7. Finally, add the red chimney to the top of the roof.

Try rebuilding the log cabin with your own design or using one of the challenge cards!

Challenge #1

Your roof is blown away in a tornado. Remove the green roof pieces and try to assemble a new roof using other materials.

Challenge #2

Some of your pieces were burnt in a prairie fire. Try to reassemble your house using 2 flat base pieces, 12 wooden logs, 1 long log, 1 triangle, and 4 flat roof pieces.

Challenge #3

You weren't able to find enough wood to build your house. Try to build a house using only half of the logs.

Challenge #4

A severe thunderstorm causes damage to part of your house.
Disassemble your log cabin and see how fast you can rebuild it.

Challenge #5

Pioneers worked together to support each other in their new environments. Try to build two houses using all the materials.


Challenge #6

Prairie life was often unexpected and sometimes pioneers had to face unique problems. Create your own challenge and see if someone else is able to solve it!



Board Game

ACTIVITY #2

 30 minutes

SUPPLIES:

- 1 Game Board
- 5 Pawn Pieces
- 1 Die
- 30 Cards
- 1 Notable Stops Sheet

Did you know?

It is estimated that approximately 300,000 - 500,000 pioneers traveled along the Oregon Trail.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lay out the game board and have each player pick 1 pawn piece.
2. Shuffle the cards and place in reach of all players
3. One at a time, each player will roll the die and move the number of spaces.

Special Spaces:

Teepee:

When you land on a teepee, draw 1 card and then take an extra turn!

River:

When you land on the river, flow down the board to the spot where the river connects. The river doesn't flow in the opposite direction, so you won't get moved backwards!

Notable Stop:

When you land on a notable stop, read the information about the stop on the "Notable Stops Sheet" and draw 1 card.

How to Win:

Be the first player to reach Oregon City!

Found a patch
of blackberries
Move forward 2 spaces

Got lost and had
to backtrack
Move backwards 4
spaces

Got sick with
the measles
Move backwards 4
spaces

Caught some
fish!
Move forward 2 spaces

Snakebite!
Move backwards 1
space

Your wheel has
broken
Move backwards 2
spaces

Good Weather!

Move forward 3
spaces

Heavy
thunderstorm

Move backwards 2
spaces

Got sick with
the flu

Move backwards 3
spaces

Wagon gets
stuck in the mud

Move backwards 2
spaces

Quick Pace!

Move forward to the
next settlement



Found honey!

Move forwards 2
spaces

Ran out of
supplies

Move back to the
previous settlement



Made river
crossing safely

Move forward 3
spaces

Broken Arm!

Move backwards 2
spaces

Wagon tipped
over

Move backwards 3
spaces

Wagon flooded
during river
crossing

Move backwards 3
spaces

Restocked
supplies

Move forwards 2
spaces

Good Weather!

Move forward 3
spaces

Restful Sleep

Move forward 3
spaces

Traded with
Native Americans

Move forward 2
spaces

Found extra
supplies

Move forward 2
spaces

Wagon broke
during river
crossing

Move backwards 3
spaces

Supplies
Stolen

Move backwards 2
spaces

Made a friend

Move forward 2
spaces

Stung by a bee

Move backwards 1
spaces

Stuck in a blizzard

Move backwards 2
spaces

Crossed a river
successfully

Move forward 2
spaces

Quick Pace!

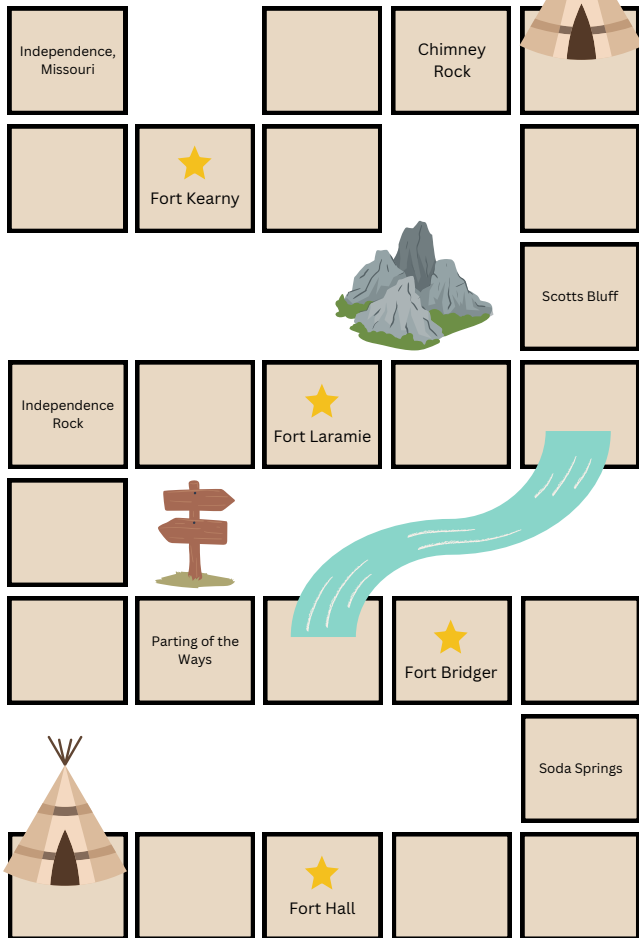
Move forward to the
next settlement



Prairie Fire!

Move backwards 2
spaces

Start

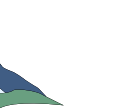




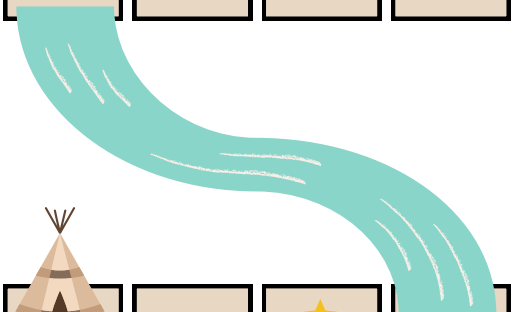
Three Island Crossing



★
Fort Boise



Blue Mountains



The Dalles



★
Fort Walla Walla



★
Fort Vancouver



Oregon City

Notable Stops

Every pioneer's journey was different, but here are some of the notable stops pioneers encountered along the trail.

Independence, Missouri:

Independence, Missouri marks the beginning of the approximately 2,000 mile long Oregon Trail. Before the journey along the Oregon Trail even begun many pioneers would have to travel to Independence first.

Fort Kearny:

In 1848, Fort Kearny was the first post to be established in order to protect settlers from Native American attacks. It was later included as a Pony Express station.

Chimney Rock:

Chimney Rock is approximately 315 feet tall and was an important landmark to determine how far the pioneers had come. Its name comes from the fact that it resembles the tall structure of a chimney.

Scotts Bluff:

In 1850, a new route was established that would save pioneers 15 miles in their journey. Since the path was very narrow, pioneers began to wear tracks from the wagon's wheels into the ground. These tracks are still visible today!

Fort Laramie

Fort Laramie was originally established for fur trading in 1834, but later it was purchased by the US Army and was converted to a trading post.

Independence Rock:

Independence Rock's name comes from a group of travelers who celebrated Independence Day (or the 4th of July) next to the rock in 1830. Later, pioneers would stop at the landmark to carve their names into its side. Many people would refer to it as "the Register of the Desert."

The Parting of the Ways:

The Parting of the Ways the spot where the Oregon and California Trails split off from one another. Pioneers who had traveled together for months would have to say goodbye.

Fort Bridger:

Fort Bridger was originally established by Jim Bridger as a fur trading post in 1843. Later, it became a very important stop for pioneers to resupply and take a break before continuing on their journey.

Soda Springs:

Soda Springs was one of the fascinating landmarks pioneers could encounter. The bubbling waters offered pioneers a relaxing place to wash up. Many pioneers also noted the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Fort Hall:

Fort Hall was established by Nathaniel J. Wyeth near the Snake River as a strategic trading post. Later, the fort was purchased by the Hudson Bay Company and eventually the U.S. military.

Three Island Crossing:

Three Island Crossing was a very dangerous river crossing located in Idaho. It marked a place where pioneers had to make a choice whether they would attempt to cross the Snake River or continue on a long and dusty trail.

Fort Boise:

Fort Boise was established near the Snake and Boise rivers and served as a place to resupply. By this point, pioneers had traveled approximately 1,400 miles.

Blue Mountain Crossing:

The Blue Mountain Crossing was the last mountain range pioneers had to cross on the Oregon Trail. To many it was a relief and marked the beginning of the end of the journey.

The Dalles:

Meaning slab of stone or flagstone in French, The Dalles was first discovered in 1805 during the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Dalles allowed pioneers to float along the Columbia River towards Oregon City.

Fort Walla Walla:

Fort Walla Walla was originally established as Fort Nez Percés in 1818. It was located close by the Columbia and Walla Walla Rivers.

Fort Vancouver:

Fort Vancouver served as the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company. Although, previously ordered to turn away pioneers traveling west, Dr. John McLoughlin allowed the purchase of any final supplies needed on credit. He was later named the "Father of Oregon" for his contributions to those traveling west.

Oregon City:

Oregon City marks the end of the long Oregon Trail, but the beginning of many pioneer's new lives in the west. Founded in 1842, Oregon City became the first official United States' city past the Rocky Mountains and the first capital of Oregon Territory.

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Interested in Learning More?

Papa and the Pioneer Quilt

By Jean Van Leeuwen

E VAN

If you were a Kid on the Oregon Trail

by Josh Gregory

J 978 GRE

Rescue on the Oregon Trail

by Kate Messier

J SER RAN

Twister on Tuesday

by Mary Pope Osborne

J SER MAG

Little House on the Prairie Series

by Laura Ingalls Wilder

J SER LIT

Fun Facts About Pioneers



Pioneers had to face challenges along the journey such as crossing rivers and mountains. However, once they settled in the west, their problems did not stop. They had to face brutal weather, conflict with Native Americans, and sickness.



In order to last the journey each person needed to bring approximately 200 lbs of flour, 100 lbs of bacon, 20 lbs of sugar, and 10 lbs of salt along with a few other items. There were a few places to resupply, but these were often very expensive



Pioneers packed as many of their belongings as would fit in a covered wagon. Oftentimes some things would have to be left behind with family or friends



The Oregon Trail was one of the most traveled routes by pioneers, and spanned over 2,000 miles from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon. Although some pioneers also took routes to California, Utah, and Texas.

Pioneers had to rely on their own skills to provide food for their families, build shelter, and make their own clothes. There was often only a few people in any given area, so pioneers had to make do with what they had.



The Homestead Act of 1862 enticed many pioneers to move to the western territories as it allowed those who settled and improved the land for at least 5 years free ownership of 160 acres of land.



Pioneers traveling west brought animals to help them start their new life in the west. Oxen, mules, and horses were needed to pull heavy wagons, while cows and chickens were brought for fresh milk and eggs.

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