

Name _____

4/23/15 – 5/1/15

4th Grade Newsletter

What We're Learning

Reading

- Moonwalk
- Inferencing

Math

- Geometry
- Fractions
- Decimals

Science/S.S.

- Oregon Trail

Homework

Reading

- Read 20 minutes each night.
Complete your reading log activity

Spelling

- Take your spelling pre-test
- Study your spelling words to prepare for a test on Friday

Math

- Students will receive math homework each day from their math group teacher. The homework should be completed that night and returned to school the following day.
- Practice your math facts!!!!!!

How to Reach Me

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4th Grade Website

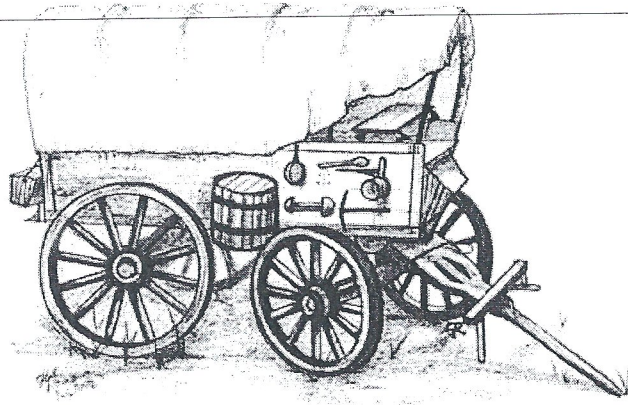
Banksfourthgrade.weebly.com

Upcoming Events

5/7 Kindergarten
Orientation

5/9 Barnes and Noble Book
Fair

Pioneer Spelling List



1. Conestoga
2. calico
3. bonnet
4. gingham
5. crackers
6. washbowls
7. leather
8. medicine
9. manifest
10. destiny
11. landmarks
12. pioneer
13. wagon
14. schooner
15. expedition
16. hazardous
17. settlers
18. families
19. axel
20. yoke
21. oxen
22. journal
23. migration
24. route
25. prairie

Spelling

Homework Ideas

- ABC order: Write your words in alphabetical order.
- Word Sort: Sort your words by vowel sounds, patterns, syllables, etc.
- Repetition: Write your words 3 times each
- Sentences: Write a sentence for each spelling word.
- Word Art: Draw a picture and write your words in the picture.
- Story time: Write a short story using all your words.
- Creative Letters: Write your words by cutting out letters in an old newspaper or magazine and glue them on a paper.
- Pyramid: Write your words adding or subtracting one letter at a time. The result will be a pyramid shape of words.
- Good Clean Words: Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely.
- Handwriting: Write each word 3 times in your best handwriting.
- Cheer your words: Pretend you are a cheerleader and call out your words!
- Sound Words: Use a tape recorder and record your words and their spelling. Then listen to your tape, checking to see that you spelled all the words correctly.
- Choo-Choo Words: Write the entire list end-to-end as one long word, using different colors of crayon or ink for different words.
- Flashwriting: In a darkened room, use a flashlight to draw letters in the air.
- Timer: ~~Set a timer.~~ Set it for 3 minutes. See how many times you can write your words before the timer goes off.
- Scramble: Have a parent scramble your spelling words. You unscramble them.
- Chalk: Write your words outside using sidewalk chalk.
- Letters: Write each word as many times as there are letters in the word.
- Out loud: Spell your words out loud 2 times to a brother or sister, mom or dad.
- Trace Around: Print your spelling words neatly. Take a colored pen and draw an outline around the word, closely following the shapes of the letters. Close your eyes and remember the shape.
- Colorful Words: Use two different color pens to write your spelling words. Use one color to write the consonants and the other for the vowels.
- Military spelling: Do jumping jacks, as you clap say a letter to spell your words.
- Finger Tracing: Use your finger to spell out each of your words one letter at a time on your Mom or Dad's back. Then it's YOUR turn to feel and spell. Try to guess the word.
- Practice Test: Have an adult give you a practice test.
- Scratch n' Sniff: Write letters with glue on paper, and then sprinkle with Jell-O. Makes a super scratch n' Sniff when tracing over the letters.
- Computer Words: Have your child type their spelling words ten times each on the computer. Use different colors and fonts and print it out!
- Words-in-words: Write your word and then write at least 2 words made from each.
- Snap and Spell: Snap on each letter, clap when you say the word at the end.
- Create an activity: Can you think of a fun way to do your spelling activities? Try it out.



Trading Station

Answer the questions based on the information given on the sign at the trading station.

TRADING STATION

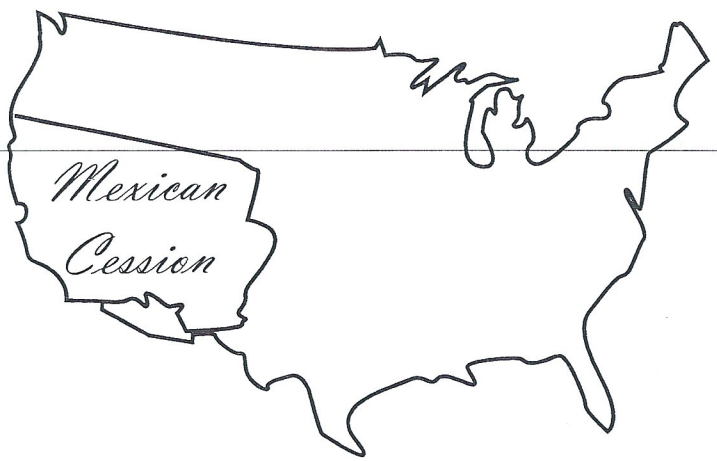
1 Beaver pelt = 12 silver coins
1 Buffalo hide = 25 silver coins
1 River Otter skin = 2 gold coins
5 silver coins = 1 gold coin

1. Trapper Jim comes into the station with 45 beaver pelts. He would like to get gold for his pelts. How much will he get? _____
2. Bad Hand Gus claims he has double the number of beaver Jim brought in and 4 buffalo hides and 2 otter skins. How much will he get in silver coins? _____ Gold coins? _____
3. Silvermith Sue brings in a bag of gold coins and wants to trade them for silver. She is planning on melting the silver down and making jewelry for the tourist trade. How much silver will she get if one bag contains 35 gold coins? _____
4. Grizzled Graham wants to buy groceries for the next month. He will need flour, eggs, sugar, honey, and beans. The total will be 6 gold coins. How many buffalo and otter skins will he need to get his supplies? _____
5. Pathfinder Polly steps in to trade eggs for buffalo skins. She would like to make buffalo hide blankets for her five children. Each blanket will require $1\frac{1}{2}$ hides. How many eggs will she need to give if each hide costs 75 eggs?

6. If Polly brings in 25 eggs a week, how many weeks will it take her to raise the amount she needs? Convert the time into weeks and months. _____
7. Slick Sam's sled can hold 140 beaver pelts and 24 buffalo skins when fully loaded. If the sled is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, how many pelts and skins are on it? _____

The WILD WEST

People and Events That Shaped the American West



Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny was the 19th Century belief that the United States was destined, or meant, to occupy all land from the Atlantic Ocean to the coast of the Pacific. For the settlers, American expansion meant new land to farm, places to mine for metals and minerals, and natural resources.

For the Native Americans, however, the expansion meant the loss of their land, and sometimes even their lives. For this reason, American troops and Native American tribes sometimes engaged in battle. The United States government forced some Native Americans from their homelands and relocated them to far away places. Many lost their lives on the journey to these new places.

The idea of Manifest Destiny was used as a reason to annex the Republic of Texas in 1845, Oregon in 1846, and the Mexican Cession in 1848. The Mexican Cession consisted of what is now California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Later on, it was used to justify U.S. involvement in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

Fun Fact:

The term "Manifest Destiny" was first used by writer and journalist John O'Sullivan in an 1845 magazine article.

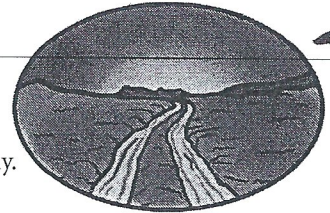
If you were a settler in the American West, would you believe in Manifest Destiny? Why or why not?

The Great Migration of 1843

In the 1840s the United States barely spread passed the Mississippi River. Western areas at that time belonged to Mexico or were open country. Texas was fighting to be its own republic. And to head west from the safety of organized borders and cities was daring and dangerous.

Read along and connect stops on the Oregon Trail headed west on the map.

1. Almost 1,000 people with 120 wagons and several thousand cattle left Independence, MI within days of each other in May 1843. It was the largest group at the time to travel west. They didn't know it yet but their successes would spur other Americans dreaming of Manifest Destiny.



Oregon Trail

2. Shawnee Mission was an outpost built by the Methodist church in the 1830s, and the first night's camp of many emigrants.

3. Alcove Spring rewarded travellers with a restful, green place for fresh water. And by now they needed it! Overland travellers had gone over 165 miles from Independence, most of them on foot.

4. Traveling hundreds of miles along the southern side of the Platte River emigrants had to ford across before it forked to reach the North Platte River and continue west. Nearby, Ash Hollow offered clear, spring water but only after a dangerous, steep hill. After drinking muddy Platte water for so long, many thought it was worth the hazard.

5. Today Chimney Rock stands at an impressive 325 feet from the spire to the base. Back then it was taller, and inspired many attempts to climb it.

6. Reaching Fort William (called Ft. Laramie since 1850) meant that emigrants were a third of the way there. The fort also marked the start of the Rocky Mountains.

7. Emigrants reached Independence Rock by Independence Day. After 1843 migrations were an annual event and travellers knew if they hadn't reached here by July 4th, they were behind schedule and in danger of being trapped in the mountains during winter.

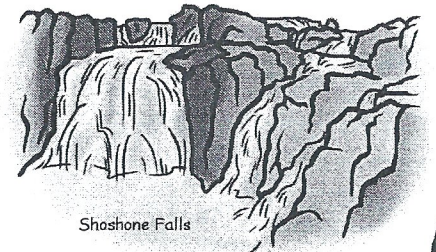


Independce Rock

8. The most important trail site was the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains—an opening in the mountain range about 20 miles wide. It was the halfway point of the trail, (and it crosses the Continental Divide). Wagons would not have had access to the western territories without it.

9. Built at the Black Fork of the Green River in 1843, Ft. Bridger was started by Jim Bridger, a famous mountain man, and seasoned fur trapper, Louis Vasquez, to resupply the emigrants to Oregon.

10. Fort Hall was owned by the British business, Hudson's Bay Company. Employees at the fort had been convincing travellers to abandon their wagons, and generally discouraged people from going to Oregon Country. Led by Dr. Marcus Whitman, most of the wagon train in 1843 pressed on; some split toward California.



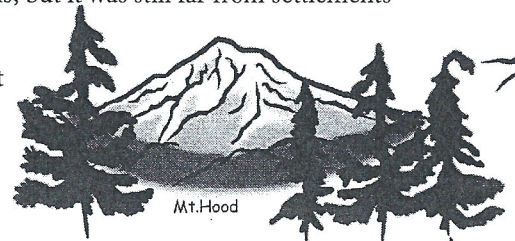
Shoshone Falls

11. Shoshone Falls on the Snake River was a short side trip for some. It was a remarkable sight, higher than Niagara Falls.

12. There were still 400 miles to go from Boise, and worries of getting to Willamette Valley before winter.

13. The green Grande Ronde valley was a welcome sight after traveling dry plains, but it was still far from settlements or protection.

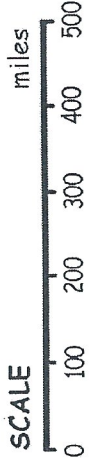
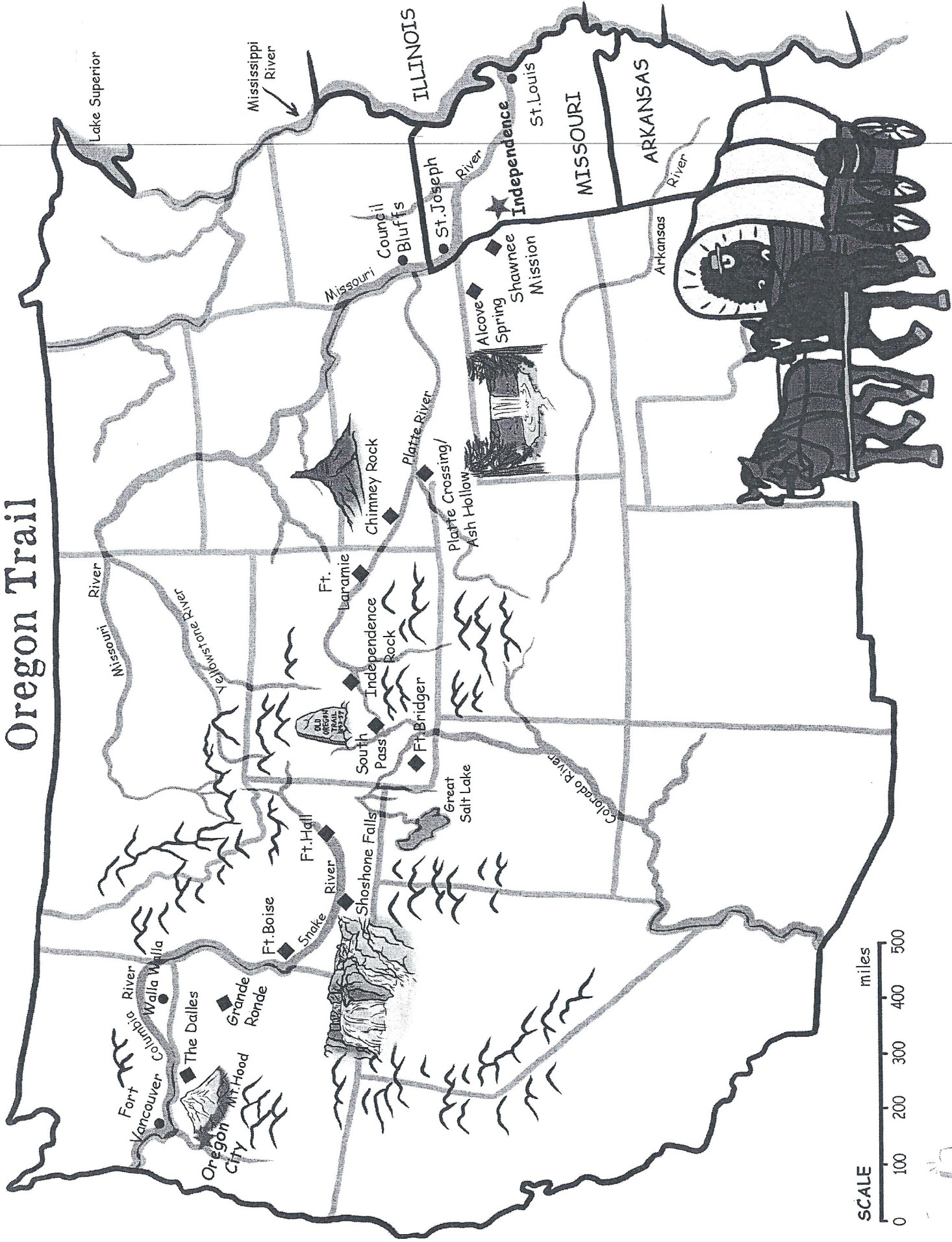
14. When the wagon train reached The Dalles they were stopped short by Mount Hood. Wagons had to be disassembled and floated down the Columbia River, and cattle lead around the mountain.



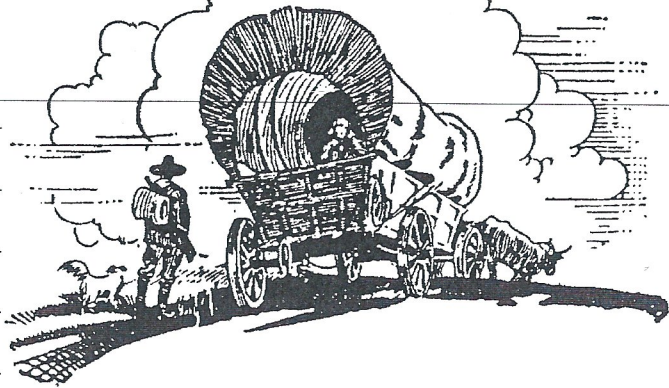
Mt.Hood

15. In October 1843 the wagon train made it to Oregon City, the hub of the Willamette Valley. And the end of the 2,000 mile trek!

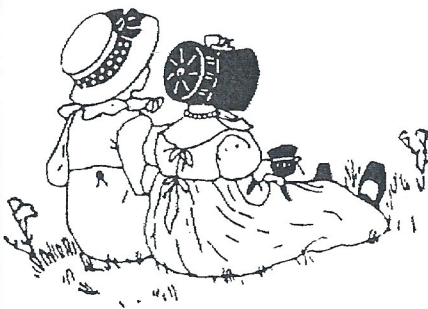
Oregon Trail



What was a wagon train?
What was its purpose?



What was life like for children
on the trail?



Weekly Reading and Comprehension

Date _____
Title _____

Time: _____

Main Idea

Date _____
Title _____

Time: _____

Four new and wondrous
words

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

Date _____
Title _____

Time: _____

Time Setting Place

Date _____
Title _____

Time: _____

Authors Purpose (Circle One)
Entertain Inform Persuade

How do you know?

Date _____
Title _____

Time: _____

Write two questions you have
about your story

1. _____
2. _____