

## Oregon Trail: End of the Journey

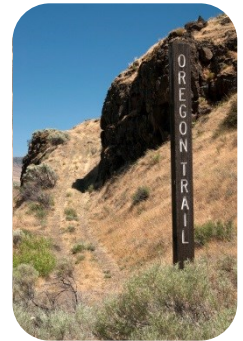
### *Cause & Effect*

Directions: Read the following passage about the Oregon Trail and answer the questions.

The **Oregon Trail** was one of America's true adventures. From 1840-1869, over 400,000 pioneers made the 2,000-mile journey.

### The Pioneers

Who were the people who traveled the Oregon Trail? In the beginning, most of the emigrants were farmers, hoping to improve their families fortunes in the fertile soil of the western United States. However, the discovery of gold led to a flood of western migration. Some of these pioneers included the following:



Biggs Junction, OR  
*Oregon Trail Today*

- **Fur trappers** – these mountain men had been in the hills for years, and some served as guides.
- **Prospectors** – the gold rush had many Americans dreaming of fortunes.
- **Merchants** – perceptive businessmen and women saw opportunities in the growing communities of the West.
- **Families** – whether looking for land or a fresh start, many families with young children traveled the trail.

The Oregon Trail ended in Oregon City, Oregon, where pioneers could claim land at \$1.25 an acre, with a limit of 320 acres.

### The Effects

One of the enduring legacies of the Oregon Trail was the expansion of United States territory to the West Coast. America now stretched from sea to sea. With additional citizens, the Oregon Country became the states of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. People built towns with thriving industries like farming, timber, mining, and manufacturing. The Columbia River has become an important source of hydroelectricity for the region, like Seattle and Portland.



Bonneville Dam, OR  
*Columbia River*

### The Trail Today

The Oregon Trail no longer exists and remnants are in the form of historical markers and occasional wagon ruts. Roads and the streamlined Interstates 80 and 84 replaced the trail. What took pioneers 4-6 months of travel can now be accomplished in a two-day drive.



*Portland, OR*

### Questions:

1. What caused pioneers to "Go West"? (**≥2 sentences, cite examples**) **Pioneers went west for farming new land at a low cost. They also went searching for gold.**
2. What lifestyles were pioneers probably leaving behind by traveling west? (**2 sentences**) **They were leaving established farms and towns. They also likely left relatives behind.**
3. What is opportunity? (**1 sentence**) **Opportunity is the chance to better your conditions.**
4. What were some of the effects of a large migration west? (**≥2 sentences**) **A large migration helped create western states. The migration created needs for services and jobs, like farming, housing, and transportation.**
5. Would traveling the trail become easier or more difficult over the years? (**2 sentences, use "because"**) **It would become easier because shorter routes were created. It would also be easier because information could be shared about the trail by other travelers.**
6. Describe the pioneer, can-do spirit. (**≥2 sentences**) **The pioneer spirit involves accepting a challenge to achieve a goal. It involves teamwork, hardship, creativity, and success. It is the American way!**

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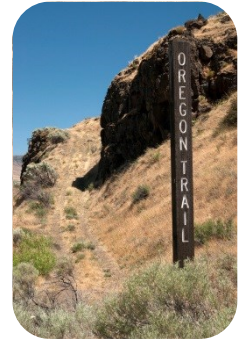
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