

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Oregon Trail 2nd Grade Survival Quest: Can You Make It?

Step into the boots of a pioneer family crossing the Great Plains to decide which supplies and decisions lead to a successful journey.

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**1. If your wagon reaches a very deep, rushing river with no bridge, which choice shows the best problem-solving for a pioneer?**

**Answer:** A) Wait for the water to go down or pay a ferry to help

Pioneers had to be patient and safe; waiting for shallow water or using a ferry prevented losing all their food and supplies.

**2. Pioneer children usually spent their whole day sitting inside the wagon playing with plastic toys.**

**Answer:** B) False

Space was limited for food and tools, so children usually walked alongside the wagon and had many chores like gathering wood.

**3. Before leaving, a family has to choose only one heavy item to bring. Which would help them survive the most?**

**Answer:** C) A large barrel of salted meat

Food was the most important resource; luxury items like sofas were often left on the side of the trail to lighten the load.

**4. Many pioneers used 'buffalo chips' for their campfires. Why was this a clever use of the environment?**

**Answer:** B) There were very few trees for wood on the plains

On the flat grasslands, wood was scarce, so pioneers adapted by using dried buffalo manure as fuel for cooking.

**5. The Nez Perce people lived in the West long before the pioneers arrived and knew the land very well.**

**Answer:** A) True

Indigenous nations like the Nez Perce were expert hunters and gatherers who had lived in the West for thousands of years.

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**6. Pioneers often traveled in large groups called \_\_\_\_\_ to help each other stay safe.**

**Answer:** A) Wagon trains

Traveling in a 'wagon train' allowed families to share tools, help fix broken wheels, and protect one another.

**7. If a pioneer family arrived in the mountains in late autumn, what was their biggest danger?**

**Answer:** B) Getting stuck in early deep snow

Timing was critical; if pioneers didn't cross the mountains before winter, they could be trapped by snow storms.

**8. Living in a 'Sod House' (made of dirt and grass) was better than a log cabin on the plains because there were no trees.**

**Answer:** A) True

Settlers on the Great Plains used what was available; 'soddies' stayed cool in summer and warm in winter using earth materials.

**9. Instead of horses, many pioneers chose \_\_\_\_ to pull wagons because they were stronger and less likely to get tired.**

**Answer:** B) Oxen

Oxen were much slower than horses but could pull much heavier loads and survive on the grass found along the trail.

**10. How did the lives of Native Americans change when millions of buffalo were killed by new settlers?**

**Answer:** C) It was harder to find food, clothes, and shelter

Many tribes depended on every part of the buffalo for survival; losing the buffalo meant losing their most important resource.