

Westward Ho!

Extension Activities

Invite students to:

1. Write a humorous story about pioneers traveling west from an unusual perspective. What might the covered wagon, a pair of shoes or a team of mules think about such a long and dangerous journey?
2. Put together a diorama of a wagon train in action. For example: crossing a river, trading at a frontier fort, struggling through a storm or making camp on the prairie.
3. Design a travel brochure that showcases all of the wonderful and not-so-wonderful things a person would find after they left their home and traveled to Oregon on a wagon train.
4. Make a game board that depicts a wagon train traveling the Oregon Trail as it struggles to cross the prairie to settle on a homestead on the West Coast.
5. Create a "Pioneer Cookbook" by collecting recipes that contain the main food items carried on a covered wagon such as beans, cornmeal, flour, dried apples, bacon, coffee and sugar.
6. Conduct a debate or panel discussion addressing the costs and benefits of leaving your home and traveling to an unknown location.
7. Pretend to be a pioneer and write a letter to a relative back home who is considering joining the next wagon train traveling west. The letter should include three positive things about your experiences as well as three negative things.
8. Create a pioneer trivia game. Topics could include dangerous animals, covered wagon cooking, frontier forts, weird weather, pioneer people and types of transportation.
9. Research the construction of the covered wagons used by the pioneers and build a model of one.
10. Draw a picture of a "well dressed" pioneer, labeling all of his/her important accessories.



Westward Wagon Research

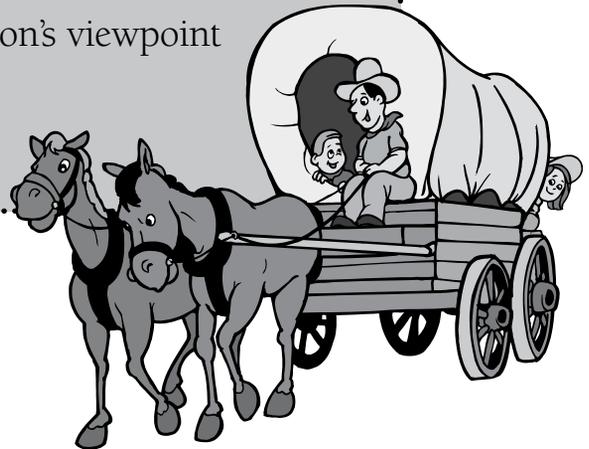
Lesson II - Visual I

Fact – Anything that can be checked out or verified to be true.

A factual statement can be proven true with research by using books, the Internet, interviews and observation.

Opinion - A statement that tells a person's viewpoint or belief.

An opinion cannot be proven true or false. However, it can be supported by facts.



Example:

Opinion

The covered wagons the pioneers traveled in were cramped and uncomfortable.

Facts Supporting This Opinion

- Wagons would be filled with all the supplies necessary for the long trip.
- Wagons were made of wood.
- They were usually twelve feet long, four feet wide and two feet deep.
- The canvas “bonnet” was five feet above the wagon bed.
- The only set of springs was under the driver's seat.
- Sometimes the heat of the prairie would cause the wood of the wagon wheels to shrink and their iron rims would roll off.

Westward Wagon Research Topics

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1. Boonesborough | 10. John Fremont | 19. Rattlesnake |
| 2. Daniel Boone | 11. Geronimo | 20. Sitting Bull |
| 3. Jim Bridger | 12. Wild Bill Hickok | 21. Sutter's Mill |
| 4. Buffalo (Bison) | 13. Johnny Appleseed | 22. Tornado |
| 5. Kit Carson | 14. Annie Oakley | 23. Wagon Train |
| 6. Covered Wagon | 15. Oregon Trail | 24. Laura Ingalls Wilder |
| 7. Davy Crocket | 16. Paul Bunyan | 25. Brigham Young |
| 8. Wyatt Earp, | 17. Pecos Bill | Student Choice (<i>with permission</i>) |
| 9. Fort Laramie | 18. Quilt | |

Westward Wagon Research

Lesson II - Visual II

Topic: American Buffalo



Three Facts

1. The American buffalo is a bovine mammal and is actually a bison.
2. This animal can be six feet tall and weigh between 900-2000 pounds.
3. In the 19th century the buffalo was almost hunted to extinction.

Opinion #1

Buffalo are
funny-looking

Opinion #2

A buffalo would
make a bad pet

Westward Wagon Research

Lesson II - Activity

The graphic is a stylized wagon with a pointed front. The front section is a triangle containing the labels 'Topic:' and 'Illustration:'. The main body of the wagon is a large rectangle divided into three horizontal sections. The top section is labeled 'Facts' and contains a numbered list with three blank lines. The middle section is a circle labeled 'Opinion #1'. The bottom section is a circle labeled 'Opinion #2'.

Topic:

Illustration:

Facts

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Opinion #1

Opinion #2

FAMOUS FRONTIER FOLKS:

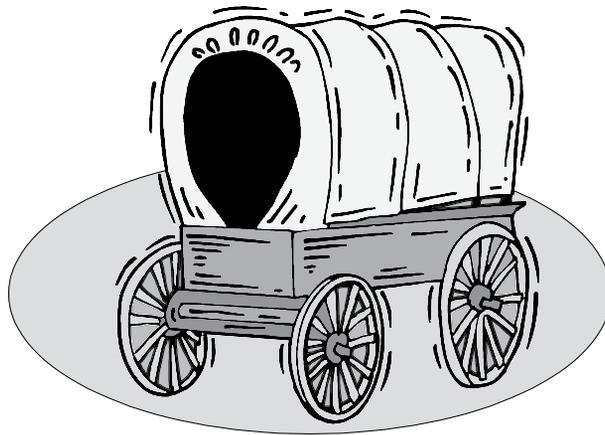
Fact or Fiction?

It is true that some historical figures led such extraordinary lives that they seem legendary. It is also true that some literary characters have been so brilliantly written they seem to be real.

For example:

Christopher “Kit” Carson was fourteen when he left home to become an apprentice to a saddle maker. He ran away and became a frontiersman who had many adventures as an Indian Agent, Pioneer Scout, and Civil War Officer.

Francis Alphonse Tucket was fourteen when he was separated from his family who were traveling west on the Oregon Trail. He was captured by Indians, escaped with the help of a trapper and had many adventures as he tried to reunite with his family.



Kit Carson, the famous frontiersman, is a factual person.

Francis Tucket appears in Gary Paulsen's book, *Mr. Tucket*. He is a **fictional** character.

Do you think these “characters” are fact or fiction?

Billy the Kid

Calamity Jane

Caddie Woodlawn

Febold Feboldson

FAMOUS FRONTIER FOLKS:

Fact or Fiction?

Directions: Match the “frontier folks” to the correct description.

1. ____ Paul Bunyan

5. ____ Slue-foot Sue

2. ____ Buffalo Bill Cody

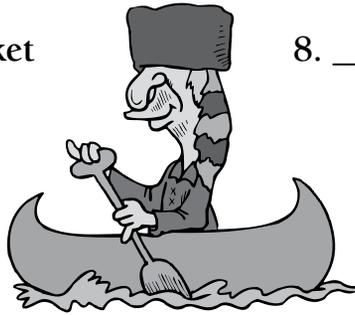
6. ____ Pecos Bill

3. ____ Johnny Appleseed

7. ____ Annie Oakley

4. ____ Davy Crocket

8. ____ Daniel Boone



A. Fact– His real name was John Chapman and he planted apple orchards in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Ohio. (Two hundred years later, some of those trees still bear apples.)

E. Fiction– He was raised by coyotes when he fell out of his parents’ covered wagon. It is said he could ride tornados and used a rattlesnake as a whip.

B. Fact– He cleared a trail through the Cumberland Gap, which is known as the “highway to the frontier.”

F. Fact– A brave frontiersman, politician and soldier, he is still considered “King of the Wild Frontier”.

C. Fact– Born William Frederick Cody, this former army scout became the founder of the very popular Wild West Show.

G. Fiction– She was a remarkable cowgirl who was said to be able to ride a catfish down the Rio Grande River.

D. Fiction– This enormous man is said to have cleared the land in North and South Dakota and dug the Missouri River.

H. Fact– Know as “Little Sure Shot” she was the star sharpshooter of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.

FAMOUS FRONTIER FOLKS:

Fact or Fiction? Answer Key

Directions: Match the “frontier folks” to the correct description.

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5. G Slue-foot Sue

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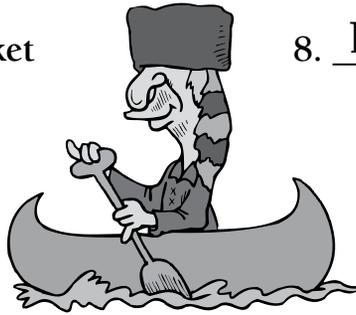
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