



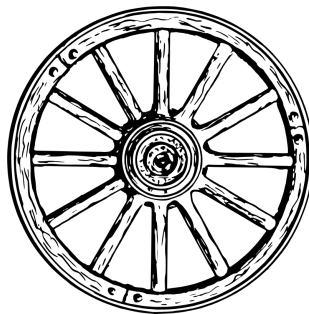
Needs vs. Wants (K-2)

Packing the Overland Trail Wagon

Pioneers who made the decision to travel west had to make some tough choices about what to bring as they packed up their lives for a start somewhere new. In this activity, students will explore the concepts of needs vs. wants and make decisions about what to pack in their wagon before heading west.

Preparation:

1. Tape a 10' x 4' rectangle onto the floor.
2. Print Needs vs. Wants Sort (Pg.2) (one per group of students).
3. Print Pack Your Wagon! handouts (Pgs. 4-7) (one per group of students).



Directions/Activity Overview:

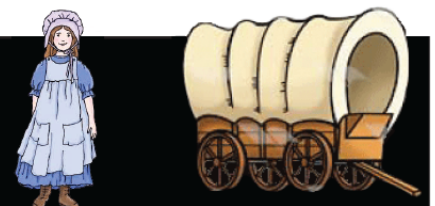
1. Review the difference between a **NEED** and a **WANT**.
NEED- something we must have to survive
WANT - something that is desired, but not necessary for survival
2. Complete the Needs vs. Wants Sort and discuss reasons why each item fits into each category.
3. Draw student attention to the taped rectangle on the floor. This is the only space they have available to pack for the upcoming journey. Have students discuss the limited space, and what kinds of items might take priority over others.
4. Complete the Pack Your Wagon! Handout. Students will review a shopping list and select 5 items from each list to bring in their wagon. Students will color and cut out their selected materials and glue them to their wagon handout.

Materials:

- crayons
- scissors
- pencil
- tape (masking or painters)
- glue stick

Questions:

- What is the difference between a need and a want?
- What choices did families have to make in order to prepare for the journey? What happened if they didn't bring something that they later needed?
- What would be the most important things you would take with you? Why are they important?



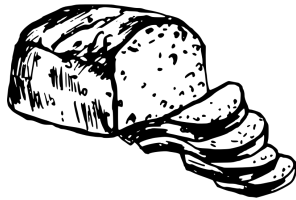


Wants vs. Needs Sort

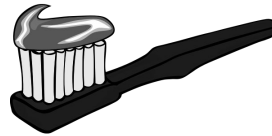
Wants	Needs



Cell Phone



Food



Toothpaste



Cupcake



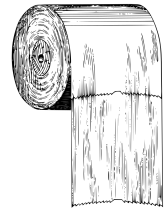
Clothing



Crayons



Video Games



Toilet Paper





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Teacher Introduction (Pack the Wagon!)

Teachers,

This page will provide you with a script to guide your conversation with your students and to provide you with some background information about packing the wagon. Teacher dialogue is in green below, and student activity suggestions will be listed in italics.

When we are getting ready to go on a trip, we have to think about the things we need to take with us. When we have limited space, we have to make choices about what things we need. When the pioneers were getting ready to go on their trips, the space was very limited, and they had to pick and choose the MOST important things to bring along. Today, we are going to be pioneers, making choices about what to pack in our wagons for our difficult journey West.

Welcome to Independence, Missouri! Today we are getting ready to go head West to Oregon City, Oregon to start a new life. The date is May 20, 1843. It will take us about 5 months to cover around 2,000 miles. We need to make it to Oregon before winter and the bad weather. Out on the trail, we will be camping every night, rain or shine. We need to pack everything we need. There are no stores or hotels along the way.

ACTION: Have students stand inside taped rectangle and notice the size.

Before we go, we need to pack our wagon. This small space is the only room we have to pack our supplies. A normal wagon could hold 2,000 pounds. They were made of wood and iron. Oxen and mules were used to pull the wagons. Horses ate too much, were too picky of eaters, and were too expensive. There will be no room to ride, except for babies and the elderly. We have to use ALL the space! There is no room for things we do not need.

ACTION: Show students an image of a sample wagon.

Here is what many prairie wagons looked like. Sometimes they were called prairie schooners because they looked like sailboats across the prairie with the canvas tops. We're going to create and pack our own wagons for the journey.

ACTION: Have students get into families or teams to complete this activity. Students can color their wagon.

Now that the wagon is painted and prepped, we need to pack! We will be looking at two groups of items: food supplies and dry goods. You must choose 5 items from each list to pack on our journey.

ACTION: Students will choose 5 items from each list and cut them out, color them, and glue them to their wagon. They should be prepared to share why they made the choices they did.



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Pack Your Wagon!

Directions:

As a team, you will pack a wagon for a family of 4. Decide as a team what you will bring in your wagon, and what you will leave behind. Choose 5 items from each list. Color and cut out your chosen supplies.

As you get ready to pack... think about these questions:

1. What would be the most important things you could take with you? Why are they important?

2. Think about the options below. Rank them in order of importance. 1= most important, 6=least important.

	Being hungry
	Feeling cold and wet
	Not having favorite or meaningful personal belongings
	Not feeling safe
	Being stranded
	Feeling bored


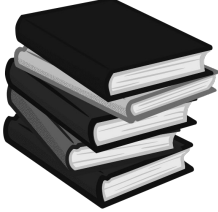
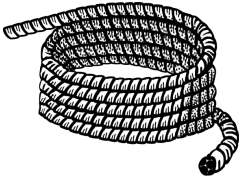



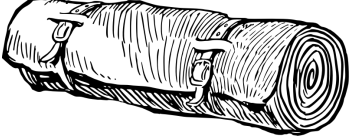


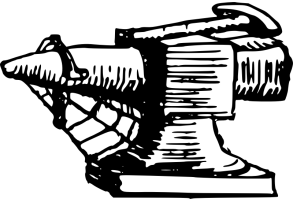
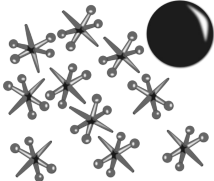



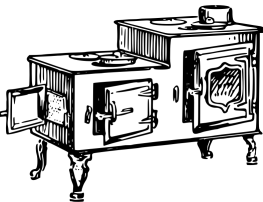





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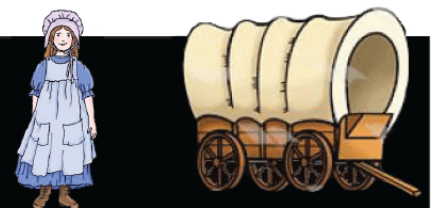
Pack Your Wagon!

Dry Goods

 <p>Mirror</p>	 <p>Books</p>	 <p>Rope</p>	 <p>Gunpowder</p>
 <p>Clock</p>	 <p>Cookware</p>	 <p>Bedroll</p>	 <p>Chair</p>
 <p>Medicine</p>	 <p>Blacksmith Tools</p>	 <p>Box of Toys</p>	 <p>Musical Instrument</p>
 <p>Tent</p>	 <p>Fishing Gear</p>	 <p>Stove</p>	 <p>Clothing</p>



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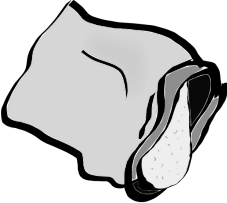



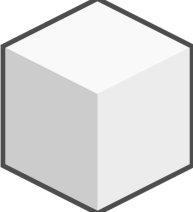

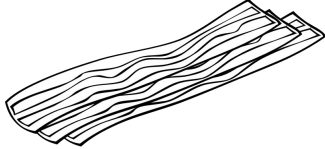




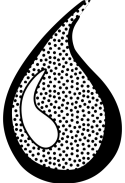
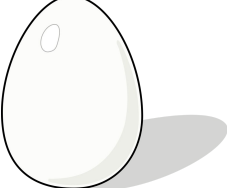

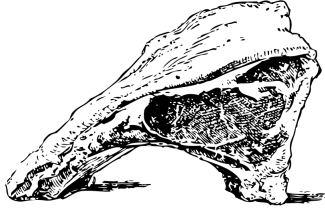
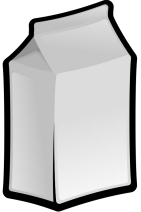


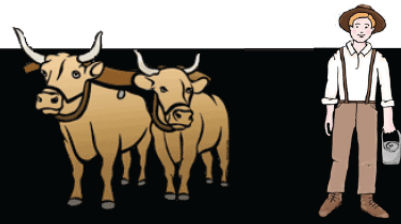


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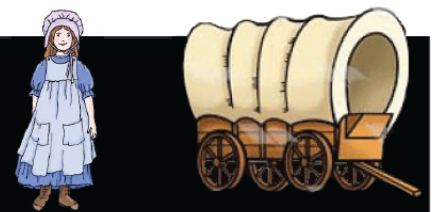
Pack Your Wagon!

Food Supply

 <p>Flour</p>	 <p>Tea</p>	 <p>Salt</p>	 <p>Cornmeal</p>
 <p>Sugar</p>	 <p>Beans</p>	 <p>Bacon</p>	 <p>Lard</p>
 <p>Apple Vinegar</p>	 <p>Rice</p>	 <p>Coffee</p>	 <p>Water</p>
 <p>Eggs</p>	 <p>Dried Fruit</p>	 <p>Dried Meat</p>	 <p>Milk</p>



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