

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Wagon Wheel Dilemma: A Pre-K Adventure in Western Choices

Preschoolers weigh the heavy choices of a long journey across 10 interactive questions exploring tools, teamwork, and the diverse paths across the plains.

1. If your heavy wagon is stuck in the deep mud on the way to a new home, which friend helps you the most?

Answer: B) A strong, pulling ox

Oxen were powerful animals used to pull heavy wagons over difficult terrain during the westward journey.

2. True or False: In the old West, families sometimes had to leave their favorite toys behind because their wagons were too full.

Answer: A) True

Families had to prioritize survival items like food and tools, often leaving heavy furniture or toys on the side of the trail.

3. A family needs to cross a very wide river. To stay dry, they should turn their wagon into a ____.

Answer: C) Boat

Settlers often caulked their wagons with tar to make them float like boats when crossing deep rivers.

4. You meet a person who has lived on this land for a long time. What is the kindest way to learn about the best water holes?

Answer: B) Trade a story or a gift

Cooperation and trading between settlers and Indigenous peoples were essential for learning the geography of the West.

5. True or False: The pioneers used a GPS on a phone to find their way to Oregon.

Answer: B) False

Pioneers used landmarks like Chimney Rock and the stars to navigate, as modern technology did not exist then.

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6. The sun is going down and it is getting cold on the prairie. What should your family build first to stay safe?

Answer: B) A circle of wagons

Circling the wagons provided a corral for livestock and a protective barrier for the family at night.

7. If there are no trees to build a house, a smart family might build a house made out of ____.

Answer: C) Grass and dirt (Sod)

On the Great Plains, wood was scarce, so families used 'sod' (bricks of earth and grass) to build their homes.

8. Which of these is a REAL job a child would have on a wagon train?

Answer: B) Picking up buffalo chips for fuel

Children often helped collect dried buffalo dung, called 'chips,' to use as firewood because there were few trees.

9. True or False: Every person who moved west found a big bag of gold right away.

Answer: B) False

While many hoped for gold, most people worked very hard as farmers or ranchers and never became rich from mining.

10. To keep their food fresh without a fridge, settlers used lots of ____.

Answer: A) Salt

Salt was used to preserve meat so it wouldn't spoil during the many months of travel across the country.