Pack Your Wagon

*People on the Move*

Information Sheet

Pack Your Wagon

Mapping Your Way

Designing Home

For: 3rd – 4th graders

Curriculum Connection: Connects to social studies focus content of communities & local history, and on 4th grade geography map skills. Kansas History, Government & Social Studies Standards: 1.1; 3.1. English Language Arts Standards: SL.3.1; SL.4.1.

**Pack Your Wagon**

Objectives:

* Increase understanding of the accomplishments and significance of community and Kansas history through daily life activities of early settlers.
* Connect past experiences to the present through critical thinking.

Outcomes: Students will:

* Collaborate and communicate using listening and persuasion skills.
* Analyze and evaluate available items – then use critical decision-making skills to pack their wagon for survival.

Material needed: Access to YouTube video, scotch tape, calculator and scissors or paper cutter.

The video is seven minutes and three seconds long. At :31-:44, there is a prompt asking students what one thing they would have to take on a trip. There is a 15 second countdown on the screen allowing students to respond and discuss. It is automatic. At this point teachers are encouraged to see this sheet. In this pdf, I’ve included both a list of all the potential items to pack in your wagon – as well as pictures of the items as well. If you’d like students to work in groups the list might work best. If the entire class is working together, printing off and using the images might work best. (Pages will need to be cut.)

At 2:30 teachers are again encouraged to see this sheet. For the activity, one adult operates the calculator, keeping track of poundage, starting with 975 and subtracting chosen items. Another adult leads the activity. Each student should have at least one turn. Tape images to the wall, board, or other surface. Students might come up one at a time and pick something, or, simply raise their hands to be called on. If there’s disagreement, the student who chose the item tells the class why it’s important then a hand count vote is taken. Chosen items could be moved to a different part of the wall/board. Let students know a time or two how many pounds they have left. Remind them they can’t go over 975 pounds. Might ask what they need to survive … food, water, etc. If they’re about to go over the limit, they can vote to take something out of the wagon. Perhaps mention how all items are ‘good’ but may not be right for the situation. Or, that if the class is discussing and disagreeing – imagine what it was like to really be packing to go. The decisions were hard!

**Mapping Your Way**

Objectives:

* Connect the experiences of early settlers with a similar current activity.
* Exercise and improve map-reading skills.

Outcomes: Students will:

* Identify two points on a map.
* Analyze options and create a travel route from one point to another.

***Mapping Your Way – cont.***

Materials needed: Map of America (one is also provided), paper and pen or pencil.

At 4:15 teachers are encouraged to see this sheet. The prompt for this map activity runs from approximately 4:26 to 4:55. I’ve included a portion of a map in this pdf. It’s the pertinent section, from Chicago to Salina, if you’d like to print it off for your students to use. This activity can be done individually or in groups. To expand the activity, could have groups/students explain their route.

**Designing Home**

Objectives:

* Increase understanding of early settlers by connecting their choices to similar choices today.
* Think creatively to balance living needs/desires with available room.

Outcomes: Students will:

* Analyze space and draw conclusions about what needs/wants can be fulfilled.
* Draw a home floor plan, utilizing creative thinking skills.

Materials needed: Blank paper and pencils/erasers. Template of elements provided if you’d like to use it.

If you’d like to do this activity only – it is explained from roughly 5:01 to 5:55 on the video. It is a straightforward activity. I’ve included a helps sheet in this pdf with elements of home design (bed, chairs, windows, doors). You may need to point out the windows/doors. Also, you might not want this, but it’s here if you do. Students might enjoy seeing their “homes” displayed or having the chance to explain/show their choices to their co-students.

­­­Time breakdown:

Pack Your Wagon video: 7:03 Mapping Your Way: 10:00

PYW Activity: 15:00 Designing Home: 10:00

Time: Approx. 23:00 Sharing time: 15:00-20:00

Time for video and activity approximately 25-30 minutes. Additional activities/elements could be added if/as desired, but would require more time. Time for activities in the activity packet are not included.