

THE OREGON TRAIL

SPECIAL
EDUCATION



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!

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Also included in this resource as separate files:

- Lesson plans
- Links and directions to digital activities
- PowerPoints (these are the books in the lesson plans)
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Activities in black and white

This unit contains 10 days of material that is in both printable and digital formats. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

It comes in 2 separate files. One in color and one in black and white.

Oregon Trail Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR, your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
 - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make one set for each student and also one for the teacher to use in I Spy games

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make you own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
 - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.
3. *Options for Use:* Turn any activity into a reusable file folder activity by

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards intro• Circle map	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Writing Prompt
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Circle map	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards cut and• Sudoku puzzle
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Map of trail	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards cut and• Word Search
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Dangers on the trail	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Close worksheet
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Sorting activities	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

Day 5

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book: (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocabulary board
Vocabulary cards Bean Bag Toss (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glue the cut apart symbols to the paper plates (one on each plate)• Arrange them around the room• Students toss the bean bag trying to get it to land on a paper plate<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Students retrieve the paper plate and share the vocabulary card they retrieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocabulary cards• Vocabulary cards cut apart• Small paper plates (you also use pieces of construction paper)• Bean bags
Dangers review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the activity completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity completed yesterday
Sorting activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will sort items whether they would be considered a necessity or not, knowing there is very limited space in the wagon• Use the color-coding if needed• Make connections to the book as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worksheet• Scissors• Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student shares their finished worksheet with the group using the communication method of their choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed worksheet• Communication devices


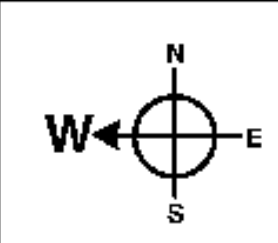

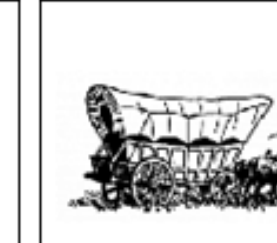


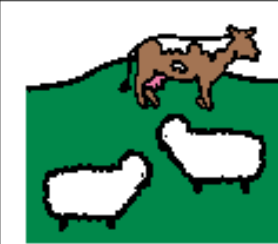
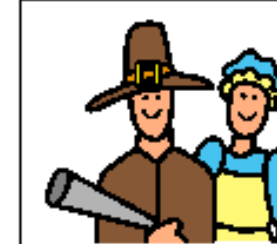




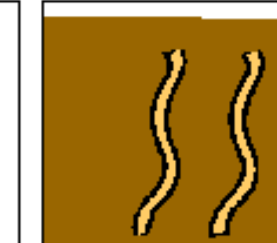
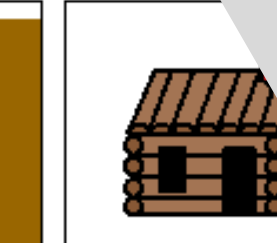


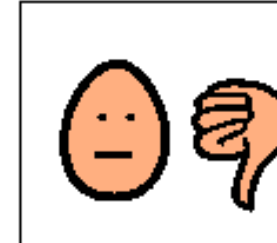
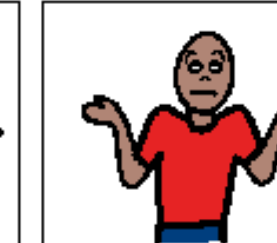
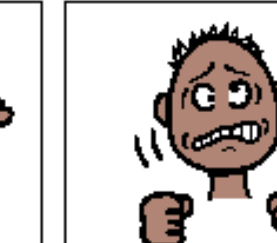
The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

 United States	 west	 Oregon Trail	 prairie schooner	 crops
 livestock	 farms	 pioneers	 Native Americans	 danger
 cholera	2000 miles	 necessities	 ruts	 homestead
 repeat that	 yes	 no	 I don't know	 I need a break

It was another explorer, John Jacob Astor, who found a wide, low and safe way to get through the Rocky Mountains. He called it **South Pass**.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

Wagon trains were groups of wagons that traveled in a long, straight line. At night, they would all form a circle in order to make a safe area for everyone inside of the wagons.



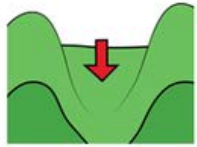
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

There is a 25 page book with this unit using simple text and photos.

It comes in a pdf version as well as a voice recorded powerpoint (so you don't have to print it out.)

South Pass

Wide, flat pass through the Rock Mountains found by John Jacob Astor.



missionaries

Religious people sent to a place to spread the idea of Christianity.



Oregon Trail

2000 miles trail that went from Missouri to Oregon Country through the middle of the US.



crops

Plants grown by farmers as food for people and animals.



prairie schooner

Smaller wagon easier for oxen to pull with a cover that looked like a boat sail.



necessities

Things like food, water, and clothes needed to stay alive.



ruts

Grooves worn in the ground from the covered wagons.



homestead

Land given to a person by the government to live on and farm.

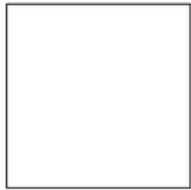


There are 12 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

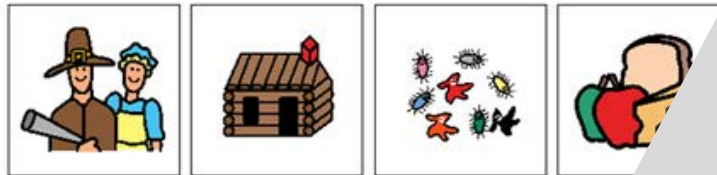
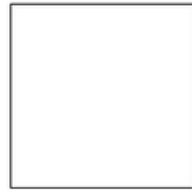
South Pass

Wide, flat pass through the Rock Mountains found by John Jacob Astor.



missionaries

Religious people sent to a place to spread the idea of Christianity.



On days 6&7 there is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).

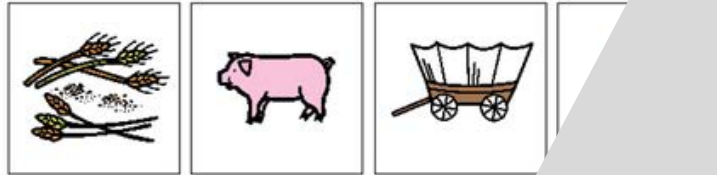
Oregon Trail

2000 miles trail that went from Missouri to Oregon Country through the middle of the US.



crops

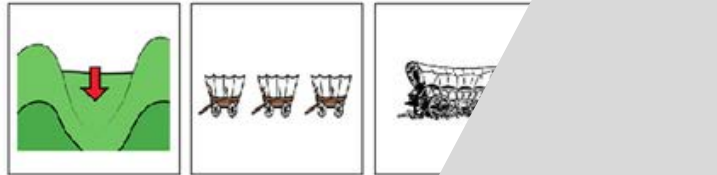
Plants grown by farmers as food for people and animals.



livestock



pioneers



wagon train



cholera



A virus that killed many pioneers and was spread through dirty water.

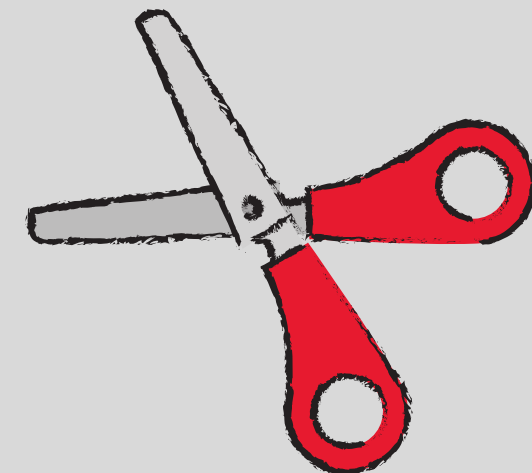
Religious people sent to a place to spread the idea of Christianity.

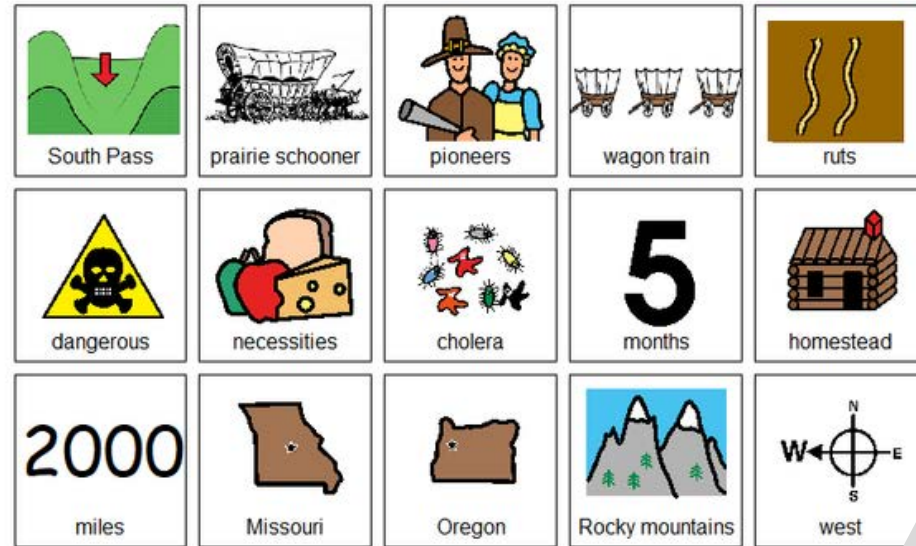
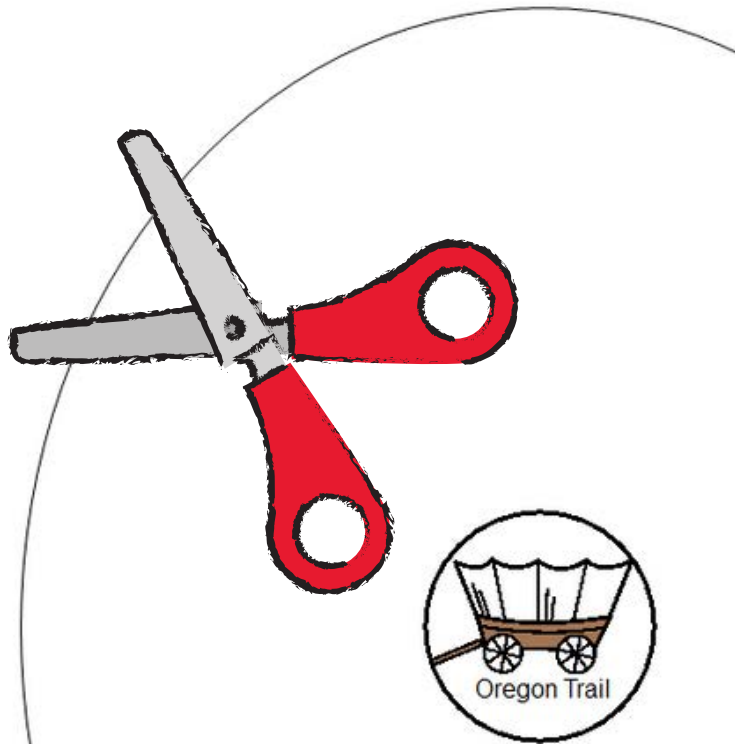
Smaller wagon easier for oxen to pull with a cover that looked like a boat sail.

People who are first to explore or settle in a new area.

Plants grown by farmers as food for people and animals.

Grooves worn in the ground from the covered wagons.





There are 2 a circle maps.

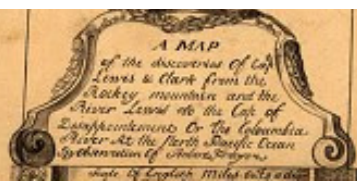
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

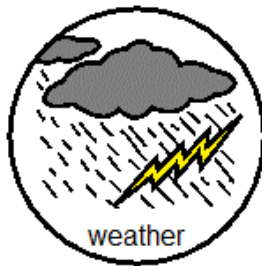
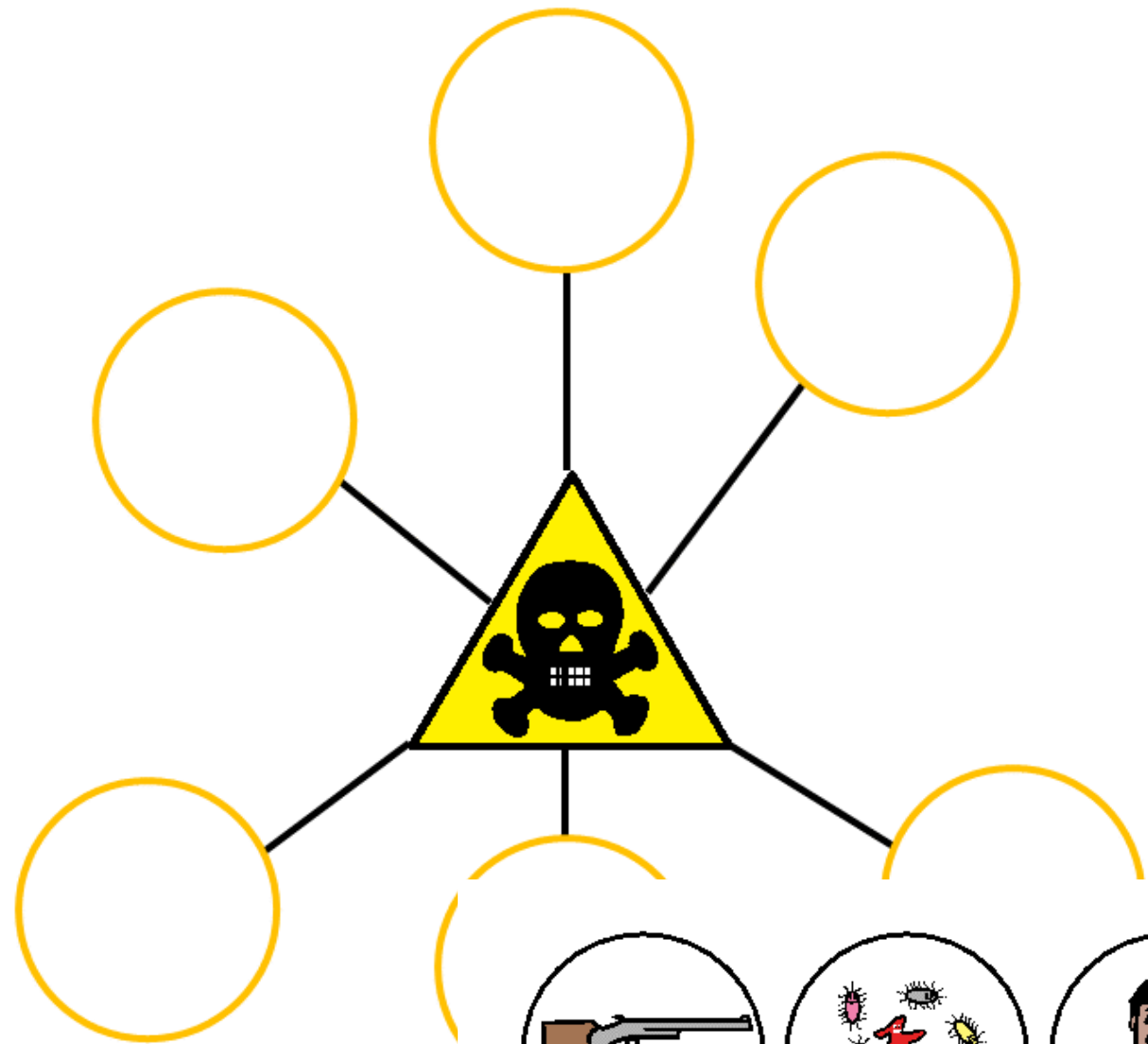
- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

1. Color in Missouri blue.
2. Color in Oregon yellow.
3. Trace the Oregon Trail

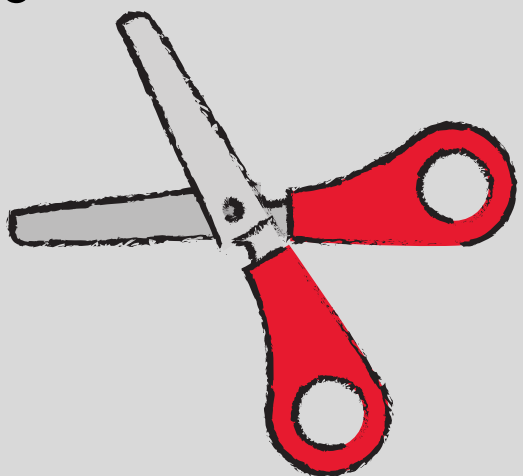


There are is a map that allows students to color in the start and end as well as trace the Oregon Trail. There is a version with colored outlines added.





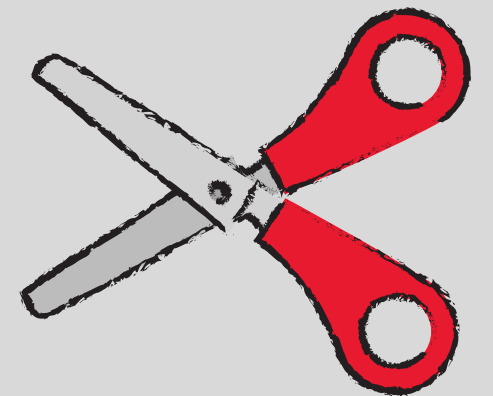
There is a collage students can make to show the main dangers pioneers faced on the Oregon Trail. This is an errorless activity.





 rice	 salt	 sleeping bag	 rope	 frozen dinner	 dried meat
 kettle	 boots	 painting	 beans	 fork	 chair
 bean bag chair	 canned food	 soda	 knife	 rifle	 coffee
 pot	 spoon	 blanket	 sugar	 ice cream	 clothes

There is a sorting activity. Students will decide if each objects would have been considered a necessity or not. There are suggestions on how to add color coding for more support.



Life on the Oregon Trail

My family left for Oregon Country months ago.

We took lots of with us.

We saw and on our travels.

The biggest danger we faced was .

It was .



- 1 one
- 2 two
- 3 three
- 4 four
- 5 five

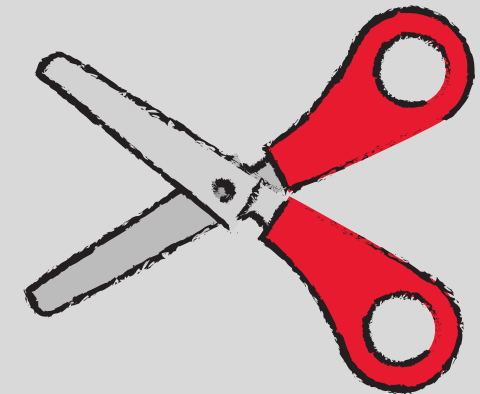
- food
- clothes
- blankets
- coffee
- rope

- bears
- deer
- moose
- eagles
- snakes
- raccoon






















- disease
- bad weather
- injuries
- wild animals
- crossing rivers
- getting lost

- exciting
- dangerous
- fun
- exhausting
- wonderful
- scary

There is a writing prompt where students write a story about what it would have been like to travel with their family on the Oregon Trail. This is an errorless activity that students can do more than one time.





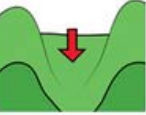




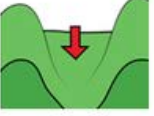
Oregon Trail









 necessities	 pioneers		 crops	 livestock	
		 homestead	 necessities	 pioneers	
	 necessities	 livestock		 Oregon Trail	 crops
 homestead	 Oregon Trail			 necessities	 livestock
		 pioneers	 livestock	 homestead	 necessities
	 homestead			 crops	



There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

Oregon Trail

	 homestead		 pioneers
 South Pass	 pioneers		
		 Oregon Trail	 homestead
 homestead			 South Pass

 Oregon Trail	 Oregon Trail	 Oregon Trail	 pioneers
 pioneers	 South Pass	 South Pass	 homestead

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.



Oregon Trail

I N T U I B S L E A X Z J N A
J C W U Q L K S C H O O N E R
W R H I N B N H R G T R O F S
A O I J Z L L J L U Q C J M X
G P F G N E C E S S I T I E S
O S D B H I W C W I N B Q Q O
N C M I S S I O N A R I E S H
T H U U W R W K P A G O G C N
R O J O G U V P I O N E E R S
A L E G V T S V S G D X A W G
I E Q I D S H V U N M T D P L
N R M G S O U T H P A S S K A
F A T L I V E S T O C K Q Z T
H O M E S T E A D L C N M W K
Q I F Q Q A I K I R Q R B Y C

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| missionaries | necessities | wagon train | South Pass |
| livestock | homestead | pioneers | schooner |
| crops | cholera | ruts | |



Oregon Trail

I N T U I B S L E A X Z J N A
J C W U Q L K S C H O O N E R
W R H I N B N H R G T R O F S
A O I J Z L L J L U Q C J M X
G P F G N E C E S S I T I E S
O S D B H I W C W I N B Q Q O
N C M I S S I O N A R I E S H
T H U U W R W K P A G O G C N
R O J O G U V P I O N E E R S
A L E G V T S V S G D X A W G
I E Q I D S H V U N M T D P L
N R M G S O U T H P A S S K A
F A T L I V E S T O C K Q Z T
H O M E S T E A D L C N M W K
Q I F Q Q A I K I R Q R B Y C

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| missionaries | necessities | wagon train | South Pass |
| livestock | homestead | pioneers | schooner |
| crops | cholera | ruts | |

There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.



Oregon Trail

1. The Oregon Trail was miles long.
2. It took most families about months to make the trip.
3. People thought farming and life would be in the west.
4. There were many along the trail.
5. The pioneers traveled in long for safety.



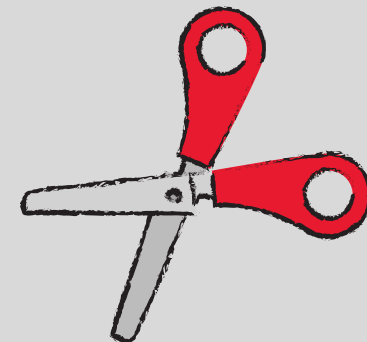
Oregon Trail

6. The was the type of wagon most used.
7. The biggest danger was cholera which came from dirty .
8. Families could only bring due to space.
9. Children often beside the wagons.
10. You can still see the in the ground from the all the covered wagons.

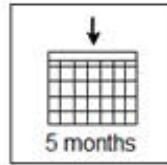
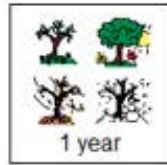


Close worksheet are a great informal assessment. This unit has 10 questions that review the Oregon Trail.

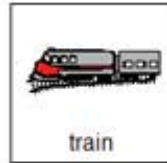
Answer key included.



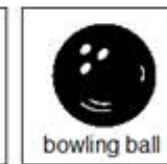
1. How long would it take to travel the 2000 miles of the Oregon trail?



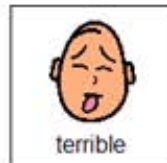
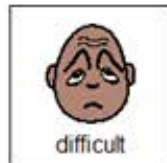
2. What did the pioneers travel in?



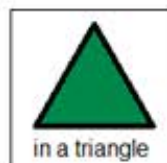
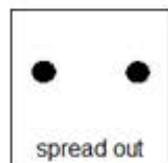
3. Circle the things you think would be packed onto the wagon.



4. Pioneers thought Oregon country would be:



5. How would they arrange the wagons while traveling?






FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.




Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5

 spread apart	 wagon train	 in a triangle
---	---	--

Q 6

 Native Americans	 wild animals	 cholera
---	--	--

With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. How long would it take to travel the 2000 miles of the Oregon trail?
 - A. One week
 - B. One year
 - C. 5 months
2. What did the pioneers travel in?
 - A. Jeep
 - B. Prairie schooner
 - C. Train
3. Circle the things you think would be packed onto the wagon.

A. Dried meat	D. painting
B. Coffee	E. Bowling ball
C. Axe	F. Rifle
4. Pioneers thought Oregon country would be:
 - A. Easy and better
 - B. Difficult
 - C. terrible
5. How would they arrange the wagons while traveling?
 - A. Spread out
 - B. Wagon train
 - C. In a triangle

This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.

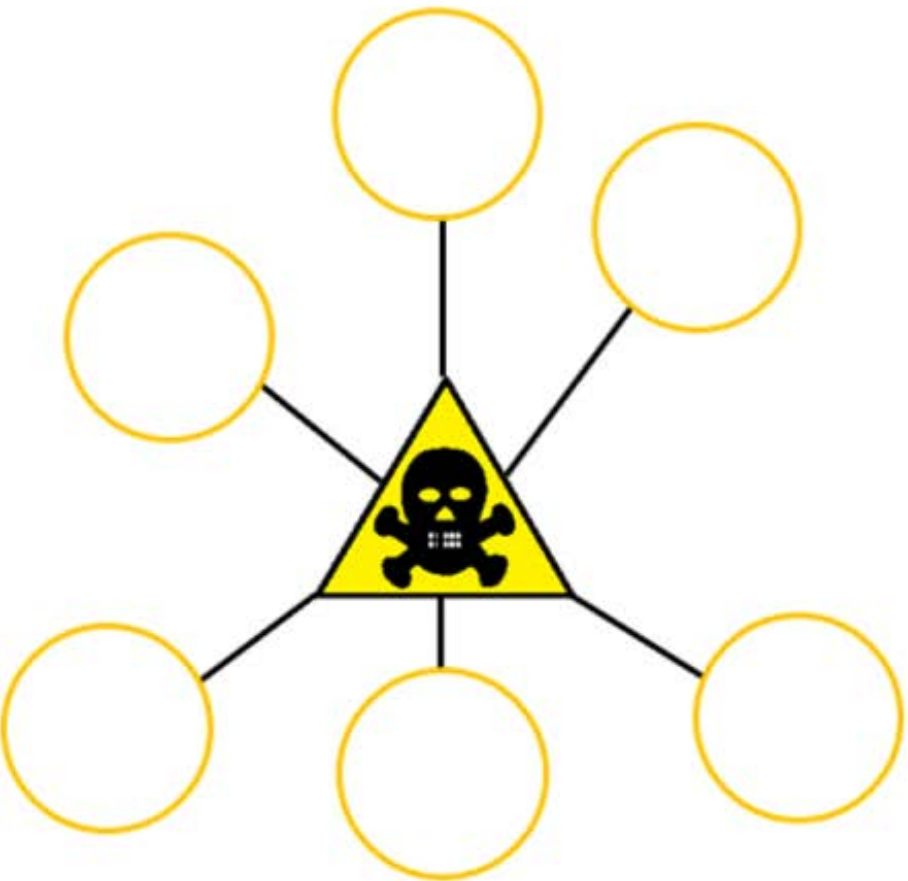
That did not mean the 2000-mile journey was easy or safe. The biggest dangers were injuries and disease. One in ten travelers would die before ever reaching their destination.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

Watch the movie on the Oregon Trail.

This unit also has digital activities. There is a movie version of the books students can listen to read aloud.



Look at the pictures below and place them in the circles showing the dangers the pioneers faced on the Oregon Trail.



The digital activities have students click and drag their answers.

Oregon Trail

1. The Oregon Trail was miles long.

2. It took most families about months to make the trip.

3. People thought farming and life would be in the west.

4. There were many along the trail.

5. The pioneers traveled in long for safety.

Use the pictures in the empty boxes to finish the sentences.

5



wagon train



dangerous

2000

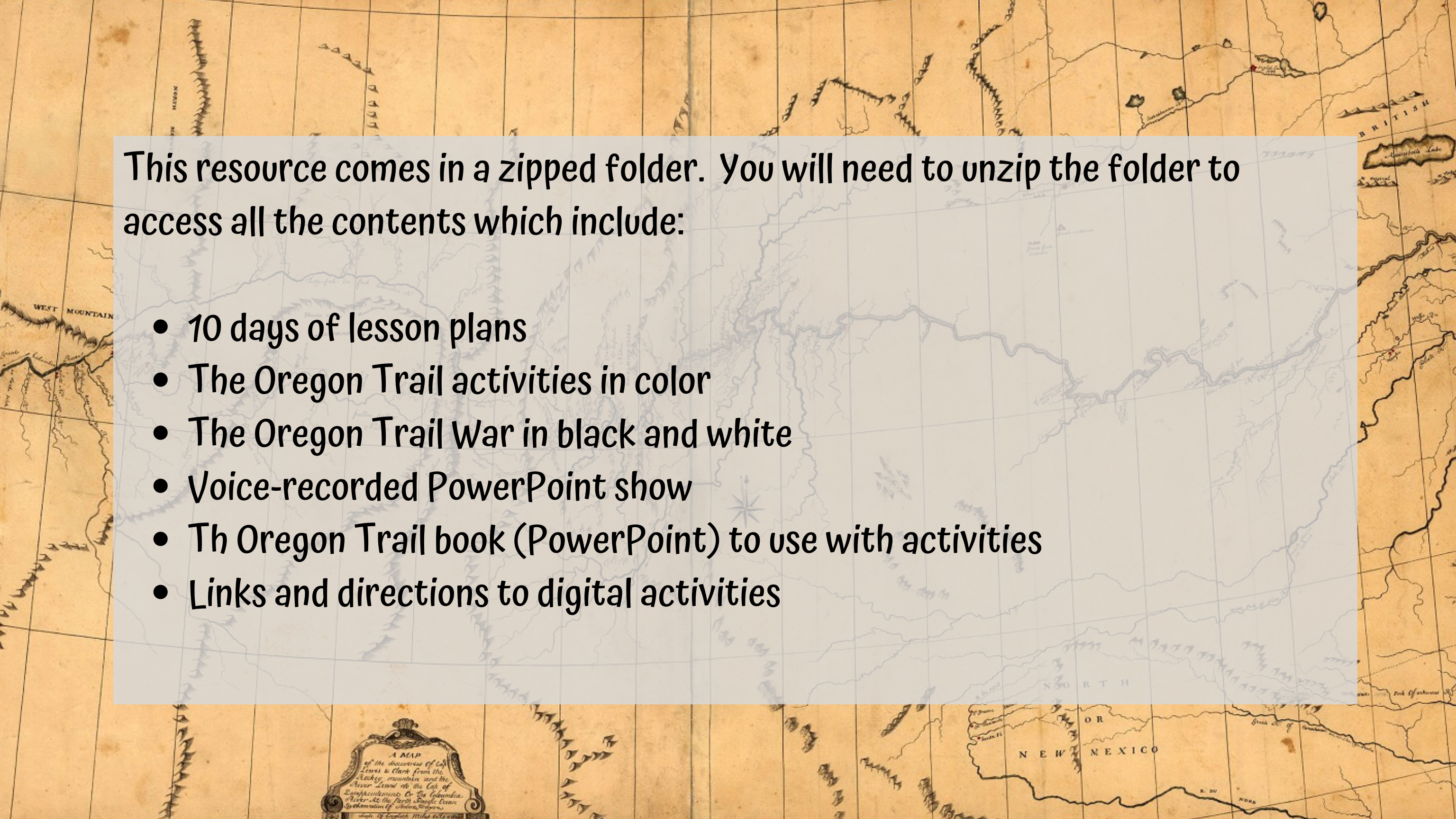


eaiser

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

There are 2 sets of slides. One set has color-coding for more support.

A historical map of the Oregon Trail region, showing the trail route across the mountains and plains. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text and a bulleted list. The map features labels such as 'WEST MOUNTAINS', 'BRITISH', 'NEW MEXICO', and 'NORTH'. A decorative title block is visible at the bottom left of the map.

This resource comes in a zipped folder. You will need to unzip the folder to access all the contents which include:

- **10 days of lesson plans**
- **The Oregon Trail activities in color**
- **The Oregon Trail War in black and white**
- **Voice-recorded PowerPoint show**
- **Th Oregon Trail book (PowerPoint) to use with activities**
- **Links and directions to digital activities**

Save money and get this unit as part of the
Westward Expansion Bundle

[Click Here](#)

