

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# The Oregon Trail

I'm headed west to take what's rightfully mine.

I heard there's free land out west. We can settle down and start a farm.

We must go out west and spread the good word of the Lord.

There's gold out west in California. I'm going to be a millionaire!

Got to go out west, get a fresh new start for my family.

My brother's already out there, and he says there's jobs for all of us.

Right around Missouri in the mid-1800s,

Hundreds of thousands of American settlers

Gathered up their stuff and decided they were leaving

To settle out west for many reasons.

I can't believe it was a 2,000-mile trip to Oregon,

But I guess the journey didn't worry them.

The missionaries felt a duty to bring their religious teachings

To the Native Americans living in the western regions.

Next were the Mormons who were trying to escape from

Religious persecution in their part of the nation.

And last were the people who just wanted a new start;

They saved their money, and put all their stuff in a big cart

That's called a covered wagon. It was pulled by their oxen

Across the Oregon Trail for months, and

They had to be brave, and they had to be patient

To leave it all behind in that Great Emigration.

Listen up, I got a story to tell:

It's all about a journey called the Oregon Trail.

It offered opportunities for early pioneers,

But it was hard. There was a lot of pain and tears.

(x2)

Living in their covered wagons, they were basically outside.

Many travelers got sick and tired, and many people died.

There were conflicts with the Native Americans over land

And who had the right to travel, settle and defend.

The trail wasn't like a modern road or a highway

With signs that could tell them when they're going in the right way,

So they had to use landmarks to give them hope,

Like mountain ranges and trading posts.

So many US settlers wound up in Oregon after making trips

That Brits gave it to the US in 1846.

It was the only way to travel west 'til 1869,

When we built a transcontinental railroad line

Connecting east to west so now it only took a week

To make a trip that took six months. I bet that that was a relief.

You can still take the trip by car just for fun.

It's been a national historic trail since 1981.

And now you got a story to tell:

It's all about a journey called the Oregon Trail.

It offered opportunities for early pioneers,

But it was hard. There was a lot of pain and tears.

(x2)