



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

DIRECTIONS FOR THE EMIGRANT TRAIL GAME

1. Spin the arrow marked place of departure. Write the departure city on your card in the space provided.
2. Spin the arrow marked destination. Write the destination city on your card in the space provided.
3. Spin the arrow marked number in the party. Write the number of people in your party on the card in the space provided.
4. Spin the arrow marked departure date. Write the departure date on your card in the space provided.

Once you have all of the information; consider the following questions using the fact sheet and information in the interpretive kit.

QUESTIONS

1. What hardships would you have faced on your journey? Consider the time of year, terrain, number in group, etc.
2. How long would it have taken you to get from your starting point to your final destination?
3. How many members of your party would have survived to reach your final destination?
4. What would have been the benefits of traveling in a large/small group?
5. Why would you choose this destination? For example, what would make someone want to go to San Francisco in 1849?

What trail would you have taken?





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• The Westward Journey

- The journey from Missouri to California or Oregon was approximately 2,000 miles.
- The average cross country journey took between four-five months.
- One of every ten travelers died along the emigrant trails.
- The most common cause of accidental death along the trail was being run over by a wagon after falling beneath the wagon wheels.
- Most emigrants were not able to take baths and wore the same clothes day after day.
- Wagons used were 11 feet long, 4 feet wide, 2 feet deep.
- People traveled mostly in groups of relations, or with people from their hometown.
- Traveling groups usually had a written constitution code, regulations, and bylaws. There were penalties for infractions, social security for the sick or bereaved, and pensions established for the disposition of shares of deceased members of the party.
- The average cost of a trip from Missouri to California was around \$800-\$1000.
- One in five women were in some state of pregnancy during the trip and virtually every married woman traveled with small children.
- There were many hardships on the trail. A few of these were:
 - Weather- extreme heat and a lack of water made travel difficult in the desert. In turn, there was a serious shortage of adequate water and grass for livestock.
 - Walking- because of the fact that most emigrants over filled their wagons, most of them were forced to walk the entire 2,000 mile journey on foot. The average person would go through ten pairs of shoes by the time they reached California.
- The typical day on the trail for the emigrants went something like this:
 - Before dawn- Breakfast: coffee, bacon, and dry bread
 - 7:00 am- Bedding secured to wagon; travel begins
 - Noon- Lunch: Cold meal of coffee, beans, and bacon (cooked in the morning)
 - 5:00 pm- After traveling for 15 miles, the wagons were circled, men secured the animals and made repairs, while the women cooked a warm dinner of tea, rice, dried beef or cod fish.
 - Evening- the children were schooled; there was singing, dancing, and story telling.
 - Sundays- there was usually no traveling on Sundays, and if there was, it was not until the afternoon. Sundays were seen as laundry day, however, it was not uncommon for emigrants to layover for a few days when they got to a water source, just to do laundry.



EMIGRANT TRAIL GAME - ANSWERS

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Destination:

Date of Departure:

Number in Party:



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