



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

CHILDREN ON THE TRAIL

Frequently Asked Questions

When Did They Wake Up?

- Usually they would wake up at around 4 am to be ready to hit the trail by 5.

How long did they travel in a day?

- About 11 to 12 hours.

What did they do while they traveled?

- Generally, the children would tend to do chores such as caring for younger children, collecting fruits and other foods from the side of the trail, and cleaning the wagons. The children, like the adults, would generally walk along side the wagons for the duration of the day's journey, but if they began to tire they would climb into the wagons and nap.

What did they do when they stopped?

- Children would aid their parents in the daily chores. Boys would generally help their fathers circle the wagons and bring in the animals, while girls would watch over the other children and help their mothers with food preparation.

What was the biggest danger to children on the trail?

- There were many dangers on the trail. It seemed that the odds were especially stacked against children as they were susceptible to more forms of disease and illness than their parents and older siblings. One of the other main concerns for children on the trail was that they sometimes wandered under the wheels of the wagons and crushed.

Were children ever born on the trail?

- Yes, children were often born on the trail, but the emigrants hardly ever stopped for the birth. Children were born and a few hours later the wagons were on their way again.

How far did they travel in a day?

- On a good day 15 miles, but depending on the conditions it could be as little as one mile.