

Pioneer Travel on the Oregon Trail Study Guide



Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

Pioneer Travel on the Oregon Trail

Independence, MO. (1866) The program reenacts a day in the life of a pioneer on the Oregon Trail. Before the journey begins, "the young pioneers" are shown how to properly pack their covered wagons with food, medicines, tools and other provisions. The use of oxen, mules and horses is also depicted. As the pioneers set out along the trail, they are met with buffalo stampedes, snake bites and other challenging obstacles. The program ends at the evening campsite. After supper, the banjo player strikes up a tune and a country dance is enjoyed by all.

Penny Pritchard

Miss Pritchard is a strong, self-reliant fictitious pioneer woman. Like so many others, she has had to do both men's and women's work to survive. She is dressed in traditional 19th Century long sleeved dress with bonnet.



Pioneer Travel on the Oregon Trail Study Guide



Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Introducing students to the arduous life of a pioneer
- Reenacting the packing of vital necessities in the covered wagons
- Discussing the various routes followed by pioneers
- Depicting the variety of jobs held by pioneers; such as scouts, hunters, drivers
- Recreating the dangers faced along with trail including natural disasters and attacks by Native Americans.

Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with the term "pioneer" and discuss the reasons why people headed out West.

Locate on a map:

- The Rivers of the West
- The California Trail
- The Oregon Trail
- The Santa Fe Trail

Post-Show Activities

Have students map out their own routes out west and write why they chose that route. Have students write a story about a pioneer adventure on the Oregon Trail.

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

