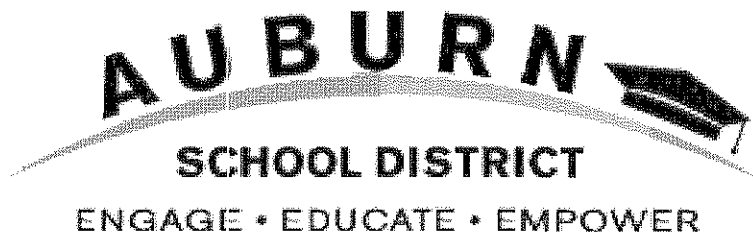


Grade 4 ELA - Performance Task

Independent Assessment

Westward Movement
Informational



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade 4 Performance Task

Grade 4 Performance Task

STUDENT DIRECTIONS:

Westward Movement Informational Performance Task

Task:

Your explorer club is learning about the groups of people that traveled west. You have been chosen to write an article in a newsletter about why people traveled west, the costs and benefits of their decision, and the affects the geographic features had on their travel. Before you decide what group of people you will write about, you do some research and read two articles and view a video about the westward movement.

After you have looked at these sources you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully to gain the information you will need to answer the questions and write an informational article for the newsletter.

In Part 2, you will write an informational article using information you have read.

Direction for beginning:

You will now look at three sources. You can look at any of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After looking at the sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answer to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read which should help you write your informational article.

Note Guidelines for Source 1: Reasons for Migrating

Paragraph Number	Main Idea (Most Important Who and What in 10 words or less)
1	<hr/> <hr/>
2	<hr/> <hr/>
3	<hr/> <hr/>
4	<hr/> <hr/>
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7	<hr/> <hr/>

Part 1

Sources for Performance Task

Source #1 Reasons for Migrating West

This article explains the many reasons various people headed west during the 1840 and 1850s.

Reasons for Migrating West

During the 1840s and 1850s people read newspaper stories about a wonderful land in the Northwest called Oregon. Oregon was supposed to have mild weather and rich soil. Missionaries that had visited Oregon to bring Christianity to the Indians praised Oregon in letters they sent back east. Publications that painted enticing pictures of lush, available western lands put thousands on the trail. Overcrowded cities in the East caused others to flee westward.

One writer claimed that beets grew up to “three feet in diameter, while turnips were five feet around.” From stories like this, people caught the ‘Oregon Fever’-a longing to go west and start a new life. Some hoped to find cheap fertile land while other settlers made money in the logging business. There were plenty of trees in the Pacific Northwest and great demand for them in the East. The emigrants, as they were called, came from every segment of American society. Many were farmers, cattlemen and homesteaders who went west to build a ranch or farm in this new land of opportunity. The emigrants also included tradesmen, businessmen, journalists, adventurers, missionaries, gamblers, and miners. They were motivated by a variety of reasons.

Another group, African American slaves, traveled West to get their freedom slaves were given freedom if they made it to these new western lands. There, they could start a new life as farmers or loggers.

A newsletter from a tiny settlement in San Francisco on March 15, 1848 proclaimed: GOLD MINE FOUND! By May, 1848, a few hundred gold seekers came to California. By the end of the year, they numbered in the thousands. Before long, people from throughout the United States and other countries flocked to California to make their riches gold. Boom towns grew up very quickly. By the end of the gold rush, more than 300,000 people had migrated to California. The gold seekers were called forty-niners for the year 1849 when the Gold Rush was at its peak. Not everyone who came to California wanted to work in the Gold fields. Many men and women came to start a business. Some sold clothing to the miners. Others sold food or mining equipment. Others cooked and ran hotels. The gold rush lasted just 4 years. By 1852, forty-niners had mined gold worth more than \$80 million!

Moving west became easier. The Oregon and Sante Fe trails were overland trails pioneers could travel. Canals were being built in the East and river transportation was improved when the steamboat was invented. Settlers could easily navigate the harsh rivers west.

Finally, many settlers wanted to go West because they believed America was meant, or destined, to expand to the Pacific Ocean. This belief was called Manifest Destiny.

Between 1801 and 1861, America underwent vast territorial expansion and settlement. Westward migration was influenced by geography and economic opportunity and the belief in Manifest Destiny.

Note Guidelines for Source #2: Oregon or Bust

Paragraph #	Main Idea: Most Important Who and What in 10 words or less
1	<hr/> <hr/>
2	<hr/> <hr/>
3	<hr/> <hr/>
4-5	<hr/> <hr/>
6	<hr/> <hr/>
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9	<hr/> <hr/>
10	<hr/> <hr/>
11	<hr/> <hr/>

Source #2: Oregon or Bust: This article explains the process pioneers went through to travel on the Oregon Trail.

Oregon or Bust

The Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail opened in 1841 with 35 men, 5 women, and 10 children using it to make the trek from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City, Oregon. In 1842, 100 emigrants took that same westward trail. In 1843, the number of people traveling increased to 1000. During the late 1840s and early 1850s tens of thousands of settlers made the journey every year. From 1840-1860, approximately 300,000 to 600,000 emigrants traveled the Oregon Trail.

Getting Ready

The preparations for a journey west on the Oregon Trail took more than a year. Emigrants had to sell land, businesses, and property while gathering the supplies they would need on the journey.

A wagon built to withstand 2200 miles across plains, mountains, and desert was the most important piece of equipment. Wagons were 6 feet wide and about 12 feet long with a 3 feet high interior. The wagons had to be tall enough to cross through streams without completely submerging. Tar buckets hung from the sides so settlers could fill the cracks between the boards with tar to make the wagon waterproof when they crossed rivers. The canopy of the wagon was oiled to keep rain out. Water barrels hung from the back of the wagon and were filled with water from rain and streams. Other things that hung from the sides of the wagons included buckets of axle grease, extra wheels and axles to replace ones that broke, coils of rope to lower the wagons down steep hills, and extra leather harnesses for the animals.

The inside of the wagon was often crammed with the supplies needed to make the journey and for use once the settlers reached Oregon. Most families carried about 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon, 20 pounds of sugar, 10 pounds of coffee, and 10 pounds of salt at a total cost of \$300 to \$600. They also carried rifles and ammunition that totaled about \$100. Their clothing had to be sturdy and well-made and each person needed strong boots or shoes for walking and to withstand the weather conditions along the trail.

A team of 8 to 12 oxen pulled each wagon. A wagon and oxen team cost each family about \$400 to \$600. The total weight of wagon's cargo pulled by the oxen was about 2500 pounds.

Life on the Trail

The geography of the land dictated the travel route from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City, Oregon. The terrain and weather along the Oregon Trail influenced the events and conditions experienced during travel. It was critically important to embark at the appropriate time of year. If the settlers left too early in the spring, there would not yet be enough grass on the prairie to feed the livestock. If they left too late in the spring, they risked being trapped in winter snows in the Cascade Mountains near the end of the trip. Travelers usually left in May and hoped to reach Oregon by October. It took them 6 months to make the 2200-mile journey.

Each wagon train headed west from Independence, Missouri for 200 miles across the tall prairie grass of the Great Plains. In some places, the grass was so tall, men had to stand on the backs of horses or oxen to see ahead. This was the terrain until they came to Fort Kearney and the Platte River. Fort Kearney was the first of three trading posts. The Platte River guided them along their journey for the next 450 miles. It was a broad, brown river that was too muddy for drinking or bathing. Along the Platte River, the tall prairie grass turned into short prairie grass. There were also fewer trees, so the settlers used buffalo dung for fuel in their fires.

At the 650 mile mark, the emigrants reached Fort Laramie and were ready to begin their climb into the Rocky Mountains where they would face hot summer days sprinkled with summer thunderstorms and hailstorms followed by cold mountain nights. During some of the thunderstorms, it was necessary to chain the wagons together so they wouldn't blow away. About 250 miles farther, they reached Independence Rock. People signed their names on the rock and it became known as the "Great Register of the Oregon Trail." Independence Rock signaled a gradual, winding, gentle climb into the Rockies across South Pass.

After South Pass, the travelers headed northwest into the unrelenting sun of the dry, dusty desert country until reaching Fort Hall, which was the 1200-mile marker. They continued northwest along the rugged, rock ledges in the canyon of Snake River making a grueling climb over the Blue Mountains. At times the wall was so steep that wagons had to be taken apart and using chains and pulleys hauled up one side and then lowered inch by inch down the other side. The emigrants proceeded west along the Columbia River for 200 miles to a settlement called Dalles.

They now only had the final stretch of the journey left through the Cascade Mountains into Oregon City. This was a narrow trail lined with thick trees. The downhill parts were very difficult because they were so steep and slippery that keeping the wagons and oxen from sliding downhill off the path was a challenge. The settlers tied big logs on the back of the wagons to act as brakes. They also often encountered snow banks in the Cascade Mountains.

A typical travel day began at 4 a.m. with the men on sentry duty firing a wake up shot. The march began by 7 a.m. Very rarely did anyone ride inside of the wagon. Most people walked the entire trail, while some rode horses. The emigrants rested for an hour in the middle of the day eating cold lunches. In late afternoon, they stopped and set up camp for the evening. They looked for campsites near fresh water and grass for the livestock. By 8 p.m., most people were in bed. The caravan traveled 12-15 miles a day.

Note Guidelines for Source #3: Elbow Room

Number of Stanza	Main Idea Most Important Who and What in 10 words or less
1-2	<hr/>
3	<hr/>
4-5	<hr/>
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8	<hr/>
9	<hr/>
10-11	<hr/>
12	<hr/>

Source #3: Elbow Room Use the link below to view a video from School House Rock that identifies events that occurred in history and the ways it lead to more people moving west for more elbow room.

<http://www.gamequarium.org/cgi-bin/search/linfo.cgi?id=3794>

Lyrics to Elbow Room

Stanza Number	Lyrics
1	One thing you will discover When you get next to one another Is everybody needs some elbow room, elbow room
2	It's nice when you're kinda cozy, but Not when you're tangled nose to nosey, oh Everybody needs some elbow, needs a little elbow room
3	That's how it was in the early days of the U.S.A. The people kept coming to settle though The east was the only place there was to go
4	The president was Thomas Jefferson He made a deal with Napoleon How'd you like to sell a mile or two (Or three, or a hundred, or a thousand?)
5	And so, in 1803 the Louisiana Territory was sold to us Without a fuss And gave us lots of elbow room
6	Oh, elbow room, elbow room Got to, got to get us some elbow room It's the west or bust In God we trust There's a new land out there Lewis and Clark volunteered to go Goodbye, good luck, wear your overcoat! They prepared for good times and for bad (and for bad)
7	They hired Sacagawea to be their guide She led them all across the countryside Reached the coast And found the most Elbow room we've ever had
8	The way was opened up for folks with bravery There were plenty of fights To win land rights But the West was meant to be It was our Manifest Destiny!

Stanza Number	Lyrics
9	<p>The trappers, traders, and the peddlers The politicians, and the settlers They got there by any way they could (any way they could) The Gold Rush trampled down the wilderness The railroads spread across from east to west And soon the West was opened up for - opened up for good</p>
10	<p>And now we jet from east to west Goodbye New York, hello L.A. But it took those early folks to open up the way</p>
11	<p>Now we've got a lot of room to be Growing from sea to shining sea Guess that we have got our elbow room (elbow room) But if there should ever come a time When we're crowded up together I'm sure we'll find some elbow room . . . up on the moon!</p>
12	<p>Oh, elbow room, elbow room Got to, got to get us some elbow room It's the moon or bust In God we trust There's a new land up there!</p>

3. Which answers show information that was presented in the sources on the reasons people traveled west? Select **all** that apply.

A. People traveled west to explore.

B. People traveled west for new land.

C. People traveled west to escape slavery.

D. People traveled west searching for gold.

Student Directions for Part 2

You will now look at your sources, take notes, and plan, draft, revise and edit your article. Now read your assignment and the information about how your informational article will be scored; then begin your work.

Your Assignment:

You are in the explorer club at school. Write an article that is several paragraphs long for the club's newsletter in which you explain why groups of people traveled west, the costs and benefits of their decision, and the affects the geographic features had on their travel.

Your article will be read by other students, teachers, and parents. Make sure to have a main idea, clearly organize your article, and support your main idea with details from the sources using your own words. Be sure to develop your ideas clearly.

REMEMBER: A well written informational article:

- Has a clear main idea
- Is well-organized and stays on the topic
- Uses transitions
- Uses details from the sources to support your main idea
- Develops ideas clearly
- Uses clear language
- Follow rules of writing

Now begin your work on your informational article

1. Plan your article
2. Write your article
3. Revise and edit the final draft

Combining Notes from all 3 Sources: This will help you begin your pre-write

Questions you need to Answer in your Article	Bullet answers to questions using your notes in your own words
Why did people travel West?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What were the cost and benefits of traveling West?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What were the geographical features that affected traveling West?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

