

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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

- A. Wait for the water to go down or pay a ferry to help
- B. Try to swim across while holding all the heavy boxes
- C. Leave the wagon behind and walk the rest of the way
- D. Build a giant kite to fly the oxen over the river

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. A heavy velvet sofa
- B. A piano for songs
- C. A large barrel of salted meat
- D. A collection of heavy rocks

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

- A. They smelled like flowers
- B. There were very few trees for wood on the plains
- C. They could be eaten as a snack
- D. The smoke kept away all the rain

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

- A. True
- B. False

6. Pioneers often traveled in large groups called _____ to help each other stay safe.

- A. Wagon trains
- B. Bicycle lines
- C. Party buses
- D. Walking clubs

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

- A. Sunburns from the heat

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- B. Getting stuck in early deep snow
- C. Having too much food to carry
- D. Missing their favorite TV show

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Dogs
- B. Oxen
- C. Elephants
- D. Goats

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

- A. It made no difference to their lives
- B. They used cars instead of buffalo
- C. It was harder to find food, clothes, and shelter
- D. They were happy because buffalo were scary