

Let's Go West

WHY DID PEOPLE GO WEST?

Some people did not have a lot of money, so they thought going west would give them new opportunities. Many people took their whole families out west! Can you imagine moving away from your home?



Well, people went West to find a new home! Going west meant that people had the chance to start their own farms. Have you ever been on a farm?

What Did People Ride on the Prairie?

COVERED WAGONS

People used to ride in covered wagons! These wagons had wheels so they could roll, and they could carry all of their belongings.



OXEN

Oxen used to pull covered wagons!

Because they are so big and strong, oxen can pull a lot of weight.



HORSES

People often rode on horses to get quickly from one place to another. Horses can run fast, even while carrying people on their backs!



TRAINS

The first train tracks were being laid while people were starting to settle out west.

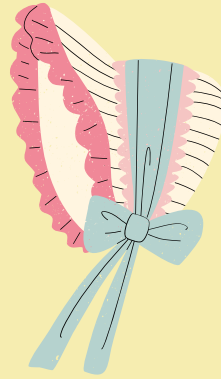
Trains can carry people from long distances quickly!



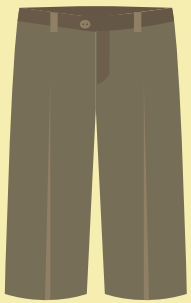
What did people on the prairie wear?



Women often wore long, flowing dresses with dark colors. Little girls had bows and other decorations



Women would wear bonnets on their heads to protect them from the sun.



Farmers often wore trousers while working so that they did not overheat in the sun.



Farmers wore hard shoes like these so that they could work outside all day.



These hats were mostly worn by men and children. They also protected their eyes from the sun!

What did people on the prairie see?



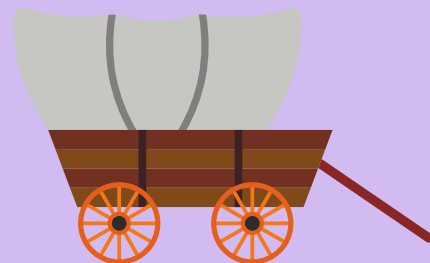
Grass! The prairie is filled with mostly flat fields of grass. There were many different types of grass, like Big Bluestem! The grass was often very tall and difficult to walk through.



Stars! Because there were no cities, it was really dark at night on the prairie. They could see a lot of stars in the darkness!



Animals! There are many different animals that call the prairie home, such as the prairie dog, the bison, and deer!



Other people! Lots of families left to travel west in the second half of the 19th century. They often traveled together for protection!

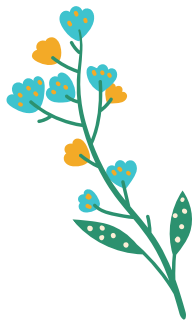
Were the settlers the first people on the prairie?

No! A lot of different people lived or spent time on the prairie!



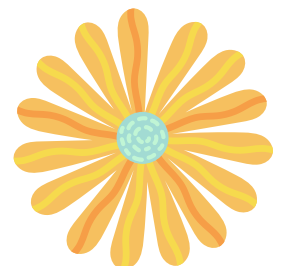
The Native American also inhabited the prairie long before settlers did!

They lived off the land, using its resources for things like food and shelter.



They also lived in close-knit communities and had different customs and traditions.

Native American history is important to learn!





NATIVE AMERICANS ON THE PLAINS

Native Americans often hunted big animals like Bison. They would use the bones as tools and eat the meat. They also lived in structures made from the earth, and members of the community had different jobs to help out.

Native American communities were pushed off their lands. The United States government did not give them money or safety as they often promised.

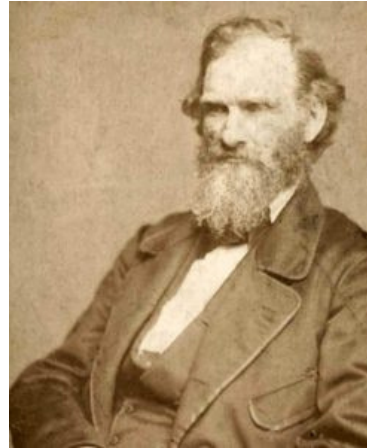
Many Native American communities live in Kansas today, such as the Iowa, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and Sac and Fox!



Wakarusa River Valley Settlers and Settlements



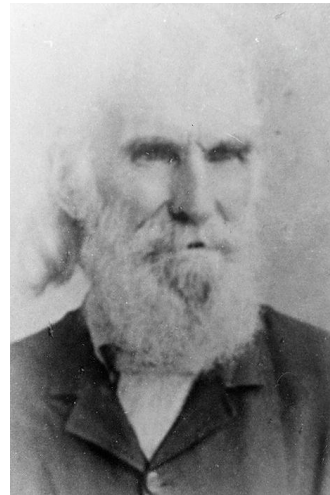
Richland



Augustus Wattles,
Free State Leader
Bloomington



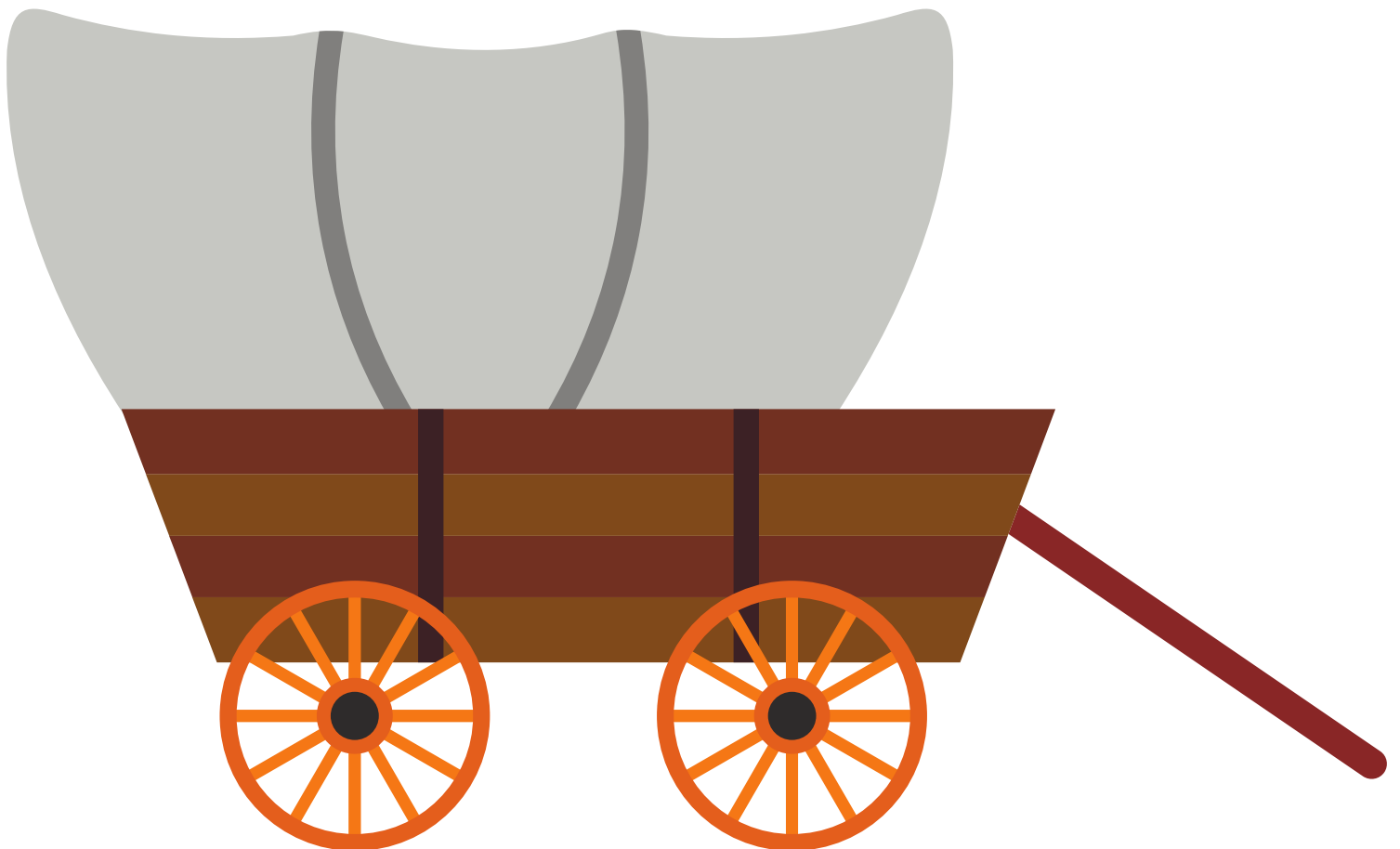
Joseph Gardner
Free State Leader
Lone Star



Eliab Macy
Free State Leader
Bloomington

Activity

1. Find the covered wagon picture in your packet.
2. Color the covered wagon as carefully as you can. You may put a drawing of yourself inside the covered wagon.
3. Cut the outside lines of the covered wagon only.
4. Take your covered wagon to the museum and get your prize. You will also be entered in the raffle to win bigger prizes.



Going West! Quiz for Online Users

Send the words "Wakarusa-Going West" and your answers to cpreut@watkinsmuseum.org

Students missing only one answer or less will receive a prize and be entered into the raffle.

1. What animal was often used to pull covered wagons?

- a. Dogs
- b. Oxen
- c. Zebras
- d. Birds

2. What is a reason that men and women wore hats and bonnets?

- a. Helped them smell better
- b. Protected them from animals
- c. Protected their eyes from the sun
- d. Made them look really cool

3. Why would settlers have seen stars while going west?

- a. No big cities
- b. Stars did not exist
- c. The stars were bigger
- d. Their eyes were smaller

4. True or false: Settlers were the first people on the prairie?

- a. True
- b. False

5. Which animal friend would you want to travel west with you?

- a. Owl
- b. Cat
- c. Bunny
- d. Dog