

Westward Movement - Trail Decision #4

Fates:

TD #1 (Basket - avoid fate, No basket - this fate is yours) You build a raft, load your wagon on, and begin your journey downstream only to discover that the rough waters are too much for an inexperienced river captain to handle. Your raft breaks apart, dumping your wagon into the water near shore. Unfortunately, you lose many supplies, a milk cow, and your oxen. You must salvage as much of your supplies from the river as possible, set up camp along the shore, return to The Dalles, and make arrangements for a guide to pick up your family and wagon downstream in the weeks ahead. This expense and the expense of needing to purchase more oxen to pull your wagon leave you with very little money to purchase winter supplies once you reach Oregon City. You must begin building a temporary shelter immediately in order to survive the winter months. This forces you to postpone staking your claim until the Spring when you will need to continue your journey for a less desirable plot of land.

Each wagon master stands 20 feet from a trash can. He/she has three tosses of a _____ to avoid this fate and reach Oregon ahead of schedule, stake your claim on a premium site, and begin building your dream home. If he/she fails, this fate is yours.

TD #2 (Correct call - this fate is yours, Incorrect call - New Fate*) During your two week stay in Hood River, you find a job and manage to build up some additional money to save. Rested and with extra money in your pocket, your guide successfully floats you and your family downriver and back onto the Oregon Trail. You reach Oregon City with little time before the winter arrives, but your rested and the extra money allows you to purchase more than enough supplies to live comfortably. You stake your claim in the new territory and begin building your home, your future.

Each wagon master must call a coin in the air. If he/she calls it correctly, this fate is yours and you go straight to Oregon City and stake your claim on a nice piece of land. If he/she calls it incorrectly, *your guide was unavailable for three weeks causing you to arrive in Oregon City as winter arrives. You must settle for a land claim that may not be the best for farming with little water available for crops. However, there is no time and you must begin preparing for the winter.

TD #3 (Even # - This fate is yours, Odd # - New Fate*) The Barlow Toll Road proves to be a rugged and strenuous route. However, the cool mountain air, among the shady pine trees, is refreshing and a retreat from your earlier travels on the hot baron plains. Also, the trail is fairly new with very few ruts to cause problems, which in turn allows you to travel at a reasonable pace. With perseverance and the end insight, you arrive in the Willamette Valley with just enough time to scout out a nice piece of land for you and your family. Once settled, you go to work completing a very small temporary structure to get you through your first winter safely without great luxury. Springtime will prove to be a wonderful opportunity for you to build a permanent home with adequate amenities on this wonderful dreamlike landscape you now call home.

Each wagon master must roll a dice. If you roll an even number, this fate is yours. If the number is odd, *your wagon requires significant repair from this difficult overland journey and is unable to sustain this new rugged and unimproved route. You are forced to set up a winter camp and wait out the winter in the low lands near the Willamette Valley. Come springtime, you successfully reach Oregon City and must continue traveling on to find a reasonable second rate piece of land to stake your claim.

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You have successfully completed your trek over the Blue Mountains and are grateful to reach the wild prairie below. However, your guide has informed you that tomorrow you and your wagon train have a very important decision to make. As you reach the bottom of the mountain pass, the trail splits. As the map shows, both trails lead to Oregon City in the Willamette Valley. One direction leads to The Dalles where the wagon ruts stop at the narrow gorge of the Columbia River. The rapids here are navigable but extremely treacherous. Although this is a dangerous route, it can save precious time if there is an experienced river guide available to float your wagon down stream. The alternative route is to pay the toll and follow the newly completed Barlow Toll Road. This overland route maybe safer than floating the Columbia River, but it is expensive to pay the toll and you have heard very few stories from others about this new route.

Trail Decision	Possible Actions	Analysis
1	You are low on money and are eager to stake your claim on your new land. You choose to travel by river. The Columbia River route is shorter and leads almost directly to Oregon City. There are no guides available to ferry your wagon down the river for two weeks, so you and a few other wagons decide to take your chances and navigate the river on your own. This may certainly save you both time and money but may prove to be a very dangerous and a risky alternative. But if you succeed, you will be able to choose from the best farm land with plenty of water and resources to ensure a prosperous life for you and your family.	Pros:
		Cons:
2	You are tired and weary and the thought of traveling by raft along the cool, dust free waters of the Columbia Gorge are just too tempting to pass up. You expect the trip to be challenging, but easy on your family and animals tired bodies. You are confident that having an experienced guide is a must and there are none available for two weeks. You set up camp in the staging area along the river (today this staging area is known as the City of Hood River). If you succeed, your family and animals will be rested, strong, and ready to prepare for the long winter ahead. However, the best land my already be taken and you may have to travel further to stake your claim.	Pros:
		Cons:
3	From the stories you have heard, the river route is just too risky. You choose to pay the high toll with the little money you have left and travel along the Barlow Toll Road. Although it is a newer route with more unknowns, you feel that it is a safer alternative to floating along the treacherous waters of the Columbia River. You are likely to arrive safely in Oregon City. However, with no money left and risking a late arrival into the winter months, you may struggle to complete your shelter, hunt and gather food, stock up on supplies, and find work in time.	Pros:
		Cons:

Action Chosen # _____