

Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Oregon Trail

Bring It To Life!

1. Chips Ahoy! All around the world people use animal manure to cook and heat their homes. Research the use of manure as fuel to see where people are using it today.
2. Find some Oregon Trail recipes and bring in some dishes like hardtack, chili, beans and rice, and bacon so book club members can taste what it was like to be on the trail.
3. Draw a map of the Oregon Trail. Have each book club member choose a spot on the Oregon Trail to research. Post pictures and important information about each place along the trail.
4. Make up a song about being on the trail to Oregon City and teach it to other book club members. Include details about the dangers, food, people, and good times. Sing it together while you imagine life on the trail.
5. Do some research on the Donner Party. Find out what mistakes they made, and make a list of safety tips for anyone who is traveling to Oregon City.



Online Quiz

The Mystery on the Oregon Trail

Pop Quiz

1. What monument in St. Louis is dedicated to those who traveled on the Oregon Trail?
 - a. Gateway Arch
 - b. The Prairie Schooner Statue
 - c. Fort Mimi
2. What are prairie schooners?
 - a. little mice that live on the prairie
 - b. bison
 - c. covered wagons
3. Why is the chuck wagon so important?
 - a. it carries rifles and ammunition
 - b. it carries food and cooking supplies
 - c. it carries small children
4. What did the covered wagons have attached to their undersides?
 - a. an extra canvas
 - b. an extra wagon wheel
 - c. a DVD player
5. Why did Grant and Larry collect cow chips?
 - a. because they needed them to make fire for cooking
 - b. because they wanted to have a "cow chip war"
 - c. because they wanted to put them in Christina and Narci's pillows
6. What is jail rock?
 - a. a rock Van tied children to when they didn't listen to him
 - b. what the children called the swaying covered wagons when they were stuck in them on rainy days
 - c. a huge, towering rock formation that looked like a jail
7. Who was Joel Hembree?
 - a. a man who led many wagon trains over the Oregon Trail
 - b. a boy who was crushed beneath the wheels of a wagon
 - c. the mayor of Oregon City
8. What did Chuck do before he came to work with Van on the Oregon Trail?
 - a. he was a cook in St. Louis
 - b. he was a fireman
 - c. he was a teacher



Know your SAT Words!

Mystery Name: The Mystery on the Oregon Trail

SAT Words



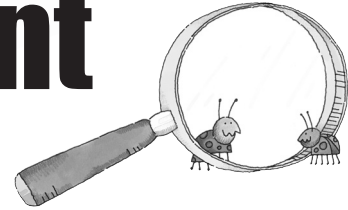
1. Outpost: _____
2. Confident: _____
3. Commotion: _____
4. Terrify: _____
5. Sense: _____

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



THE MYSTERY ON THE Oregon Trail

Scavenger Hunt



Want to have some fun? Let's go on a scavenger hunt! See if you can find each item either in the book or when you visit the real place. Good luck! *(Teachers: You have permission to reproduce this page for your students.)*

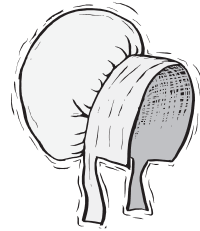
1. ____ A covered wagon

2. ____ A rut from a wagon train

3. ____ Bison



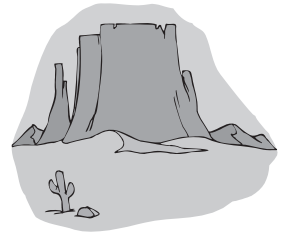
4. ____ A bonnet



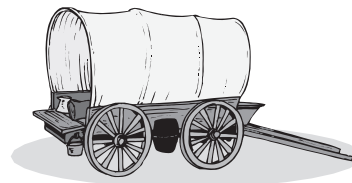
5. ____ Prairie Grass



6. ____ Cowboy boots



7. ____ Gateway Arch



8. ____ A butte



9. ____ Fort Laramie

10. ____ A butter churn



Online Book Club

The Mystery on the Oregon Trail

Talk About It!

1. What personal item would you have wanted to bring with you in the covered wagon?
2. If you had to choose one place along the trail to stay, where would it be and why?
3. How would you have passed the time if you were spending hours in a covered wagon with no modern technology and few toys?
4. What is your favorite part of the mystery? Why?
5. Why were bison chips so important to the people on the Oregon Trail? How would you feel if you had to collect them?
6. What would be your favorite part of being on the Oregon Trail? What would be your least favorite part?
7. Which character in this book made the mystery more intense? Why do you think so?
8. How does the story of Hiram Scott make the trail seem more dangerous?
9. Describe the clothing people wore on the Oregon Trail. What clothes did they need for unpredictable weather?
10. Do you think Grant would enjoy staying out on the trail instead of going back to school? Why or why not?

