

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Dusty Trails and Secret Maps: A Pre-K Frontier Quest

Construct a new settlement by choosing the right tools and deciding where your pretend pioneers should sleep tonight.

1. If you were a pioneer child moving West, which of these would you BUILD to keep your family warm and safe?

Answer: B) A log cabin made from trees

Pioneers used the natural resources around them, like wood from trees, to synthesize sturdy shelters called log cabins.

2. True or False: Pioneers had to decide which toys to leave behind because their wagons were too small for everything.

Answer: A) True

This requires reasoning about limited space; settlers had to prioritize survival tools over playthings during the journey.

3. To find their way through the tall grass and mountains, explorers looked at a _____ to see where to go.

Answer: C) Map

Explorers used spatial reasoning and maps to navigate unknown territories without the help of modern technology.

4. You reached a big river! There is no bridge. How will you get your heavy wagon to the other side?

Answer: C) Look for a shallow 'ford' to cross or turn the wagon into a raft

This involves problem-solving and synthesis; settlers had to adapt their transport to overcome natural geography.

5. True or False: Native Americans and settlers sometimes shared food and ideas about the land.

Answer: A) True

Understanding cross-cultural exchange helps students synthesize how different groups interacted in the same space.

6. Pioneers didn't have a grocery store. To get food, they had to _____ seeds and wait for them to grow.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer: B) Plant

Students must connect the concept of survival to the multi-step process of farming and waiting for a harvest.

7. If the sun is going down and it gets cold, what is the FIRST thing you should create for your camp?

Answer: A) A campfire for warmth

Prioritizing needs is a complex reasoning task; warmth and light were essential for safety on the frontier.

8. A wagon train is a group of families who travel _____ to help each other stay safe.

Answer: B) Together

This identifies the social structure and collaborative strategy used by pioneers during Westward Expansion.

9. True or False: Every person moving West found gold right away and became very rich.

Answer: B) False

This requires evaluating a myth; most settlers moved for land and farming, and finding gold was very rare.

10. You see many different plants! How do you know which ones are safe to eat?

Answer: B) Ask a Native American or someone who knows the land

This synthesizes the importance of environmental knowledge and learning from the people already living in the West.