

Interesting Facts about the Historic Trails (Explore the Galleries and Handouts) **Answer key**

- _____ trekked from west to east in 1812 after losing a ship off the Oregon coastline and discovered South Pass. **Robert Stuart**
- _____ was a mountain man who rediscovered South Pass in 1824 while traveling west. **Jedediah Smith**
- _____ led the first wagon train over the south pass in 1832. **Captain Benjamin Bonneville**
- The _____ caused many farmers to lose their farms and encouraged some to travel to the Oregon territory where land was free. **Economic Panic of 1837**
- In the Great Migration the first large caravan of settlers headed to the Oregon Territory in _____ (date). **1843**
- The Missourian cities of _____ and _____ became two of the most famous jumping off points for the Oregon Trail. **Independence and St. Joseph**
- Conestoga wagons were heavy farm wagons used by earlier travelers on the trail. These heavy wagons were replaced by _____ which were narrower wagons designed for travel along the trails. **prairie schooners**
- _____ were the draft animal of choice for the emigration west because they were cheaper than mules and horses, were less likely to be stolen, were strong and constant, and tasted good if needed for food. **Oxen**
- At an oxen's top speed of 2 mph, more than _____ miles could be covered on a good day. **15 miles**
- The average family spent \$_____ to outfit their wagon for the trip: flour, bacon, sugar, coffee, beans, rice, salt and pepper. **\$650-\$700**
- Emigrants packed enough food and clothing for a minimum of _____ months. **six**
- _____ was the first child to die from an accident on the Oregon Trail. His grave marker is still visible today near Glenrock, Wyoming. **Joel Hembree**
- The one-hour midday rest known as "_____" gave everyone a rest to recuperate for travel during the second half of the day. **nooning**
- _____ is the term used by the *New York Morning News* to describe Americans' pursuit of westward expansion. (This term was coined by John L. O'Sullivan in 1845.) **Manifest Destiny**
- The Donation Land Law of 1850 gave _____ of land to each family willing to settle in the Oregon territory. **640 acres**
- It is estimated that between _____ and _____ travelers journeyed along the Oregon Trail. **200,000/ 500,000**
- Disease made traveling on the trail difficult. Some were already sick with consumption (tuberculosis) and were making the trip for a healthier climate. Others caught diseases like Pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, and smallpox on the trail. Another disease, _____, mostly transmitted through contaminated drinking water or food was the deadliest disease on the trail. **Cholera**