

Oregon Trail: Independence, Missouri

- ▶ For many years, Independence Missouri was the starting point for the Oregon Trail.
- ▶ This is where most emigrants stocked their wagons and got information on the traveling the Trail.



Wagons West!

- ▶ A family of 4 would need a 1,000 pounds of food for the 2,000 mile trip!
- ▶ Most wagons were actually small farm wagons with sturdy axles.
- ▶ Vital supplies included water, tools, farm gear, and spare parts - often over a ton of cargo!



The Oregon Trail



- ▶ The Oregon Trail was 2000 miles long!
- ▶ Many people called it the highway to the future.
- ▶ 34,000 people died along the trail. Some have calculated that there is a pioneer grave for every 80 yards on the Oregon Trail!
- ▶ Traffic on the Oregon Trail was at its greatest between 1843 and the 1860s.

Chimney Rock, Nebraska

- ▶ Emigrants encountered a strange rock formation early in their trip.
- ▶ Some considered it the most spectacular scenery of the whole trip.



Shoshone Falls, Idaho

- ▶ The Falls were an amazing spectacle of water cascading 300 feet down the side of a cliff.
- ▶ The Falls were bigger than Niagara Falls in New York.



Three Island Crossing, Idaho

- ▶ The emigrants had to make a choice about crossing the Snake River at Three Island Crossing.
- ▶ It was a dangerous and difficult crossing to Fort Boise.



Oregon City, Willamette Valley



- ▶ Oregon City was the final stop for most emigrants. They had finally made it to Oregon!



Review: Oregon Trail

▶ Questions

1. What Missouri city did many pioneers start from?
2. How long was the Oregon Trail?
3. About how many people died on the Trail?
4. Between what years was the most traffic on the Trail?