

Westward Movement - Trail Decision #3

Fates:

TD #1 (Basket - move ahead 1, No basket - move back 2) The heavy snow continues to fall, making your progress slow and difficult. As you near the top, one of the lead wagons slides halfway off the trail and overturns. You are trapped and the early winter storm has you at its mercy. The snow continues to fall for nearly a week and your wagons maybe snowed in for the winter. Several wagons manage to slowly work their way around the overturned wagon and reach safety, but the rest of your wagon train my die of starvation and exposure if this fate is yours.

Each wagon master stands 20 feet from a trash can. He/she has three tosses of a _____ to save your lives. If he/she fails, you are stuck in the pass loosing precious time in the severe winter storm. Several members of your wagon train die due to exposure.

TD #2 (Correct call - move ahead 2 to The Dalles, Incorrect call - move back 1) The scouts take several hours to make it up the pass and then return. Valuable time is lost. They report that the pass was still open, but the hard snow will close it within the next few hours. You now have one minute to decide as a wagon train what you are going to do. Your fate will be read as soon as your decision has been reached. However, let yourself be warned, time is of the essence.

Each wagon master must call a coin in the air. If he/she calls it correctly, lives are spared and your wagon train safely travels on to The Dalles. If he/she calls it incorrectly, you are stuck in the pass loosing precious time in the severe winter storm. Several members of your wagon train die due to exposure.

TD #3 (Move Back) You safely wait out the storm before traveling on over the Blue Mountains; however, your supplies maybe too low to travel over the mountain pass and to the Columbia River below.

Each wagon master must roll a dice. If the number is even, your supplies run out and you must go back one landmark. If the number is odd, your supplies last and you stay where you are.

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(Pioneers "Interact" Simulation - Trail Decision 4 Adaptation)

Your long difficult journey is now two thirds of the way over. There is only one more mountain pass to scale. Although it is mid-September, it is snowing in the mountains.

Your trail guide who has traveled with your wagon train since Independence, Missouri, tells you that this is the second snow of the season. The snow has nearly blocked the Blue Mountain pass. He believes that the pass is still open but, with the snow now coming down, it maybe closed for at least a week or until the snow stops. What should you do?

Everyone in the wagon train is talking and arguing. You realize that you must waste no time: your wagon train must make a decision soon!

Trail Decision	Possible Actions	Analysis
1	Your wagon train can head directly for the Blue Mountain pass and hope it is still open when you get there. If the pass is open, you will soon reach The Dalles along the Columbia River. You will spend the winter in a warm shelter you can construct on your own property once you reach Oregon City. If the snow closes the pass while you are there, you will be trapped and unable to move either forward or backward. This will undoubtedly mean death for almost everyone and everything on the wagon train.	Pros:
		Cons:
2	You can send scouts ahead to see if the Blue Mountain pass is open. This might waste valuable time and allow the pass to close before you can reach it, or it might be the action that saves your life.	Pros:
		Cons:
3	You can spend a week at the base of the Blue Mountains. However, if you stay, the weather may get worse due to an early winter season. This could present many problems since there are no shelters, you have few supplies left, and the winter will be very severe. You would be forced to immediately begin building shelters, sending out hunting parties, and preparing for a very rough time for the next six months.	Pros:
		Cons:

Action Chosen # _____