

I Saw the Elephant...  
CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
Elko, Nevada

Natural Resources – Making or breaking it

Themes: Emigrants packed provisions to supply food over the 2000 mile journey, however, relied heavily on resources around the trail for their daily survival needs; the availability of resources could make or break the emigrants' journey.

Goals: Resources played a big role in the success of the emigrants on their journey to California. Using the resources along the trail created conflict with other emigrant groups, as well as, Indians.

Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. List natural resources
2. Describe how natural resources were used on the trail

Standards:

E11.4.3 Describe resources that are limited in Nevada and ways in which resources are shared.

G8.4.1 Describe ways physical environments affect human activity in Nevada using historical and contemporary examples.

G8.3.3 Compare ways people modify the physical environment

G8.3.5 Describe ways humans depend on and manage natural resources within their communities.

**Name:**

**Date:**

### **Natural Resources: Make or Break It**

Resources played a big role in the success of the emigrants on their journey to California. Emigrants packed provisions to supply food over the 2000 mile journey, however, relied heavily on resources along the trail to keep their wagon loads light. Conflicts erupted over the use and overuse of natural resources with other emigrant groups, as well as, Indians.

Using a dictionary, look up the words **resource** and **natural resource**. Write the definitions below.

**Resource:**

**Natural Resource:**

Circle the natural resources



**List natural resources you use in your life.**

1.

2.

3.

**How did emigrants use resources?**

The 3 most important resources for emigrants on the trail were: Fuel, Water, and Grass. Draw pictures and list ways emigrants would use these goods.

**Fuel (wood, sagebrush, buffalo chips)**

**Water**

**Grass**