

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Frontier Supply Wagon: A 2nd Grade Pioneer Quest

Students pack a virtual wagon and plan a route while solving the same challenges real pioneer families faced on their journey west.

1. If you are a pioneer child, why is a 'prairie schooner' a more useful home than a wooden cabin during your trip?

- A. It has wheels to move while you sleep.
- B. It is made of heavy bricks that stay warm.
- C. It can fly over the tall mountains.
- D. It stays in one place like a tent.

2. True or False: Most pioneer children had to walk beside the wagon for hundreds of miles instead of riding inside it.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Pioneers often followed the _____ River because it provided water for their animals and a flat path to travel on.

- A. Platte
- B. Hudson
- C. Amazon
- D. Nile

4. Your family needs to cross a deep river. Which choice is the smartest way to keep your flour and sugar dry?

- A. Throw the bags into the water and swim.
- B. Wait for the water to freeze into ice.
- C. Caulk the wagon with tar to make it float like a boat.
- D. Leave the food behind and buy more later.

5. Since there were no trees on the flat plains, children collected 'buffalo _____' to use as fuel for their cooking fires.

- A. feathers
- B. chips
- C. leaves
- D. stones

6. You meet a group of Nez Perce people on your journey. How could they most likely help your family survive?

- A. By teaching you how to use a computer.

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- B. By showing you which wild plants are safe to eat.
- C. By giving you a map of the New York subway.
- D. By building a brick shopping mall for you.

7. True or False: Pioneers preferred to use horses to pull their wagons because they were stronger and stayed calmer than oxen.

- A. True
- B. False

8. Pioneers used a 'chimney' in the desert called _____ Rock to know they were heading in the right direction.

- A. Chimney
- B. Diamond
- C. Pizza
- D. Cloud

9. Why did many pioneer families move West to live in 'sod houses' made of dirt and grass?

- A. They wanted to live underground like rabbits.
- B. There were no trees on the plains to build wooden houses.
- C. Dirt was the most expensive material they could buy.
- D. They forgot to bring tools to cut wood.

10. True or False: A 'jumping-off point' was a town where pioneers bought supplies before starting their long trip.

- A. True
- B. False