



Junior Explorer

Pioneer Program Children's Activity Book



National Historic Trails Interpretive Center

Casper, WY



BLM



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that takes care of more than 245 million acres of public land. Most of these lands are in the western part of the United States. These lands are America's public lands, and they belong to all Americans. These lands are equal in area to nearly four times the land size of Wyoming.

The BLM manages public lands for many uses. The lands supply natural resources, such as coal, oil, natural gas, and other minerals. The lands provide habitats for plants and animals. People enjoy the big open spaces on the lands. The lands also contain evidence of our country's past, ranging from fossils to Indian artifacts to ghost towns and wagon wheel swells.

The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (NHTIC) is a partnership between the BLM and the National Historic Trails Center Foundation. Together these two entities envisioned and built a top notch center to interpret American overland passages westward. Today, the BLM owns and staffs the building and the Foundation owns and manages the exhibits, a very unique partnership.

The NHTIC supports the BLM mission by increasing public awareness of the history of Native American culture and the historical significance of the National Oregon, Mormon, California and Pony Express trails located on our public lands.

The NHTIC is also part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) which is specifically designed to conserve, protect and restore exceptional identified treasured landscapes.



BLM's Junior Explorer program helps introduce young explorers like you to the lands and resources that the BLM manages. This *Pioneer Program Activity Book* focuses on western trail heritage in Wyoming. This history has influenced the American culture you see today.

You can work through the activities on your own or invite a parent or adult you know to join you. When you complete the number of activities for your age group, please bring the booklet to the front desk or mail it to the address at the bottom of the page.

Ages 7 or under please complete five circles. (5 ●)

Ages 8 to 11 please complete ten circles. (10 ●)

Ages 12 and over please complete all activities.

Then say the Junior Explorer pledge on the back cover, sign the certificate, and you're on your way to exploring and protecting America's public lands.

As a Junior Explorer you will:

EXamine historical connections.

Promote wise stewardship of your land and resources.

Learn about your heritage.

Observe the surrounding landscapes.

Reveal observations and trail history to others.

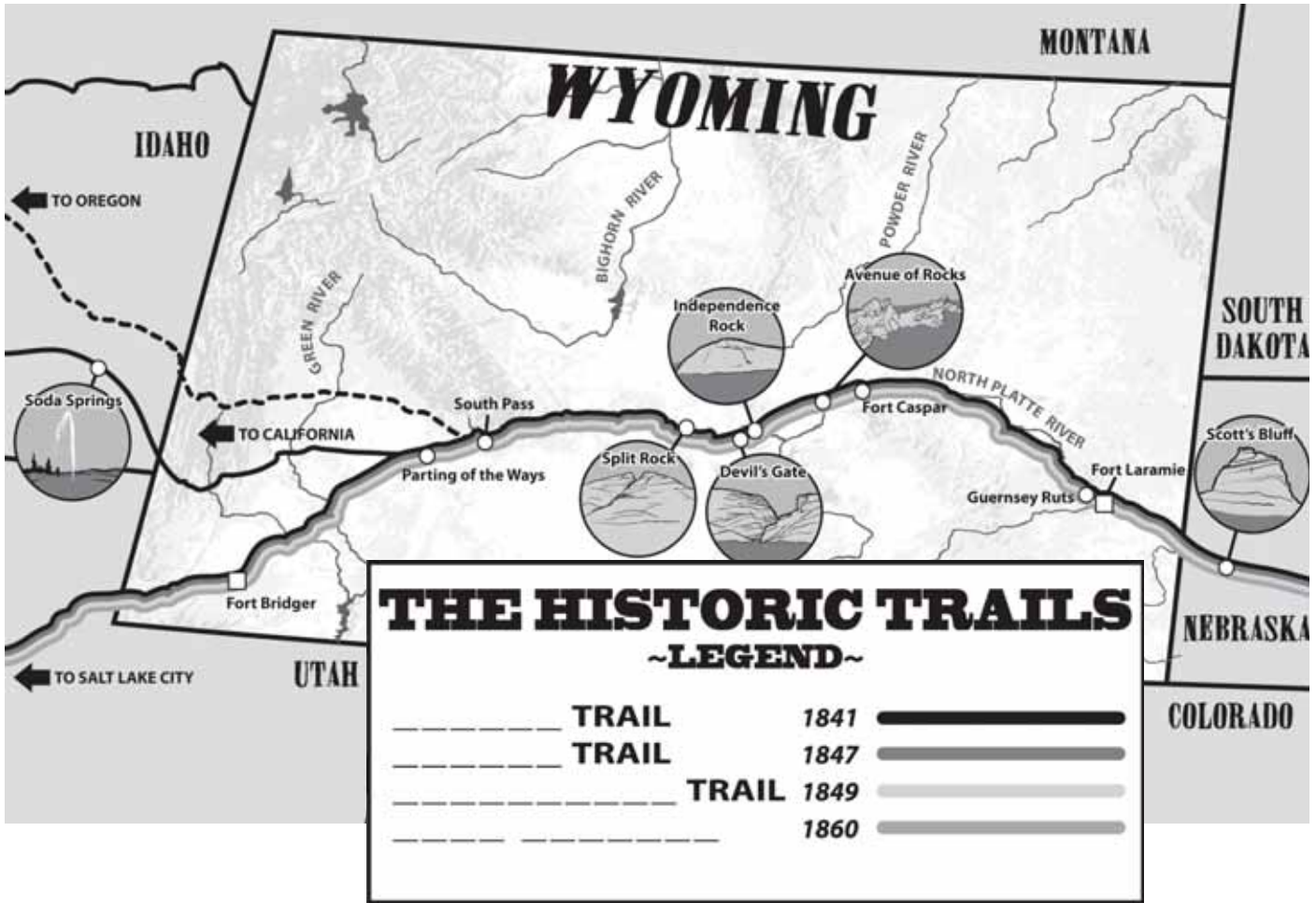
Empower your mind with knowledge.



— — — — — today!

● (Fill in the bold letters to discover the message.)

NHTIC
Attn: Jr. Explorer
1501 N. Poplar St.
Casper, WY 82601



● Label the trails on the legend.



April, 1850

Father said everyone went west for different reasons. We are going for the farm land in the Oregon Territory. Others we passed wanted freedom to practice their religion. Mother remarked today that she is glad Father does not have high dreams of striking it rich in the gold fields like those bound for California. No matter the motivation, I think everyone's journey will be long and tedious. Sister and I walk at least 12 miles everyday. Father says we should reach our new home before winter, five months away.

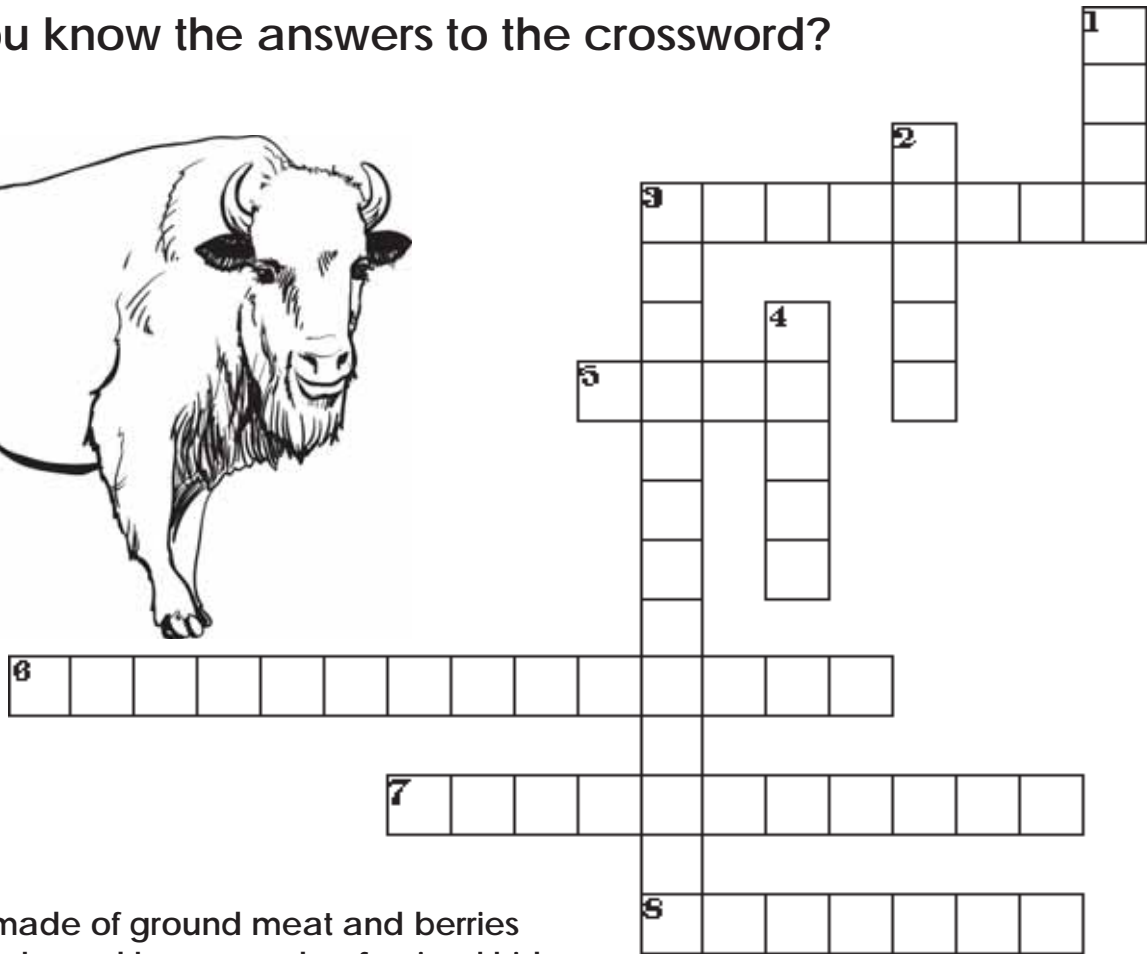
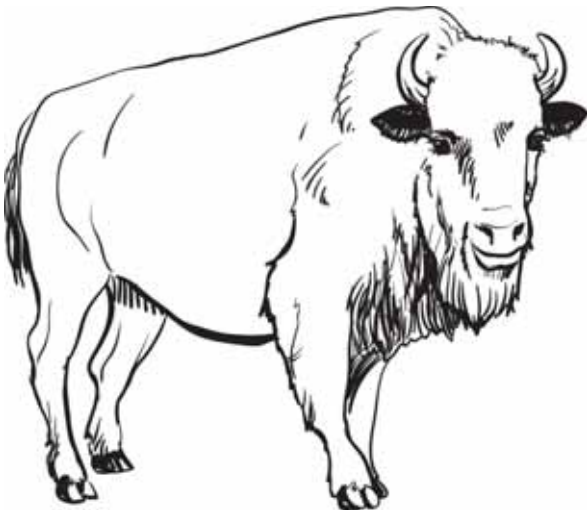
● What would motivate you to walk 2,000 miles?



May, 1850

Today we saw some Indians from a distance. They were not dangerous as some say. Soon we will see the shaggy beasts called buffalo.

● Do you know the answers to the crossword?



Across

- 3. Dry food made of ground meat and berries
- 5. A conical shaped home made of animal hides
- 6. Indian nick-name for black frontier soldiers
- 7. These areas contain the bones of mass buffalo killing sites
- 8. Tool used to scrape hides clean

Down

- 1. Used as a cup or to carry fire
- 2. Large cow-like animal living in North America
- 3. People who lived on the Great Plains and hunted buffalo
- 4. Used to sew animal hides together

bison	horn	scraper
buffalo jump	pemmican	sinew
buffalo soldier	Plains Indians	tipi

June, 1850

We are traveling on what Father calls the "Great Platte River Road," along the North Platte tributary. Sister and I discover strange new things on the trail every day. Today Sister and I searched for odd looking plants and played a game imagining their uses. Sister sketched the plants so she could remember them.



● Circle the plants you saw on your visit today.

Yucca



Yucca

We saw the Indians use the roots as shampoo.

Mother used this on our cut feet.

The fruit looks delicious. How do we eat it without poking our fingers?

The flowers are tasty.

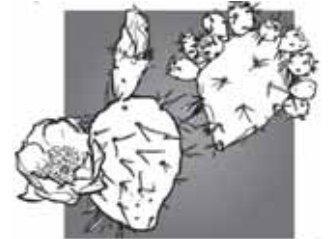
This one is not for eating!

Yarrow



Achillea Millefolium

Prickly Pear Cactus



Opuntia

Indian Paintbrush



Castilleja

Sagebrush



Artemisia Tridentate



Protect our fragile landscapes: "Take photos not flowers!"

- Use the decoder to discover the trail names.
The travelers on the trail provide a hint.

DECODER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
3	7	22	2	1	18	23	9	19	21	8	5	20

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24	17	16	12	15	4	13	26	14	25	10	6	11

Missionaries
1832-1869



17	15	1	23	17	24

The Saints
1846-1869



20	17	15	20	17	24

22	3	5	19	18	17	15	24	19	3

Argonauts
1848-1869



Riders
1860-1861



16	17	24	6

1	10	16	15	1	4	4

Frontier Soldiers
1863-1868



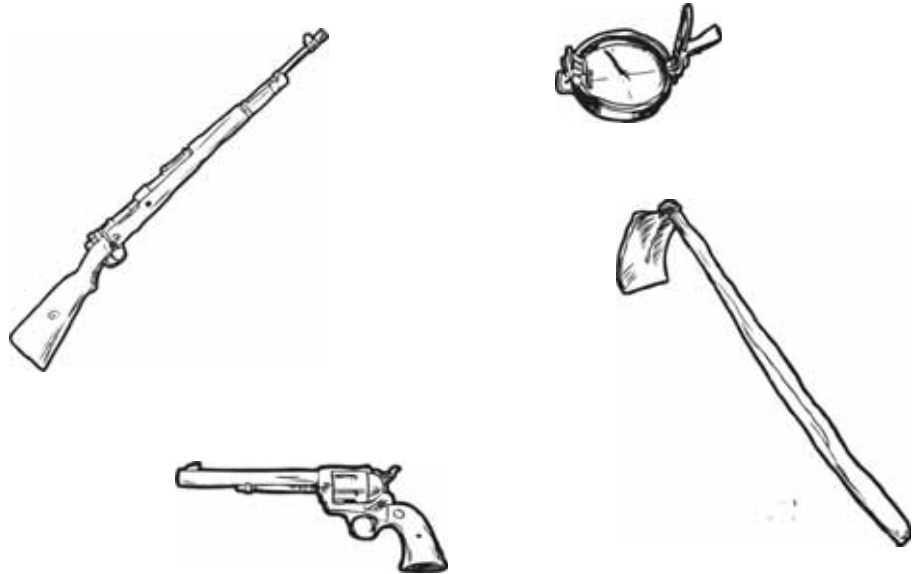
7	17	11	1	20	3	24

● Which tools did they need?
Match the tools to the three different trades.

Trapper



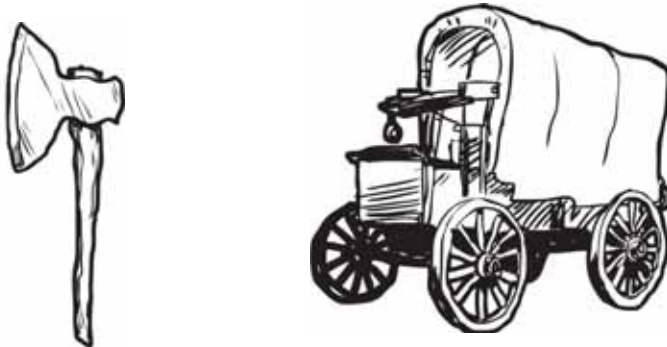
*Robert Stuart's party
built Wyoming's first
cabin near Bessemer
Bend in 1812.*



Pioneer



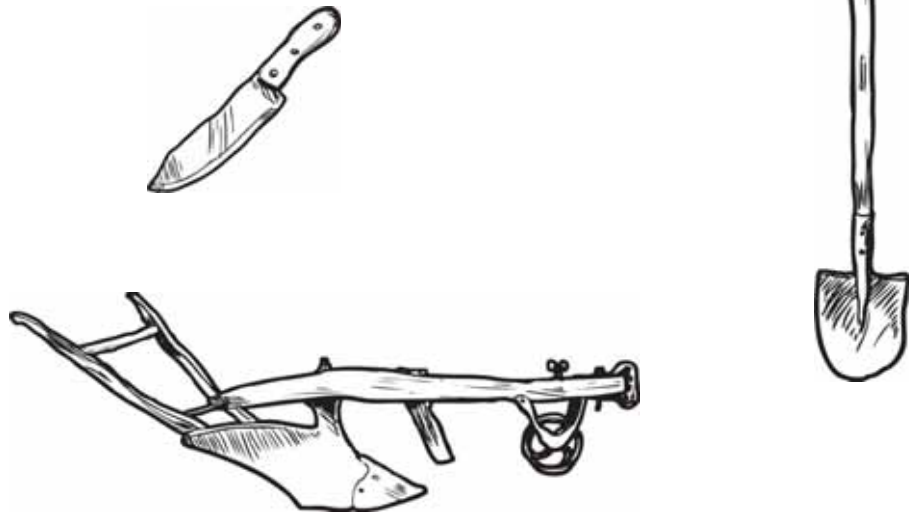
*Crossing the North Platte
River was dangerous.*



Pony Express Rider



*Platte Bridge Station was a
Pony Express Relay Station.*



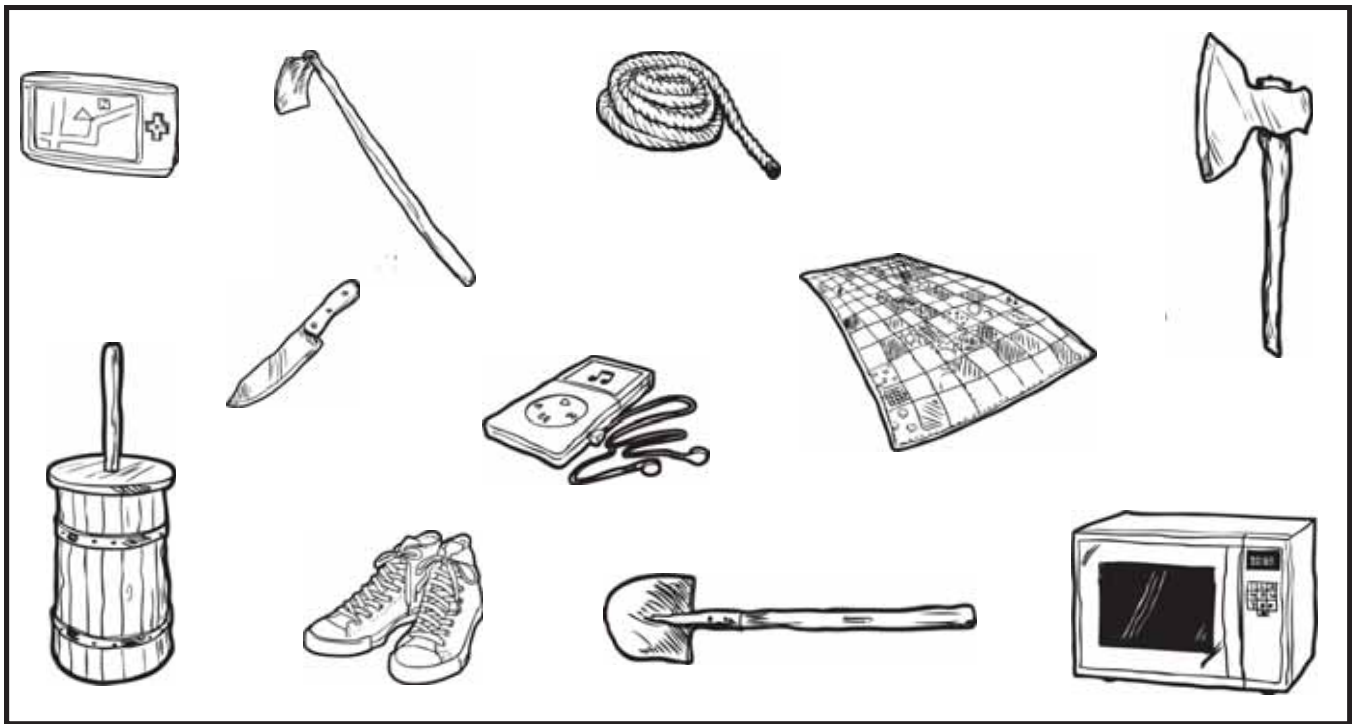
Failure to prepare is preparing for failure.



April, 1850

Mother and Father packed for our entire journey west. Our wagon is crammed tight with supplies. I asked Father why we couldn't buy things on the trail. He said supplies may be scarce and too expensive along the way. Mother is fretting day and night about our supplies. We women worry.

- Help Mother make wise decisions by circling the items emigrants packed for their journey.



- Complete the Suggested Food Supply List:

Flour	_____	_____
Bacon	_____	_____
Beans	_____	_____

May, 1850

Mother says I must measure ingredients carefully when cooking. If I use too much today then we will not have enough for tomorrow. Cooking meals is difficult over the open fire. Yesterday, I prepared mosquito flapjacks. Mother wouldn't let the batter go to waste.



Think through the preparation of your breakfast. How would you cook it without the use of a microwave, stove, or refrigerator? Where would you get the ingredients without grocery stores? Are you able to find or trade for the supplies you will need to make breakfast?

● Imagine you are an emigrant on the trail and list the steps you would use to prepare the breakfast you ate this morning.

How would you make a fire? _____

What ingredients do you need? _____

Where will you get them? _____

How will you prepare your meal?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

A few bushels of buffalo chips will do the job if wood is scarce.

Fresh eggs come from chickens.

Grinding nuts will make a form of flour.

Cheese and butter can be made from fresh cow's milk.

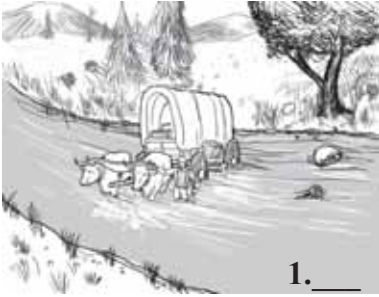
Sticks make good spatulas.



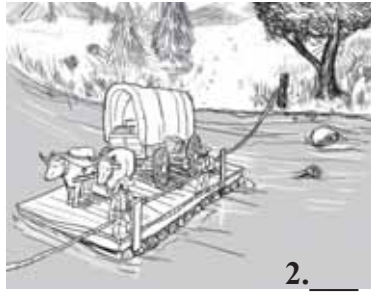
July, 1850

We said goodbye to the Platte River today. Father paid \$1.25 to cross the wagon, Mother and Sister on the ferry. I swam across with our cattle. It was a tiring day.

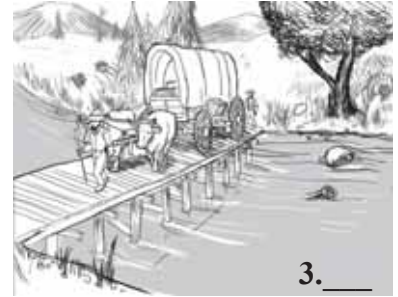
- Match the correct date.



1. ___



2. ___



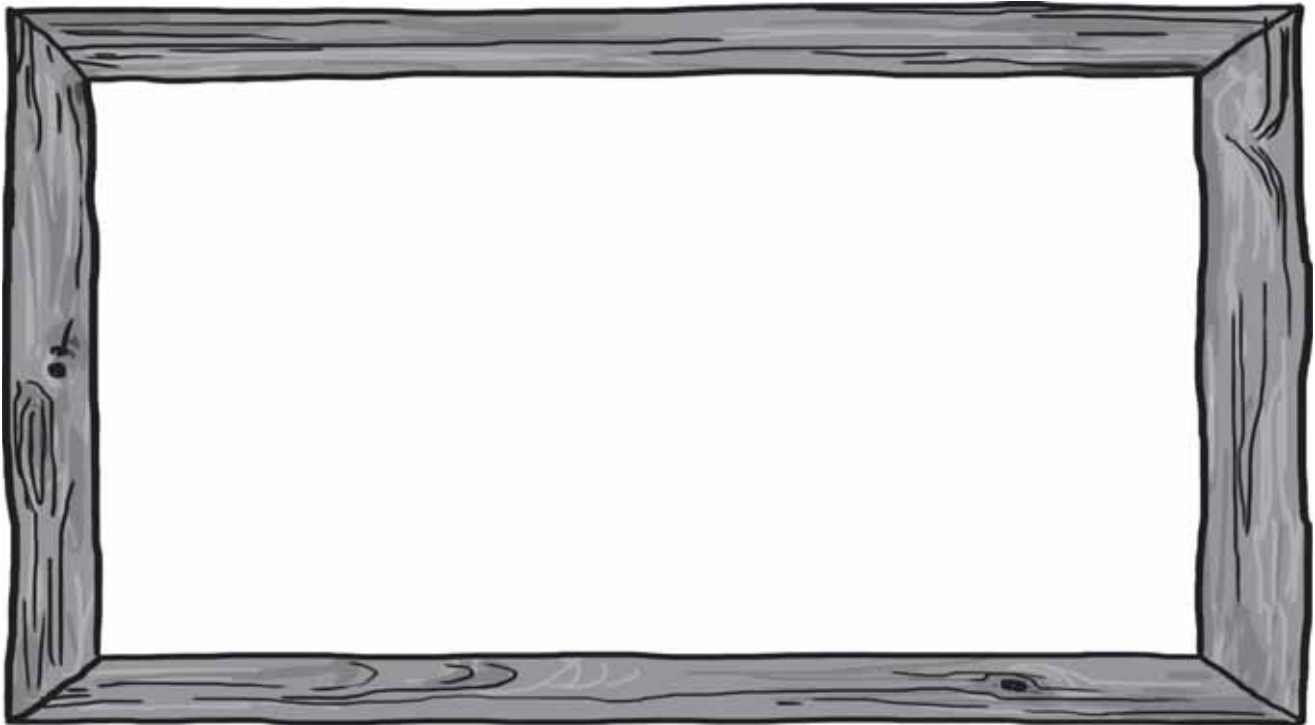
3. ___

A. 1851

B. 1836

C. 1847

- Sketch the sights the emigrants would have seen outside the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center.



- How will you cross the river? _____

July, 1850

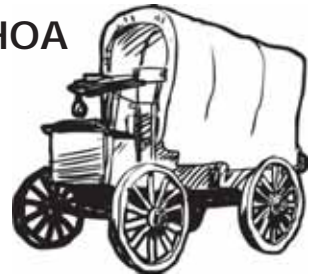
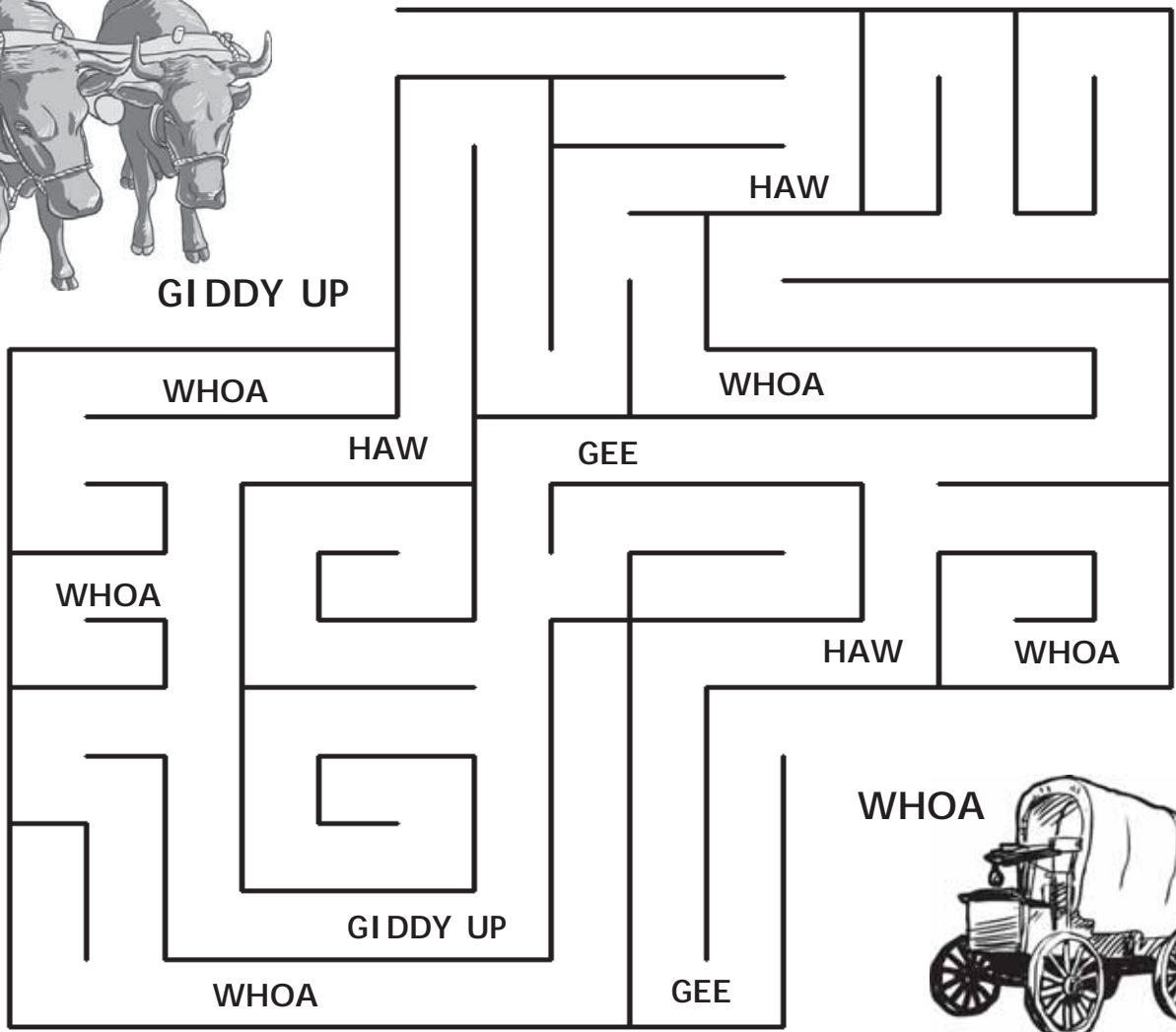
Today Brother learned how to command the oxen. Father was sick with fever in the wagon. Mother said it's not cholera, but she worries.



● Help command the oxen through the maze.



GIDDY UP



WHOA

● Use the clues above to fill in the correct commands.



Stop _____

Right _____

Move _____

Left _____



August, 1850

Brother and I write in our journal as much as we are able. We want Grandpa to know about our life going west. Father promises to mail him our journal from our new home in Oregon. He said we will arrive there before the end of September.

● Write about today's visit.

DATE _____

LOCATION _____



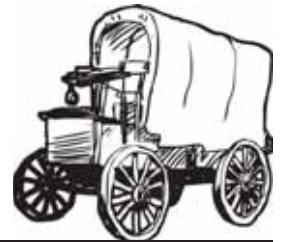
September 30, 1850

OREGON at last! We will stay the winter helping Mr. Farmer in return for food. Next spring we will move to our own farm.



● Find the hidden trail vocabulary words.

T U S A C N C T C G F S L S D R V N R U
 H R A T E A R H N U N O S D E F O R D R
 S X A X A A O I O X T A R N V E R U T S
 A N O N C G N P I L P O O T I X M V W L
 E H V D S O E E L H E O F V L P A Q X B
 A M N Q O C G C T A H R F F S L N A L S
 E A I N D O O U O C T F A B G O I T G V
 H C B G S L O N S A O T Y P A R F R C Q
 G Z P E R S A E T G C R E V T E E A O I
 O N R F S A I E N I R H K R E R S I N I
 L U S E A R N I R E N F M V I D T L E N
 D K K S I V P T F K N E I F X V D S S D
 Y M M A C M O U N T A I N M A N E K T I
 M O R X U R O P C T R E A T I E S R O A
 O P K J O V E R L A N D E R A P T U G N
 T E L E G R A P H U C J N B H L I D A S
 I N D E P E N D E N C E R O C K N M H I
 G U Y A K X P I O N E E R Y Z R Y N Z N
 N B H D E U O D A D F R B S I Z A M N H
 U P B Z V G M V A M E K Q A U C Y G B T



Cholera	Handcart	Platte River
Conestoga	Independence Rock	Prairie schooner
Cut-off	Indians	Ruts
Devil's Gate	Jumping-off	South Pass
Emigrant	Manifest Destiny	Stagecoach
Explorer	Mountain man	Telegraph
Ferry	Nooning	Trails
Ford	Overlander	Transcontinental
Fort	Oxen	Treaties
Gold	Pioneer	Yoke

October, 1850

Father was elated today when he found out that the Donation Land Claim Act was passed. What auspicious news! He and Mother are both entitled to 320 acres of FREE Oregon Land. Mother explained to Sister and I that women in the States could not own land. She secretly told us that she would work the land with her own hands just to have her name on the title. (Four years away!) I spent the rest of the day dreaming of plans for our farm.



- Develop symbols to represent the following:

House

Water

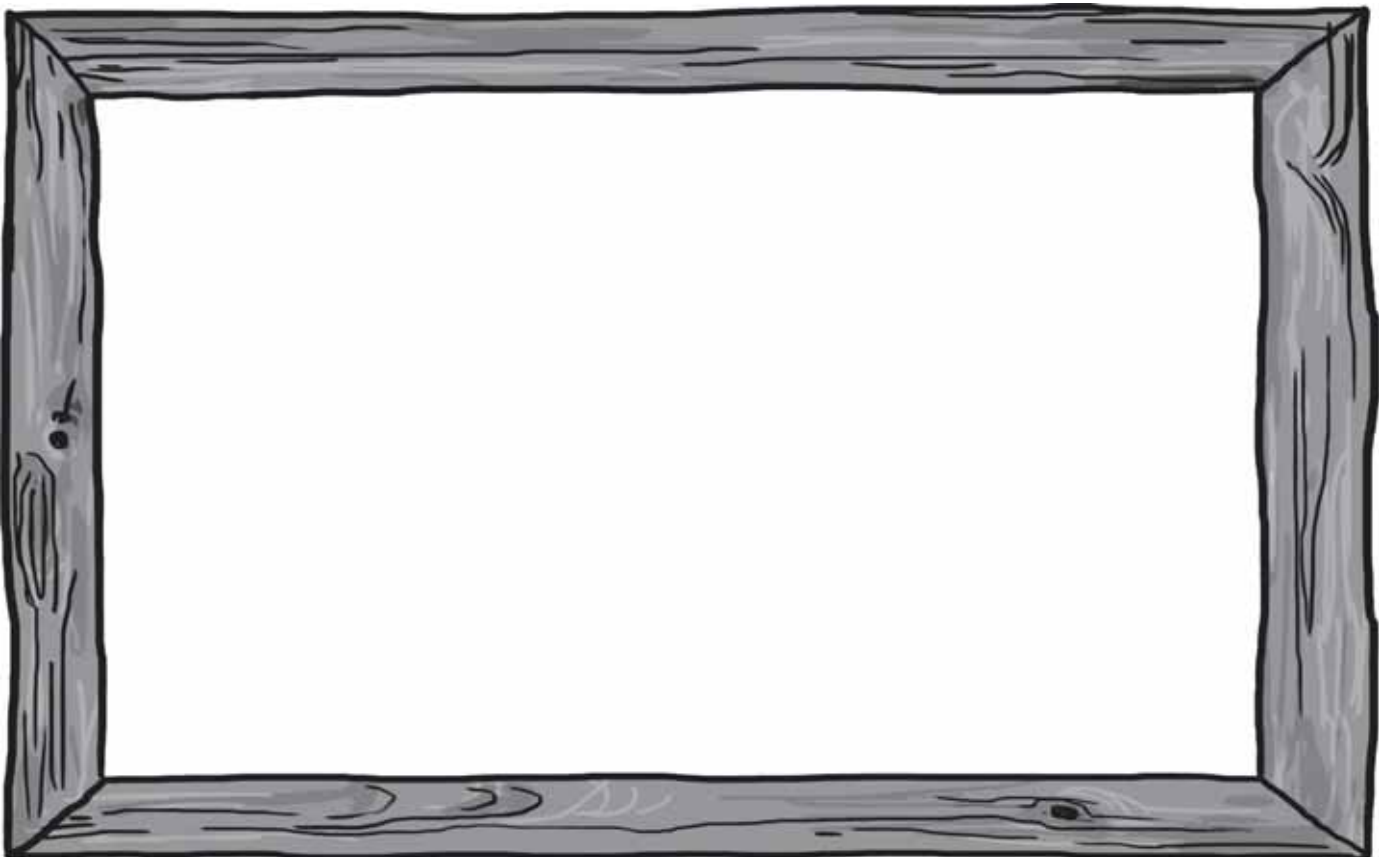
Barn

Crops

Tree

Garden

- Design your farm.



October, 1861

Sister and I are waiting to hear news on the completion of the telegraph line to California. Everyone is overjoyed with the prospect of quick communication. Maybe one day they will complete a transcontinental railway and Grandpa can come live with us.



A	● ■	J	● ■ ■ ■	T	■
B	■ ● ● ●	K	■ ● ■	U	● ● ■
C	■ ● ■ ●	L	● ■ ● ●	V	● ● ● ■
D	■ ● ●	M	■ ■	W	● ■ ■ ■
E	●	N	■ ●	X	■ ● ● ■
F	● ● ■ ●	O	■ ■ ■ ■	Y	■ ● ■ ■ ■
G	■ ■ ■ ●	Q	■ ■ ■ ● ■	Z	■ ■ ■ ● ●
H	● ● ● ●	R	● ■ ●		
I	● ●	S	● ● ●		

- Write your name in code.

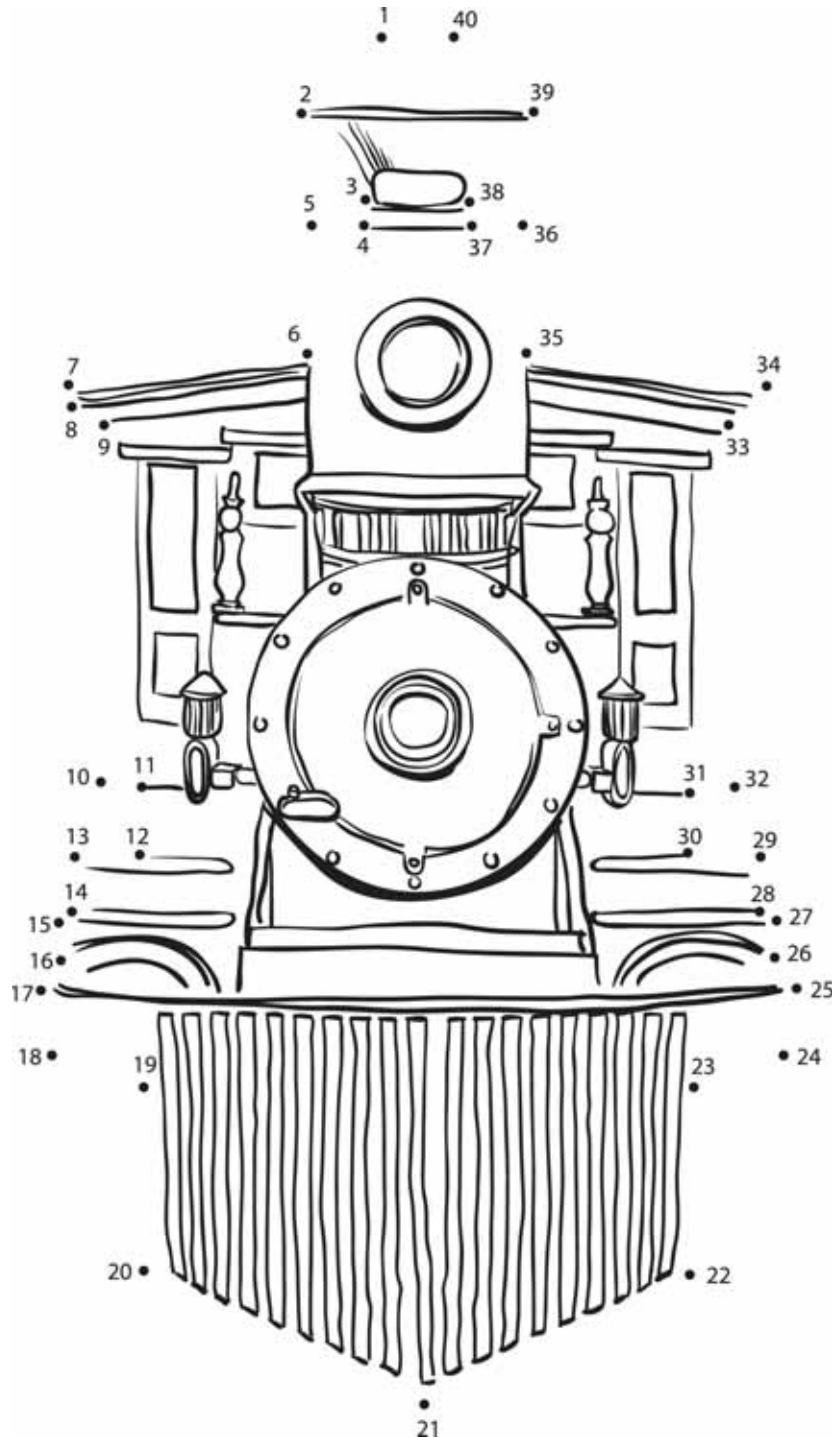
- What important message would you send?



July, 1869

The transcontinental railroad is finally complete. Father is sending money for Grandpa to come live in Oregon with us. We will all meet him in Sacramento next month. Brother and I are very excited to introduce him to his great-grandchildren.

- Connect the dots to view how Grandpa will travel west.



BLM Historic Emigrant Trail Centers

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER



1501 N. Poplar Street
Casper, WY 82601

(307) 261-7780

Trailcenter_wy@blm.gov

The California Trail Interpretive Center

3900 Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801

(775) 738-1849

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/
elko_field_office/blm_programs/
blm_special_areas/california_trail_historic.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/california_trail_historic.html)



National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

22267 Highway 86
P.O. Box 987
Baker City, OR 97814

(541) 523-1843

Oregontrail@blm.gov



National Historic Oregon Trail Center at Flagstaff Hill

Did you meet Seymour, the pronghorn antelope, on your visit today?

Pronghorns are very common in Wyoming and Seymour's friends are often seen outside our Center. Look closely in the grass and you may see a few resting.

Seymour wants you to go outdoors today and explore safely.

Please respect Seymour and his friends by keeping your distance while taking photographs.

Also, help us protect his habitat by recycling this booklet after your visit.

Interesting Pronghorn Facts:

- Both male and females have horns.
- They are the fastest hoofed animal in North America, running up to 60 miles per hour.
- Pronghorn are herbivores who eat grass and sagebrush.
- Their eyes can detect movement up to 3 miles away.
- Pronghorn would rather crawl under a fence than jump it.



See More. Do More. Explore your Public Lands.

National Historic Trails Interpretive Center



Jr. Explorer Certificate

As a Bureau of Land Management Junior Explorer, I promise to:

- do all I can to help preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources on our public lands,
- be aware of how my actions can affect other living things and the evidence of our past,
- keep learning about the importance of nature and our heritage, and
- share what I have learned with others!

Explorer Signature

Official Signature

Date

