

Dr. Eide  
Humanities 8B

Austin Horner  
March 15, 2022

## Oregon Trail Diary Assignment

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October 15, 1860

Dear cousin Isabelle,

I wanted to write and let you know that the family and I made it across the Oregon Trail! We are making our new home near Oregon City way out in Oregon Country! Oregon Country became The State of Oregon last year, on February 14 1859. Here's some notes I made along the way.

### **April 1, 1860**

I'm 16. My family has decided to move out west. I'm excited about the adventure because I like to explore, hunt, and fish. This is going to be an awesome adventure! I helped my mom and dad pack the wagon with supplies. We will need 200 pounds of food for each of us. Our family has \$1400 to spend, and each pound of food costs 25 cents.

First, we bought supplies at the General Store in Independence, Missouri. I had to get used to eating hard tack, flour and water baked super hard. You have to soak it to eat it. It

is nasty. Both mom and I wanted Dad to take the iron stove because we love her baking. But Dad said no, he had heard another family had their wagon tip over in a river. The heavy stove broke their wagon.

If Mom had her way, we could take the oven, the piano, and all the furniture!! We would have needed a Prairie Schooner and a mile-long team of oxen to carry all of that. But since it was mainly Dad and I doing the muscle work, since Mom had to care for the babies, Nellie, who is 3 years old, and Gideon who is 1 now, Dad said it was most important to carry an extra axle for the farm wagon, guns, and a lot of ammo. We took two tents, two horses, ten oxen, and two cows.

### **June 5, 1860**

We have reached Chimney Rock. It is an awesome sight. Traveling along the Oregon Trail has been both a great and hard experience. We set out with some other families. Good thing that Dad and I are good shots with the rifle and know how to take care of them so they don't jam. We make bows and arrows and shoot Indian style too. We are good at hunting and share food with other people that are so bad at shooting, they couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. We get food by shooting ducks, geese, rabbits, and deer. We fish too. We just use basic cooking gear and cook over a fire. Cousin, I learned this: now matter how hungry you are: DO NOT EAT DEAD BUFFALO! Some people in our wagon train group ate it and got really sick. It is important to carry lots of barrels with clean water. People have died of diphtheria and cholera in our group. That was really sad.

**July 27, 1860**

We have made it to the mountains in Idaho. It is really good that we packed chains and have a small wagon because we have to pull the wagon up hill. It is really beautiful here. The fishing is awesome. We made it to Fort Boise and got some supplies, and did a little trading with some friendly Indians.

**October 15, 1860**

And so we made it all the way through the Oregon Trail! I am helping Mom and Dad build a log cabin and set up a farm with our cows and oxen. I have a good feeling about this. Oregon Country is beautiful. I've even heard we might be able to find gold out here!

Best regards,  
Your cousin, Amos

P.S. Write back soon! Mom will want to know all your news about how things are going back East!



## OREGON TRAIL ASSIGNMENT INFO

### Group 1 Family

Robert, 36 year old father

Sarah, 33 year old mother

Amos, 16 year old boy

Daisy, 12 year old girl

Nellie, 3 year old girl

Gideon, 1 year old boy

Britannica.com

Pinterest

- You must have at least 3 diary entries. Each diary entry should be a minimum

of 4 sentences long. All together, you should have a minimum of 12 sentences between your diary entries! You are welcome to write more than 3 diary entries or write longer entries if inspiration strikes!

- Each diary entry must reference a specific event from the game-- a family member dying, something that happened due to a chance card, etc. Describe what happened during that event, and have your character react to it.



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