



# The Oregon Country

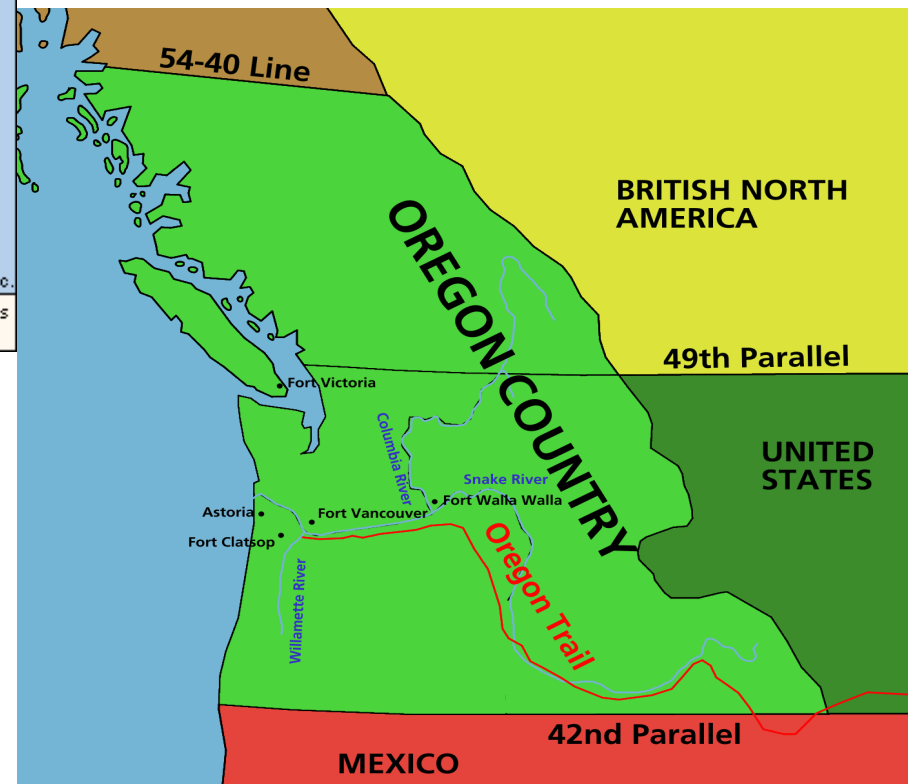
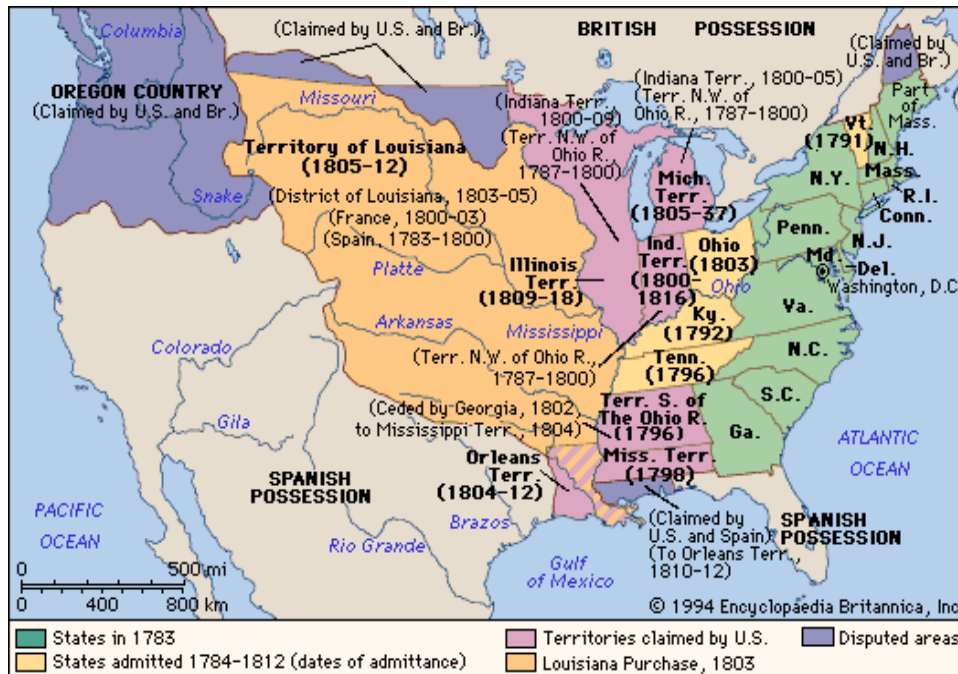
# Essential Question

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- Why did so many people risk the dangers of the Oregon Trail to move west? How does this play into Manifest Destiny?

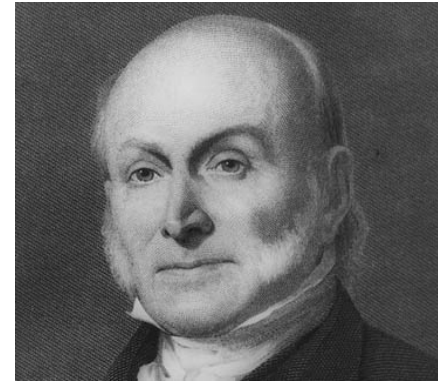
# Oregon Country

The Oregon Country was a huge area between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains



# Rivalry in the Northwest

- Secretary of State John Quincy Adams played a key role in promoting United States control of the Oregon country.
- In the early 1800s, four nations laid claim to the Oregon country:
  - United States, Great Britain, Spain and Russia
  - By 1824 it was only split between US and Britain



# Rivalry in Northwest

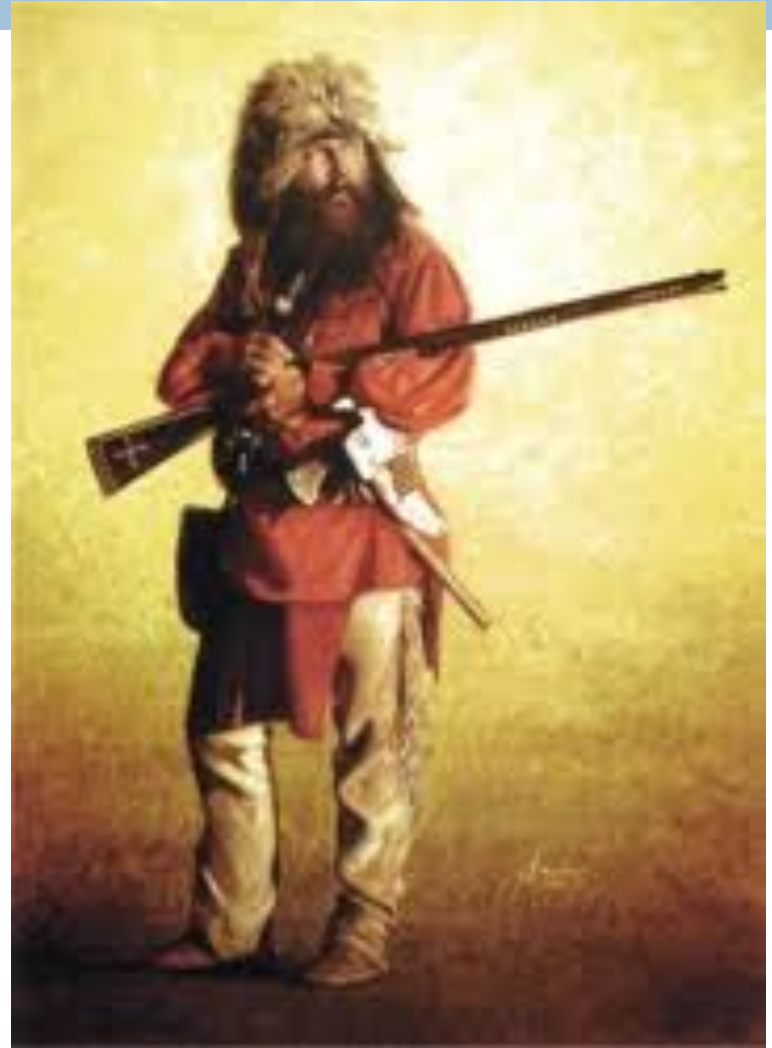


- Adams (Now President) proposed to divide Oregon along the 49° latitude line.
- Great Britain refused and agreed to joint occupation of the entire area.



# Mountain Men

- The first Americans to reach the Oregon country were called “Mountain Men”
- Fur Traders...What kind of fur?



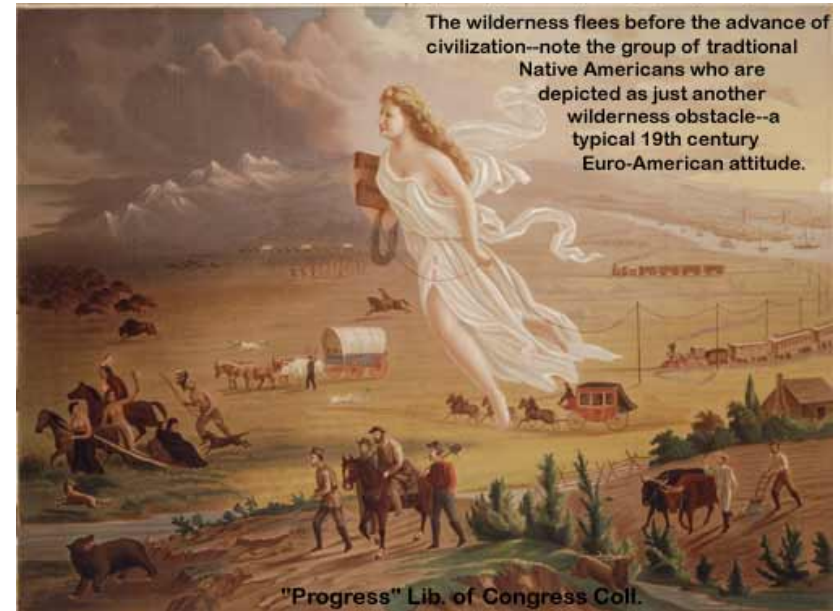
# Settling Oregon

- Americans began traveling to the Oregon Country in the 1830s
- Why did people move west?



# Manifest Destiny

- In the 1840s newspaper editor John O' Sullivan declared it was America's "manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us."
- O' Sullivan meant that the United States was destined to extend its boundaries all the way to the Pacific.
- This idea of a national mission gained widespread support by 1844 and played a role in that year's presidential election.





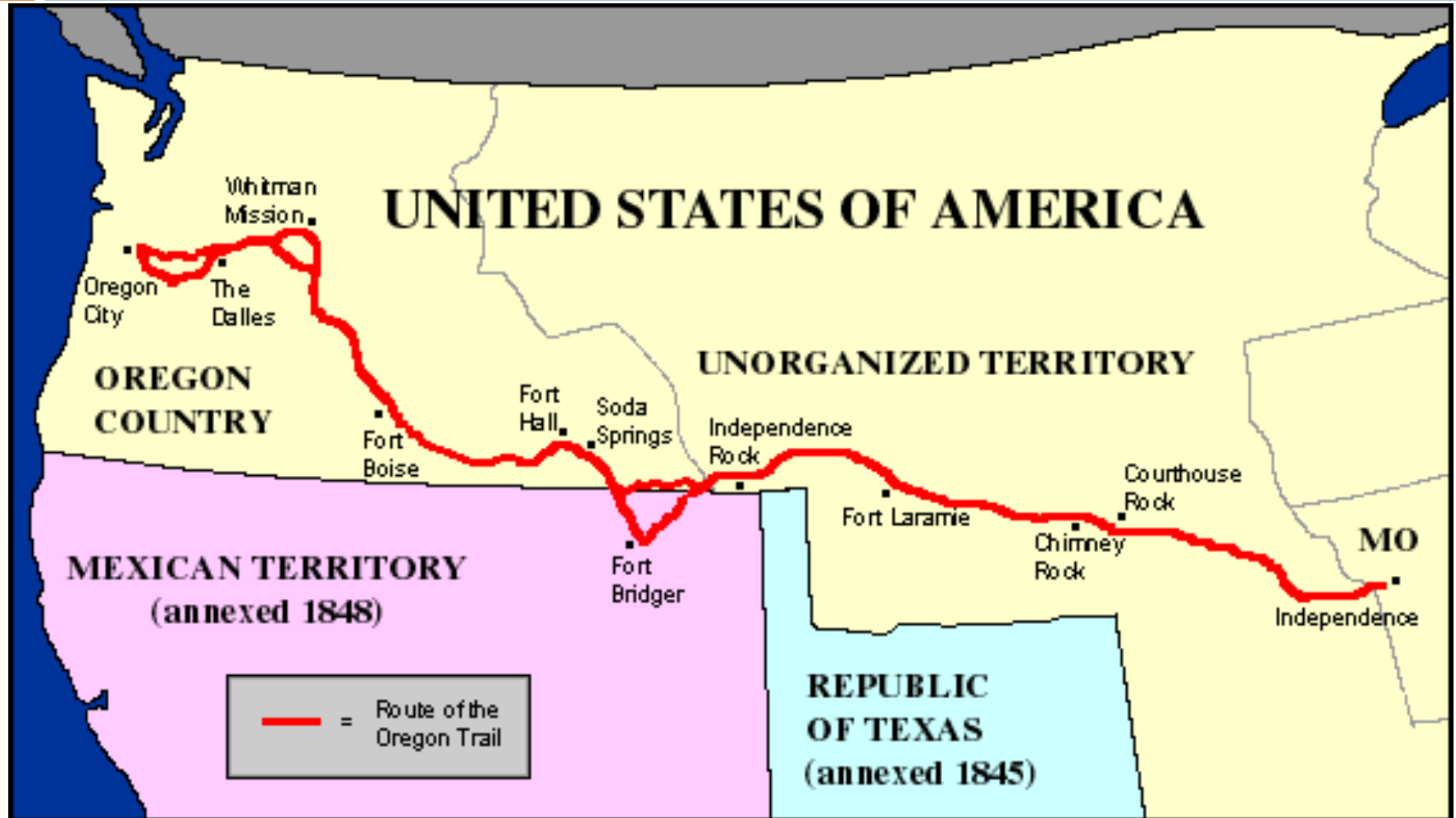
# The Oregon Trail

- The first large-scale migration took place in 1843, when 120 wagons carrying more than 1,000 pioneers left Independence, Missouri, for Oregon.



courtesy of [www.albertbierstadt.org](http://www.albertbierstadt.org)

# The Oregon Trail





# The Oregon Trail



- Tens of thousands of Americans made this 2000-mile trip, called the Oregon Trail, in the years that followed.
- Has anyone played the Oregon Trail Game?





# Trails West



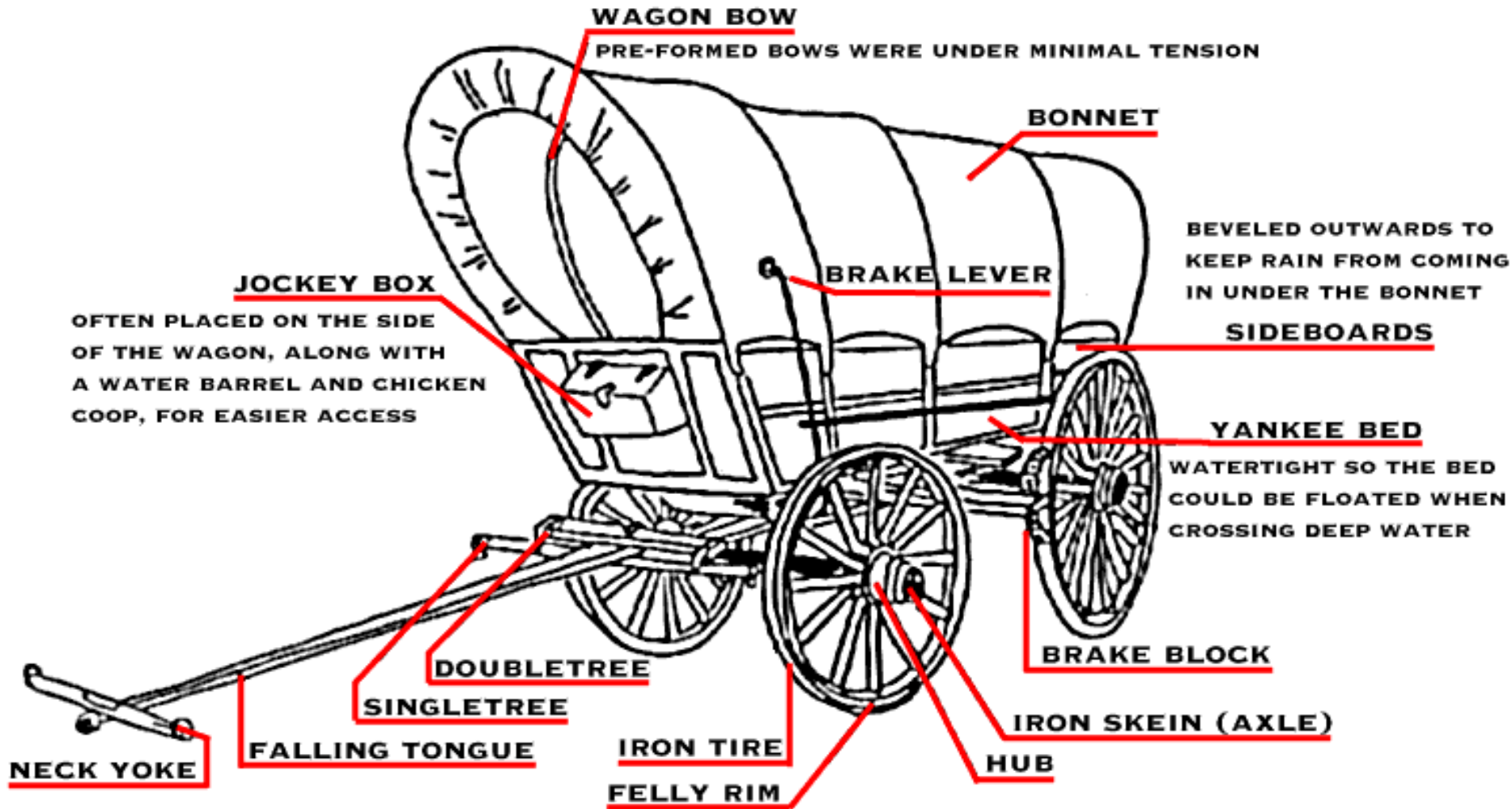
# Life on the Trail

- ❑ The Journey lasted 5 or 6 months
- ❑ The goal was to start in the spring and finish before winter
- ❑ The pioneers often traveled in large groups or families
- ❑ Covered Wagons—  
“Prairie Schooners”



THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. print, mass produced  
Currier & Ives

# Covered Wagon— “Prairie Schooner”



WAGON DESIGN COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



# Life on the Trail



- ❑ **Men drove the wagons, tended the animals, and hunted.**
- ❑ **Women cared for the children and cooked the meals.**
- ❑ **The pioneers' food supplies often ran low, and fresh water always had to be conserved.**
- ❑ **At night the travelers arranged their wagons in a square or circle for protection, although Native American attacks rarely occurred.**



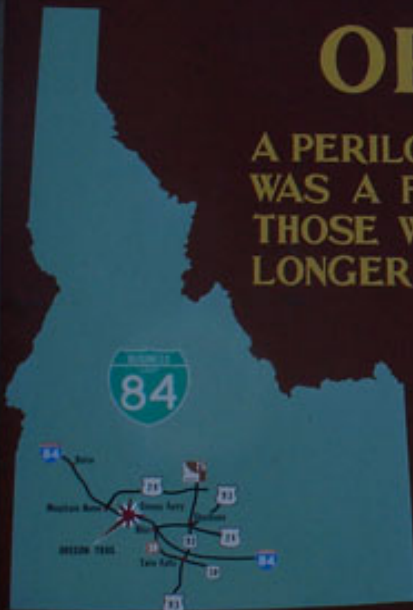
# Life on the Trail

- Native Americans often assisted the pioneers, serving as guides and trading necessary food and supplies.
- Most of the emigrants who died on the trail perished from disease, overwork, hunger, or accidents.
  - 20,000 - 30,000 people died



# OREGON TRAIL

A PERILOUS FORD AT THREE ISLAND STATE PARK WAS A FORMIDABLE OREGON TRAIL BARRIER. THOSE WHO COULD NOT CROSS HERE FACED A LONGER, MORE DIFFICULT SOUTHERN ROUTE.



No other ford between Missouri and Oregon troubled them so much. This was their largest river. Using two of three islands, they crossed three channels, but sometimes lost stock and wagons. Many emigrants depended upon Shoshoni Indian guides to get them across safely.

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# Go West!

- Your family, along with several other families, is relocating to the Oregon Territory. This journey will probably take five to six months to complete. Because your prairie schooner can only carry a limited amount of goods, your family must eliminate **EIGHT** items from the list. Which things do you eliminate and why?

# Go West!

- 2 barrels of bacon
- A set of pans
- 4 rolls of cloth
- Small Franklin metal Stove
- Crate of lead and gunpowder
- 100 ft of heavy rope
- Barrel of flour
- Spare tools
- Case of salted dried beef
- Trunk of winter clothes
- Small anvil and hammer
- Spare wheel rim
- Metal plow
- Heirloom table and chairs
- Set of axes
- Set of books
- 2 cows (not pulling wagon)
- Spinning wheel
- Barrel of molasses
- 2 rifles