

Online Information

Adventure to the Pioneer Prairie

Fascinating Facts

1. When a wagon needed to cross a river, the pioneers had two options. They could drive across the river or float across if the water was too deep.
2. Pioneers traveled across the frontier in wagon trains. They were like small communities moving across the plains with food, tools, and elected leaders.
3. When people in California found gold, pioneers from all over America traveled across the country to try to find gold themselves. This was known as the Gold Rush.
4. Kids on the prairie found many things to do for fun. For example, after a pig was slaughtered for food, kids would play catch with the pig's bladder! It's just like a balloon!
5. There wasn't much space to carry food on covered wagons, so the men had to hunt for food frequently.
6. Pioneers slept inside their wagons. There were small mattresses under the canvas where the whole family would huddle together.
7. Sometimes prairie farmhouses were built right into the hillsides! This saved wood and kept the families safe and cool. The roof was made of grass, too!
8. If a woman in a wagon train was going to have a baby, her family would ask people in the other wagons if a doctor was traveling in the group. A lot of babies were born in the wagon trains!
9. Everyone on the prairie had an important job. Kids even younger than you learned to build, sew, hunt, and cook.
10. During the long journey across the country, the pioneers entertained themselves by making things. Girls learned how to knit or sew, and made clothes and dolls. Boys learned how to build and whittle wood into toys and tools.
11. Going to school was impossible on the wagon train, so parents taught their children to read and write in the back of the wagon!
12. The wagons in the train were known as covered wagons, Conestoga wagons, or prairie schooners.

