

# Northwest History Consortium

## Go West, Young Man!

**Christy Ledeboer**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **National Standard**

**Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801 – 1861) / Standard 1**

*Standard 1: United States territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans*

### **BACKGROUND**

During the mid 1800's scores of people living in the northeast made the decision to move their families west of the Mississippi River in hopes of making a better life. Much of this new land did not belong to the United States. The decision to move was something that did not come easily, considering the dangers that lay ahead, the distance that needed to be traveled, and the uncertainty of what was in store once they arrived.

### **SCENARIO**

The year is 1839 and Josiah Smith and his fellow farmers have been noticing that their little valley in western Pennsylvania is becoming crowded, as people from Europe continue to immigrate to the United States. Not only are more people moving to this peaceful valley, but also rumors have spread that the owners of some new so-called factory is coming to buy valuable farmland. Josiah and others fear that all these new comers will rob their young sons of finding suitable farmland in the future.

Josiah rides into town for supplies and joins in a conversation with other locals from the area. He hears talk that one of the local farmers, Samuel Anderson, is leaving the valley in the spring heading west. The news comes as a surprise to Josiah, but it also sounds intriguing. Stories of both the great open farmland as well as reports of the treacherous journey are mixed into the conversation. Josiah leaves town making one big decision, but he needs to present the option to his wife and family. He knows that his wife will be filled with questions like:

- How do we get there?
- How long is this journey?
- What do we take?
- What 's at the end of the journey?
- What are the dangers of going?
- Have others made the trip and found it worthwhile?

The Smith family will need to find these answers before undertaking such an adventure.

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#### TASKS

You have been hired by a local advertising company to create an advertisement encouraging people to move west. In your advertisement you need to show the route they are going to take. You also need to include the accounts of different individuals that have made the trip so that future travelers know what to expect. Draw a picture of your means of transportation and list the items that you will pack for the trip.

#### Resources

##### Books

Billington, Ray Allen and Ridge, Martin. Westward Expansion: A History of the American Frontier. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2001.

Cooper, James F. The Pioneers. New York, NY: Signet Classics (Penguin Group), 2007.

King, David C. American Voices: Westward Expansion. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, 2003.

Klausmeyer, David. Oregon Trail Stories: True Accounts of Life in a Covered Wagon. Guilford, CT: TwoDot Publishing (Globe Pequot Press), 2003.

Landau, Elaine. The Oregon Trail. Danbury, CT: Children's Press, 2006.

##### Internet

[author unknown]. "The Most Important Historic Pioneer Trails in North America." Passagen.se. 2010. Stockholm, Sweden. 13 May 2010 <<http://www.hem.passagen.se/psof/wagontrain.htm>>.

"From Native Prairie to Present, Our Agricultural Heritage." Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Camp Silos). ©2001 – 2010. Waterloo, IA. 13 May 2010 <<http://campsilos.org/>>.

Julie Jo. "Pioneer Going West." 9 Nov. 2007. Blogger. ©1999 – 2010. San Francisco, CA. 13 May 2010 <<http://pioneergoingwest.blogspot.com/>>.

"Pioneers," 19 July 1999. Oracle ThinkQuest. 1996 – 2010. Redwood Shores, CA. 13 May 2010 <<http://library.thinkquest.org/6400/>>.

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### ASSESSMENT

### Assessment Rubric

Category	Minimum 2 points each	Moderate 3 points each	Excellence 4 points each
<b>Advertisement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-not colored</li> <li>-letters not uniform</li> <li>-no reason given to move west</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-colored advertisement</li> <li>-most letters uniform</li> <li>-reason given for moving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-colored advertisement</li> <li>-letters uniform</li> <li>- reason given for moving west</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Account</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-have 1-2 personal accounts</li> <li>-no variety in accounts given</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-have 3 personal account</li> <li>- accounts repeat content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-have at least 4 personal accounts</li> <li>-each account is different than the others</li> </ul>
<b>Trip Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Computer generated map</li> <li>-computer generated route</li> <li>-no items listed to take on the trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-blank map</li> <li>-route indicated on map</li> <li>-less than 5 items listed with some reasons given for taking items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-hand drawn or traced map with route clearly marked</li> <li>- map contains major landforms marked</li> <li>-over 5 items listed and reason given for taking items</li> </ul>

### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in The Schools. 2009. University of California, Los Angeles, CA: 31 May 2009 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/toc.html>>.

Ledeboer, Christy. “Assessment Rubric.” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 13 May 2010 <[http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.1\\_WestwardExpansion.Ledeboer.4.pdf](http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.1_WestwardExpansion.Ledeboer.4.pdf)>.

Ledeboer, Christy. “Go West, Young Man!” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 13 May 2010 <[http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.1\\_WestwardExpansion.Ledeboer.4.pdf](http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.1_WestwardExpansion.Ledeboer.4.pdf)>.