



## Traveling Trunk Program

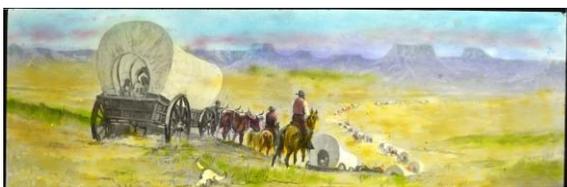
The Cowlitz County Historical Museum is pleased to offer the Traveling Trunk Program to local schools. This popular program, which began in 2011, brings a combination of presentation, activities, and interaction into a school-based history and social studies program. The Traveling Trunk Program is offered free of charge to educational and civic organizations. Please contact Museum Education Coordinator Danielle Robbins to schedule a program for your class at [robbinsd@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:robbinsd@co.cowlitz.wa.us) or 360-577-3119.

### Early Pioneers and Oregon Trail

*The Oregon Trail* are sequential presentations. All 3 are required for student comprehension. (Recommend that students have a working understanding of maps prior to presentations.)

Approximate time: 60 min each.

- **“The Oregon Trail: Starting Out”** Power Point. Activities: journal making, map reading. Museum staff lead students through the reasons and preparation for the trip and the first part of the Oregon Trail, journaling the start across the prairies.
- **“The Oregon Trail: Daily Life”** Power Point. Activities: journaling, map reading, *Bison & Landmarks* coloring sheets. Museum staff take students through some of the trials and joys of the trip, journaling daily life on the trail, and discovering some of the best know landmarks.
- **“The Oregon Trail: In the West”** Power Point. Activities: journaling, map reading, ‘lighten the load’ worksheet. Museum staff take students through the last half of the Oregon Trail, journaling the trek over the mountains and the trail west of the continental divide.



Joe Knowles

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The *Brief Introductions* are supplemental and can be done as follow-ups.

- **“A Brief Introduction to Encounters with Native Americans”** group exercises. Teacher led activity: *Stories of Young Pioneers* Teacher’s Guide (provided by museum staff upon request). Teachers read excerpts from *Stories of Young Pioneers in Their Own Words* to the class and discuss questions about what they read, then hold a class bartering activity. Recommend a group discussion to follow. Approximate time: 15 to 45 min
- **“A Brief Introduction to Those Who Came West”** self-directed learning. Teacher or student led activity: *Pioneers & Settlers* question & answer worksheet (below). Students read a four-paragraph introduction about those who first came west and then answer questions about what they read. This can be done as a class, in small groups, or individually. Recommend a group discussion of answers to follow. Approximate time: 15 to 30 min

## Pioneers & Settlers

When Europeans first discovered America, they landed on the east coast. It was here that the first settlements were established. However, as more and more people came to America from Europe, those early settlements started to become crowded. Many people then wanted to move west to escape the crowds of people and settle on their own land.

These pioneers traveled along the Oregon Trail in covered wagons. The trip west took four to six months, so the families had to be prepared. The pioneers used every bit of space available on the wagons to pack food, blankets, tools, medicine, cooking pots, utensils, and everything else they would need for the six month journey. Most people could only bring one small thing to remind them of their old home because there was only room on the wagon for necessities. That also meant that there was no room in the wagon for people, so the pioneers mostly walked the whole way, even the children.

Some of these pioneers settled in the Pacific Northwest, called Oregon Territory, and others in California. The first settlers in the northwest went to the Willamette Valley because of its rich farm land. After most of that land was taken, they began to spread out and some moved north up the Columbia River to the Cowlitz River. Peter Crawford was the first man to claim land along the Cowlitz River in December 1847. He had immigrated to America from Kelso, Scotland, and he named the town he founded after his Scottish home.

Harry Darby Huntington came west in 1848. He and his family settled on the other side of the Cowlitz River from Crawford and founded Monticello, which was a small community where Longview is now. Monticello was where the settlers who lived north of the Columbia River met to decide that they wanted to be separate from settlers south of the river, such as those in the Willamette Valley. It is thanks to the Monticello Convention that Washington and Oregon are two different states instead of one.

1. Why did people want to move west?
2. What was the route pioneers use to travel west?
3. If you were moving somewhere and could only take one extra thing with you, what would you choose, and why?
4. Why did the first settlers of the area want to settle in Willamette Valley?
5. What important decision was made at Monticello? Do you think it was a good or bad decision?

## Traveling Trunk: Pioneers Bibliography

Butruille, Susan. *Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail*. Boise, ID: Tamarack Books, Inc., 1993. Print.

Erickson, Paul. *Daily Life in a Covered Wagon*. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1994. Print.

Kimball, Violet T. *Stories of Young Pioneers in Their Own Words*. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2000. Print.

Urrutia, Virginia. "From the Oregon Trail to our Rivers" *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly* Volume35.Number3 (1993): pages 23-26. Print.

**In fulfillment of state requirements, these presentations and materials from them can be used by students as a cited source:**

MLA Speeches, Lectures, or Other Oral Presentations (including Conference Presentations)

Provide the speaker's name. Then, give the title of the speech (if any) in quotation marks. Follow with the name of the meeting and organization, the location of the occasion, and the date. Use the descriptor that appropriately expresses the type of presentation (e.g., Address, Lecture, Reading, Keynote Speech, Guest Lecture, Conference Presentation). Remember to use the abbreviation *n.p.* if the publisher is not known; use *n.d.* if the date is not known.

Robbins, Danielle. "Oregon Trail" *Traveling Trunk: Pioneers*. Cowlitz County Historical Museum. School Name, City, WA. Day Month Year. Oral Presentation.