

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 1

1A, B, C. INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. Meet at the southeast corner of Courthouse Square and wait until enough wagons show up to form a wagon train. Tell what you brought with you (supplies, heirlooms, animals) as well as what the town looks and feels like.

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2A. FIRST NIGHT--CROSSED BIG BLUE RIVER. Describe your first day of travel by wagon plus crossing a river. Camp near the flour mills run by river power, and buy flour from either Blue Mill or Fitzhugh Mill. Someone on your wagon train is bitten by a rattlesnake and dies hours later.

2B. FIRST NIGHT--CROSSED BIG BLUE RIVER. Describe your first day of travel by wagon plus crossing a river. Camp near the flour mills run by river power, and buy flour from either Blue Mill or Fitzhugh Mill. Crossing the river you had to build a raft. You piled items from your wagon on the raft. The boys and men swam next to the raft to get it safely across. One item from your wagon went overboard and was lost (you can decide what item was lost).

2C. FIRST NIGHT--CROSSED BIG BLUE RIVER. Describe your first day of travel by wagon plus crossing a river. Camp near the flour mills run by river power, and buy flour from either Blue Mill or Fitzhugh Mill. The river water level is high and swift from all the recent rain. The banks of the river are steep but your wagon train is able to get across safely with no loss.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 2

3A. **CROSSED KANSAS RIVER.** Used the Papin Ferry run by two brothers who used two canoes with poles to carry the wagons over. They coiled a rope around a tree to lower the boat into the water. The river was 230 yards wide, rapid and deep current. Animals swam, and it cost \$4/wagon, \$.25/mule, \$.10/man. One of the children in your wagon train falls off the wagon and is swept away by the current and drowns.

3B. **CROSSED KANSAS RIVER.** Used the Papin Ferry run by two brothers who used two canoes with poles to carry the wagons over. They coiled a rope around a tree to lower the boat into the water. The river was 230 yards wide, rapid and deep current. Animals swam, and it cost \$4/wagon, \$.25/mule, \$.10/man. Too many people were allowed to get in the boat and the boat nearly capsizes. Many items are spilled into the water including carts, boxes, and barrels. You were able to recover everything except most of your coffee.

3C. **CROSSED KANSAS RIVER.** Used the Papin Ferry run by two brothers who used two canoes with poles to carry the wagons over. They coiled a rope around a tree to lower the boat into the water. The river was 230 yards wide, rapid and deep current. Animals swam, and it cost \$4/wagon, \$.25/mule, \$.10/man. The boat capsized, throwing you overboard. You were luckily able to get safely to the other side of the river.

4A. **FORT KEARNY.** Mail letters to the friends you left behind and buy supplies. Purchase more coffee.

4B. **FORT KEARNY.** Mail letters to relatives back home. Buy replacement supplies.

4C. **FORT KEARNY.** Mail letters and buy supplies. Make friends with another child traveling the trail whose family is also stopped at the fort. Played tag.

5A. **ASH HOLLOW.** This is the first steep grade you've encountered, and it was so scary that people did not even talk for the last 2 miles. You lost several hours holding the wagons back with ropes (to keep them from racing down the canyon), so you decide to camp in the grove of ash trees at the bottom of the canyon. Lowering the wagon down the very steep Windlass Hill, a brakesman lost control and wagon crashed at the bottom, breaking off a wheel. You are delayed for two days while you repair the wheel.

5B. **ASH HOLLOW.** This is the first steep grade you've encountered, and it was so scary that people did not even talk for the last 2 miles. You lost several hours holding the wagons back with ropes (to keep them from racing down the canyon), so you decide to camp for one night in the grove of ash trees at the bottom of the canyon. You happily re-fill your water barrels with the fresh, clean spring water.

5C. **ASH HOLLOW.** This is the first steep grade you've encountered, and it was so scary that people did not even talk for the last 2 miles. You lost several hours holding the wagons back with ropes (to keep them from racing down the canyon), so you decide to camp for two days in the grove of ash trees at the bottom of the canyon. The wild roses are in full bloom. You pick a rose to give you Ma to cheer her up because you know this is a difficult trip for her.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 3

6A. COURTHOUSE ROCK & JAIL ROCK. You passed a huge rock that looked like a castle or jail. It was all alone on the prairie and you've been watching it for days. The ground has changed from lush green to browns and tans. In fact, it is so dry that your lips and nose are cracked and parched. This evening a thunderstorm hit which lit up the sky with all the lightning. Your animals became frightened, and several horses ran away.

6B. COURTHOUSE ROCK & JAIL ROCK. You passed a huge rock that looked like a castle or jail. It was all alone on the prairie and you've been watching it for days. The ground has changed from lush green to browns and tans. In fact, it is so dry that your lips and nose are cracked and parched. This evening a thunderstorm hit which lit up the sky with all the lightning. Your animals became frightened, and you have to calm them down.

6C. COURTHOUSE ROCK & JAIL ROCK. You passed a huge rock that looked like a castle or jail. It was all alone on the prairie and you've been watching it for days. The ground has changed from lush green to browns and tans. In fact, it is so dry that your lips and nose are cracked and parched. Your job is to wipe the dust from your oxen's noses. This evening a thunderstorm hit which lit up the sky with all the lightning. Everyone huddled underneath the wagon trying to stay dry.

7A. CHIMNEY ROCK. You came to a tall rock formation out in the middle of the plains. It is hot and you're bothered by the boils on the back of your unwashed neck. You decide to move on down the trail and not spend the night here.

7B. CHIMNEY ROCK. You came to a tall rock formation out in the middle of the plains. It is hot and you're beginning to not feel well from the heat. There are pesky mosquitoes everywhere to deal with. You spend the night but will be happy to be back on the trail soon.

7C. CHIMNEY ROCK. You came to a tall rock formation out in the middle of the plains. It is hot. Your wagon party stops and everyone tries to climb the spire but no one gets further than the base. You spend the night.

8A. FORT LARAMIE. This is the oldest of the forts. It is a Mexican-style fort made of adobe and seems to be out in the middle of nowhere. You buy supplies and rest for two days. You are happy you are 1/3 of the way to Oregon.

8B. FORT LARAMIE. This is the oldest of the forts. It is a Mexican-style fort made of adobe and seems to be out in the middle of nowhere. Your wagon party learns of another wagon train that has is discouraged and decides to turn around and go back to Missouri. You discuss this and decide to move ahead to Oregon, even though your feet are tired and your shoes are wearing out.

8C. FORT LARAMIE. This is the oldest of the forts. It is a Mexican-style fort made of adobe and seems to be out in the middle of nowhere. You are shocked at the high prices at the fort. You buy nothing but your wagon guide buys tobacco for \$1.00 (it only cost 5¢ back in Missouri).

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 4

9A. INDEPENDENCE ROCK. It's the Fourth of July and you spend the next couple of days celebrating around this huge granite rock that is 3-4 acres in size and looks like a giant whale. You celebrate independence with patriotic singing, picnic lunches, and carve your name on the rock.

9B. INDEPENDENCE ROCK. It's the Fourth of July and you spend the next couple of days celebrating around this huge granite rock that is 3-4 acres in size and looks like a giant whale. You celebrate Independence Day with patriotic singing, picnic lunches. You use axle grease made from pine tar and hog fat to paint your name on the rock. You spend one night here to rest your tired animals and your weary feet.

9C. INDEPENDENCE ROCK. You arrive here later than you had hoped. It is now the last week of July. Your goal was to be here by the Fourth of July. You have no time to celebrate. You must push on down the trail to Oregon before the snows come. You get back on the trail after stopping for lunch.

10A. SWEETWATER RIVER CROSSING. You camp near the river because it is a lush area with good water and grass for the animals. Indians attacked this evening, and while your wagon train fought them off, several friends died. They stole some cows.

10B. SWEETWATER RIVER CROSSING. You camp near the river because it is a lush area with good water and grass for the animals. Indians attack this evening. Your wagon train fought them off and they retreated. No one in your wagon train died.

10C. SWEETWATER RIVER CROSSING. You camp near the river because it is a lush area with good water and grass for the animals. Indians were spotted in the area but they caused your wagon train no harm. Your wagon train's wheels are becoming loose so you drove your oxen and wagons in the river to tighten the rims.

11A. SOUTH PASS. Today you crossed the Continental Divide, at an altitude of nearly 7,400 feet. The climb is gradual. This pass is only 3/4 of a mile wide in parts, but it marks the beginning of the Oregon Territory. There is no reason to celebrate. You are only half way to Oregon with 1,000 miles still to travel. You keep moving on. You see an abundance of wildlife in the area including buffalo, bear, elk, wolves, coyotes, antelope, deer, squirrels, and jack rabbits.

11A. SOUTH PASS. Today you crossed the Continental Divide, at an altitude of nearly 7,400 feet. The climb is gradual. This pass is only 3/4 of a mile in parts, but it marks the beginning of the Oregon Territory. While playing, one of the little boys in your wagon train fell under a wagon wheel and was run over. Everyone was sad that he died. You spotted a herd of elk as you traveled through South Pass.

11A. SOUTH PASS. Today you crossed the Continental Divide, at an altitude of nearly 7,400 feet. The climb is gradual. This pass is only 3/4 of a mile in parts, but it marks the beginning of the Oregon Territory. Several of the members in your wagon train are not feeling well. Everyone thinks they might be getting the dreaded cholera. You spot some coyotes and wolves as you travel through this mountain pass.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 5

12A. FORT BRIDGER. Your wagon party is running low on supplies so you decide to go south to Fort Bridger. You spend 5 extra days on the trail because of your decision. You discover that prices at the fort are outlandish.

12B. FORT BRIDGER. Your wagon party decided not go to Fort Bridger but to take the shortcut and. You heard that going to Fort Bridger was 100 miles out of the way. You are now traveling without much water. Everything is so dry and dusty.

12C. FORT BRIDGER. Your wagon train went to Fort Bridger hoping to buy supplies for a reasonable price. You find that the fort consists of four log cabins and a large yard for protecting animals. Prices are extremely high so you buy only a few replacement items. You trade four oxen for stronger ones. You spent 5 extra days on the trail.

13A. FORT HALL. Although this isn't the nicest fort you've stopped at, it does sell fresh vegetables, which you've not had since the trip began. The fort is made of adobe and is built in fertile grasslands. You buy supplies, but they're expensive: sugar 50¢/pint; coffee 50¢/pint; flour 25¢/pint; rice 33¢/pint. You trade some items with the Shoshone Indians and repair the tongue on your wagon.

13B. FORT HALL. Although this isn't the nicest fort you've stopped at, it does sell fresh vegetables, which you've not had since the trip began. The fort is made of adobe and is built in fertile grasslands. You buy supplies, but they're expensive: sugar 50¢/pint; coffee 50¢/pint; flour 25¢/pint; rice 33¢/pint. You buy some extra deer skins to use as blankets on the last part of the trail. You overheard that the Shoshone and Bannock Indians are becoming resentful of the emigrants for intruding on their sacred territory.

13C. FORT HALL. Although this isn't the nicest fort you've stopped at, it does sell fresh vegetables, which you've not had since the trip began. The fort is made of adobe and is built in fertile grasslands. You buy very few supplies as you are running low on money. The supplies are expensive: sugar 50¢/pint; coffee 50¢/pint; flour 25¢/pint; rice 33¢/pint. You spend the evening dancing around the campfire, relaxing, and telling stories. Tomorrow you will get back on the sandy, rocky trail west.

14A. THREE ISLAND CROSSING. This is where you will cross the Snake River. Your wagon train decides to pay the Indians to help you ford the river. The banks are lined with sage brush and it is very hot and dry. Your river crossing takes a long time and people are getting weary of the travel. They complain that their clothes are falling apart.

14B. THREE ISLAND CROSSING. This is where you will cross the Snake River. You floated the wagons across the river. The river is deep and swift so you used ropes to guide the wagons across. An oxen spooked and your flour barrel was lost downstream.

14C. THREE ISLAND CROSSING. While crossing the Snake River here, your wagon train is harassed by Indians so you rush to the other side. You will set up a watch at night to be sure your animals and people are safe.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 6

15A. FORT BOISE. You've been traveling along the Snake River plain and you finally see a lot of trees in this valley where you decide the camp for the night. Someone in your wagon train becomes suddenly ill at breakfast and is dead by the evening meal. There was nothing you could do but watch. There was no cure for the dreaded cholera.

15B. FORT BOISE. You've been traveling along the Snake River plain and you finally see a lot of trees in this valley where you decide the camp for the night. The mosquitoes are horrible in this area and it is hot at night, making it difficult to get proper sleep. You still have about 400 miles to travel.

15C. FORT BOISE. You've been traveling along the Snake River plain and you finally see a lot of trees in this valley where you decide the camp for the night. A huge wind comes up and in moments the sky is cloudy with thunderstorms, hail and pounding rain. You seek shelter under your wagon but many items become soaked and it makes for a long, sleepless night.

16A. BLUE MOUNTAINS. You have been dreading crossing these mountains. They are steep, and to make matters worse, your animals are tired. Your wagons are heavy for the tired animals to pull. Your animals have to be double teamed to pull the heavy wagons uphill. You are sad to have to dump out several items of furniture and leave them beside the trail but it lighten your load and your animals are thankful.

16B. BLUE MOUNTAINS. Your feet and the feet of your animals are sore. You are all weary and exhausted. You look ahead at the mountains in front of you with dread. Not only will you have to get up these steep, pine and fir covered slopes, but you will need to get down them as well. Your handmade chest of drawers has to be left beside the trail as are some other items. Your animals are too weary to haul such a heavy load.

16C. BLUE MOUNTAINS. Winter is approaching and it is getting cooler at nights in the mountains. You must not waste time. An unexpected snow could trap your party high in the mountains, so close to your destination. Your feet and animals' feet are sore. You come to the dreaded Laurel Hill, and your wagon had to be lightened and lowered downhill with ropes. You dumped out many family treasures and are sad to leave them behind.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 7

17A. THE DALLES 1842-1845: It is here that the trail ruts come to a complete stop, blocked by the Cascade Mountains. Unfortunately, your destination, the Willamette Valley, is still 100 miles further on. If you are on your journey from 1843-1845, you have no choice but to float the river. You pay the \$50 fee and hire a Native American to float your wagon down river. Oh no! One of the wagons in your wagon train got stuck in a whirlpool and two of their members were thrown overboard and drowned.

17B. THE DALLES 1842-1845: It is here that the trail ruts come to a complete stop, blocked by the Cascade Mountains. Unfortunately, your destination, the Willamette Valley, is still 100 miles further on. If you are on your journey from 1843-1845, you have no choice but to float the river. You pay \$50 and hire a Native American to float your wagon down river. You are lucky! Your raft was stuck for a few moments in the rapids, but then your wagon party freed it and you were able to float safely down river. What a scare that was!

17C. THE DALLES 1846 or later: It is here that the trail ruts come to a complete stop, blocked by the Cascade Mountains. Since you left Missouri after 1846, the Barlow Toll Road is now built and is a great option if you would rather not raft the Columbia. All you have to do is be sure to have enough money to pay the toll for using the road at the end of the trail. Be sure to check the prices before taking the Barlow Trail.

18C. BARLOW ROAD. You decide to use the toll road rather than raft down the Columbia River. Even the road, though, is dangerous as it plunges down cliffs, so you have to slow your wagon by wrapping rope around trees to gently guide it down the steep incline. You can see Mount Hood in the distance. This is a much safer way to journey but it is cold in the mountains at night. You hear the howling of wolves and coyotes at night.

17D. THE DALLES 1846 or later: It is here that the trail ruts come to a complete stop, blocked by the Cascade Mountains. Since you left Missouri after 1846, the Barlow Toll Road is now built and is a great option if you would rather not raft the Columbia. All you have to do is be sure to have enough money to pay the toll for using the road at the end of the trail. Be sure to check the prices before taking the Barlow Trail.

18D. BARLOW ROAD. You decide to use the toll road rather than raft down the Columbia River. Even the road, though, is dangerous as it plunges down cliffs, so you have to slow your wagon by wrapping rope around trees to gently guide it down the steep incline. You can see Mount Hood in the distance. You get to the end of the Barlow Trail and figure out you don't have enough money to pay the toll keeper. He sympathizes with you and lets you pass without paying the full toll.

OREGON TRAIL SCENARIOS A, B, C

page 8

19A. FORT VANCOUVER. You arrive on the north bank of the Columbia River at Fort Vancouver very low on supplies and extremely exhausted. You rest at the fort for several days. Your journey is nearly over. You ate your first fresh apple in months, an apple grown here at the fort in their orchard.

19B. FORT VANCOUVER. You arrive on the north bank of the Columbia River at Fort Vancouver very low on supplies and extremely exhausted. Dr. John McLoughlin greets you with kindness, loaning your family food, clothing, and seeds. You will not have to repay him until your you get money for your crops next spring. You are thankful for this British man's act of kindness.

19C. FORT VANCOUVER. You arrive on the north bank of the Columbia River at the British owned Fort Vancouver very low on supplies and extremely exhausted. Your wagon needs a new wheel built and people at the fort help you. The blacksmith helps rebuild the steel rim on your wheel. You are thankful for their kindness.

20A, B, C. OREGON CITY & WILLAMETTE VALLEY. You've reached your destination and it's as beautiful as you'd heard. You begin building a new log home, one room in size with a dirt floor. You are thankful to be off the trail and look forward to growing your own fruit and vegetables in the garden you will plant in the spring.

20A, B, C. OREGON CITY & WILLAMETTE VALLEY. You've reached your destination and it's as beautiful as you'd heard. You begin building a new home. You will build a two room log house and a barn. You will plant a fruit orchard next spring.

20A, B, C. OREGON CITY & WILLAMETTE VALLEY. You've reached your destination and it's as beautiful as you'd heard. You registered your land claim and begin building a new home. Your home will be a one room log house. You will plant a vegetable garden and wheat next spring.
