



Leaving it Behind

Weight and size were limiting factors on what emigrants could bring in their covered wagons. Emigrants made decisions about what to bring according to necessity and weight.

Divide students into groups of 5. On the floor and one wall, tape the dimensions of a wagon box 10-12 ft long, 3-4 ft wide, and 2-3 feet deep (or cutout the dimensions 10-12 ft x 3-4 ft on a multiple pieces of paper or outline it on a classroom board or outline the dimensions on a wall). Have students “fill in” the wagon using tape, paper, or markers. Not everything will fit, so students will need to determine what to keep and what to leave behind

Food	Personal Items	Clothing	Other
Flour	Heirlooms	Winter clothing	Tools
Saleratus	Toys	Overcoats	Furniture
Sugar	Books	Socks	Extra wagon parts
Tea		Hats	Guns
Bacon		Poncho	
Salt		Extra clothing	
Rice			
Salted pork			