

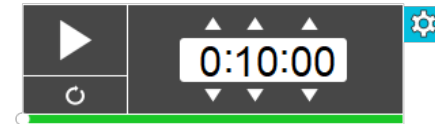



In your groups envelope should be the following:

- 6/7captioned images
- 2 (stapled) images of a Conestoga Wagon
- A Primary Source letter from Ruhamah Hayes
- A typed copy of the Ruhamah Hayes letter
- 30 household good cards
- A image description sheet

# Step #1:

- Complete an image analysis sheet identifying key elements of the photos (10 minutes) - think about life during this time. Discuss your thoughts.
- Think about the size of a wagon & what would fit inside, including your family






**Conestoga Wagon**  
about 1840–1850

Conestoga wagons originated around 1750 in southeastern Pennsylvania near the Conestoga River. Combining utility with Pennsylvania German folk art, a typical wagon had a blue body, red running gear, and decorative ironwork. The curved shape shifted cargo toward the center and prevented items from sliding on hills and mountain slopes. Later wagons, like this one, were larger than early ones and could carry several tons of freight.

### HAULING FREIGHT

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, individual wagon owners with horse-drawn Conestoga wagons thrived on trade between East Coast cities and settlers in the Ohio River region. By the 1810s, improved roads connected Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, and the federally funded National Road connected Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), with extensions to Baltimore and Washington.

Conestoga wagons carried supplies and finished goods to settlers and returned with flour, whiskey, tobacco, furs, coal, iron, and other marketable frontier products. But after railroads reached Pittsburgh and Wheeling in the mid-1850s, the three-to-four-week wagon trip was not competitive with freight trains, and Conestoga wagons disappeared from long-distance service.



It's 1815 and you're moving from Connecticut to the frontier of Ohio.



## **Step #2: In Family Groups:**

- Select 20 items to take on your journey out west
- Be certain to consider every family members perspective
- Think about needs verses wants
- Make sound decisions
- Record the items

## Step #3: In Family Groups

- Before you can leave you must wait for a letter from a friend who already moved. She will give you tips for your trip.
- Good thing the letter has arrived. Hopefully your friend can help you make the difficult choice of what to pack.
- Read the letter from Ruhamah Hayes
- Do you need to adjust the items you're traveling with?
- Record your changes
- Your wagon will only hold 13 items!

Three weeks into your journey from Connecticut to Ohio the axle of your wagon develops a crack and must be repaired or replaced.

The process of repair/replacement will take up to six days in the wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains. During this time a freak late April cold snap occurs and the temperatures drop into the 20's.

You are to write a diary entry from your character's point of view telling us about how you will handle the situation, including:

- How to stay warm.
- What item(s) you're willing to trade/barter with to get your wagon replaced.
- What you will eat and how you will prepare it.
- What items did you wish you had brought, but left behind.
- What items you're most thankful for bringing.

Your entry should be written on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of your ordeal; and should be a minimum of 1 full page long. If you write larger, write longer....