

# Pioneering

1. Define Pioneer.
2. Prepare and eat 2 food items typical of what the Pioneers might have eaten as they traveled.
3. List and discuss 10 dangers that were encountered by the Pioneers as they traveled west.
4. Pioneers had to leave almost everything except the necessary food and equipment needed by themselves and their animals behind. Make a list of the 10 things your family would not want to leave behind if you were a pioneer family packing to go west.
5. Why did families move west?
6. How did the families get west?
7. Make an item used by Pioneers that is something not generally used today.
8. Play a game typical of that period.

## Helps:

1. Pioneer is anyone who is a leader in a new area. John Glen was a pioneer in space travel. We are using the term here to apply to the people who moved from the settled areas on the east coast of the United States to areas in what is now the western U.S. (Some parts of the country they moved to in the early years were not yet part of the United States, they were governed by France or Mexico (Spain) or Great Britain.) These people called themselves Emigrants not Pioneers.
2. Examples: Fry bread, homemade butter, crackers, dried apples, soups made with dried beans and vegetables such as carrots, turnips, or potatoes (vegetable that would not have spoiled easily), chili, sourdough bread, biscuits, johnnycake (cornbread), pancakes.
3. Books with good information are: *Westward Ho! An Activity Guide to the Wild West* by Laurie Carlson and *Don't Know Much About the Pioneers* by Kenneth C. Davis.
4. Pioneers had to leave behind almost everything except for the food and equipment needed by themselves or their animals during the trip. That was all

packed in a wagon about the size of a minivan. If you are doing this as a family, have them list 20 things they could not leave behind. This would not include the food and equipment but rather things like their family Bible, or grandma's clock. They can modernize the list to include a computer or a game. Then tell them they must cut this list in half due to lack of space. This will give them a feel of what it was like for the Pioneers as they packed to leave. If a child is doing this alone have him/her start with a list of 10, then shorten it to 5.

5. There was a movement west for a long period of time and the reasons changed over the years. Some reasons they went west were for free land, for more space because the east felt too crowded, to pan for gold, to raise cattle, or to trap for animal pelts.

6. This changed over the years, early groups went in covered wagons or by boat, and later groups came by rail.

7. Examples: Print an ad for a newspaper by "setting" the type letter by letter, as was done to print in those days. (Use alphabet pasta, glued to a piece of cardboard, for the lettering. "Ink" it by painting it with black tempera paint then "print" it on butcher paper. Remember you have to set it all backwards, so it can be read when printed.), dye fabric with natural dyes, make a candle, write a letter using a quill pen and ink, sew something simple without a sewing machine.

8. Button, Button; I Spy; Hop Scotch; Hand Clap games. Check online for ideas and instructions/rules.