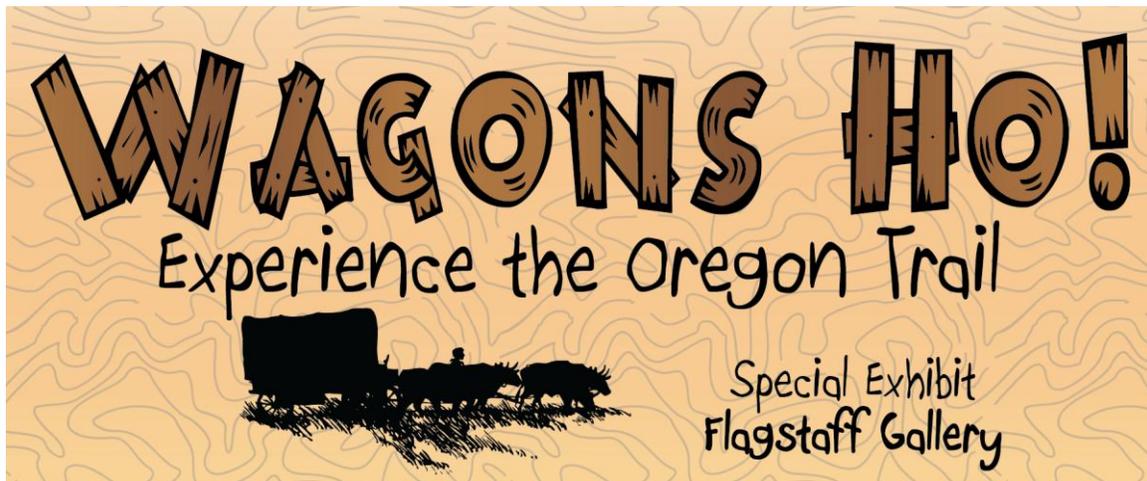


A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO USING THE EXHIBIT:



This annual exhibit is aimed at the young, and young at heart. It has playful, interactive elements about the Oregon Trail experience. Activities in the exhibit include a life size "Pack Your Wagon" with full scale blocks to try packing everything needed for a five month journey west; a puppet theater with an array of wildlife puppets; poetry magnets; wildlife habitats of Oregon, and an "Oregon Trail Game" that challenges players to ensure survival and success on a long distance hike across the continent. Youngsters can also try-on replica pioneer clothing and pose for photos, or piece together a puzzle map of Oregon's many American Indian tribes.

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

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About the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

The exhibit will be set up in the Flagstaff Gallery located within the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. This landmark heritage tourist attraction includes permanent exhibits about pioneer history, life size dioramas, films, a theater with life plays and programs, a gift shop, hiking trails throughout a 500 acre open site, plus activities, events and workshops for all ages. It is located right on the historic Oregon Trail. Walking to the ruts carved by thousands of pioneer wagons is a popular and inspiring activity for visitors. Sweeping landscape vistas of three mountain ranges and ample opportunities for wildlife viewing make this a favorite for outdoor enthusiasts. Operated by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with private non-profit community group Trail Tenders, the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center has been a top tourist destination in the Pacific Northwest for over twenty years.



Pack Your Wagon in the Wagon's Ho! Children's Exhibit at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, Oregon. (Bureau of Land Management photo; public domain).

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the exhibit the same as last year?

We've added some updates with more activities about wildlife, changes to the costume try-on activity, new additions to the magnet maps. But the favorites remain – the Pack Your Wagon, the mileage line, the puppet theater.

Are there any rules to what kids can and cannot do in the exhibit?

Mainly we just need youngsters to practice safe behavior, be aware that other visitors are sharing the space, put books, puppets, clothes and blocks back, and know where parents or adult group leaders are when using the room.

What ages can use the exhibit?

It's aimed for toddlers to about grade six, but activities work for all ages, and work especially well for intergenerational groups.

What does the exhibit provide for meeting education benchmarks and standards?

Activities in the exhibits offer opportunities to meet several benchmarks for K-6 in Social Studies, and some in Science, Math and English Language. Some specific benchmarks are listed below – the exhibit includes activities with mapping, identification of wildlife, calculations, estimates, problem solving, migration and cultural interaction, technology changes over time, comparing past with present, economic choices, cause and effect, observation, leadership and group decision making.

What else is there for children to do on a visit to the Interpretive Center?

There are several Junior Explorer activity booklets: Junior Pioneer, Junior Prospector ; a Scavenger Hunt activity where kids find answers within the exhibits; gold panning demonstrations (weather permitting); and scheduled pioneer craft workshops. We also offer Family Activity Packs for use while hiking the trails, and a variety of educational books and games are available in the Oregon Trail Shop.

Benchmarks for Oregon:

Social Sciences: K.3, K.4, K.9, K.13, K.19, K.20, 1.8, 1.12, 1.20, 2.4, 2.7, 2.11, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.17, 3.19, 3.20, 4.2, 4.2, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.17, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.21, 5.23, 6.2, 6.8, 6.11, 6.14

Science: K.1L.1, K.3S.2, 1.1L.1, 2.1L.1, 3.4D.2

Math: 2.2.4, 2.3.1, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 4.2.3, 4.3.4

Language: Alphabet, poetry and rhyming

The WAGONS HO! Exhibit includes these activities for all ages:

WILDLIFE AND ANIMAL HABITATS

One activity is to take photographs of wild animals and match them to their habitats – forest, meadow, or sagebrush plains. Another activity is the new Carnivore & Herbivore Tic-Tac-Toe game.



HOW MANY STEPS

Count your steps as you walk the line, then calculate how many steps it would take you to walk the full 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail. Compare your answer with a friend of a different height, and see if your results are different.

WAGON WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Take your chances as you travel the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City. Up to 6 players can take turns spinning the wheel to see how accidents and illness affect your chances of making it to Oregon.

PACK YOUR WAGON

Taking no more than 2,400 pounds and stacking blocks no higher than the sides of the wagon, decide what you would pack for your five month journey along the Oregon Trail. Full lesson plan with worksheet on wagon items is available in the "For Teachers" section of oregontrail.blm.gov.



The WAGONS HO! Exhibit includes these activities for all ages:

PUPPET THEATER

A variety of hand puppets represents wildlife found along the Oregon Trail. It is suggested to have students use the puppets to talk about wildlife behavior, sounds and habitat associated with each animal.



MAGNET POETRY BOARD

A magnetic board with a variety of words related to the Oregon Trail can be used for teaching vocabulary and language skills. Full lesson plan with poetry ideas is available in the "For Teachers" section of oregontrail.blm.gov for.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lesson Plans and activities are available in the "For Teachers" section of our website, oregontrail.blm.gov. Documents available for your site visit or classroom use include:

- Pack Your Wagon Lesson Plan
- Pioneer Poetry Lesson Plan
- Trading Station Math Exercises
- Explorer Crossword Puzzle
- Scavenger Hunt
- The Oregon Trail Education Resource Guide
- Explorers of the Pacific Northwest Education Resource Guide