

My Journey Home Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl*, a historical story that tells about the challenges of daily life on the Oregon Trail.

DAY
1

Vocabulary on the Go Together, discuss what it might have been like to travel by covered wagon on the Oregon Trail over 150 years ago. Try to use each of the following words as you discuss things you might see or experience on your trip.

mishap rustling quaking surged torment

DAY
2

A Big Move In the story, a young girl and her family are on the move to a new life in California. What are some reasons that families decide to move to an entirely new place? What are some effects of a big move? With your child, plot out some reasons families might move. Then think of and record what might happen as a result.

CHALLENGE

Together, choose a place in a different part of the country where you might want to move. Help your child write a list of pros and cons about moving to the new place.

DAY
3

Two Different Takes In a journal, a writer records his or her thoughts and perspectives on events and occurrences. But do two people recall an event in the same way? With your child, write separate journal entries that tell about an everyday event you share together, such as a meal or an outing. Then compare your entries. Are you surprised?

A Valuable Guide Read and discuss this selection together.

The Prairie Traveler

Students of history are often amazed that travelers on the Oregon Trail ever reached their destinations. Believe it or not, many pioneers prepared for trips much like tourists today; they relied on traveler's guides and referred to them along the way.

One of the most useful and popular guides was *The Prairie Traveler: A Handbook for Overland Expeditions*, written by Randolph Barnes Marcy, a captain in the U.S. Army. Published in 1859, the *The Prairie Traveler* was packed with information that could save pioneers time, energy, and even their lives. How to fix a broken wagon wheel? Ways to ford a river? What to do in a storm? *The Prairie Traveler* covered all these topics, and more.

Marcy's long career working for the military on the frontier provided him with practical knowledge about every aspect of preparation and survival. No doubt, countless pioneers were grateful that Marcy shared his knowledge; more than a few lives were likely saved by a handy copy of *The Prairie Traveler*.



Essentiality Imagine a long journey you might take together. **Silently and separately**, think about and list five essential items—things you would *have to take*. Then share and discuss your lists of must-haves. What items are on both lists? Which things are surprising?



Book Links

- *A Covered Wagon Girl*, by Sallie Hester
- *Into a New Country*, by Liza Ketchum **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge In her journal, Rachel describes a buffalo stampede. Help your child search the Internet for information about this amazing animal that once ruled the prairie.

Home Letter

Dear Family,

“Why would a pioneer traveler record events in a journal?” will be answered by students after they read this week’s main selection.

Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl is a historical fiction story. In her journal, Rachel recounts the challenges of daily life on the Oregon Trail. Our class will also study a timeline focusing on African American pioneers in the informational text **Westward to Freedom**.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: rustling, balked, lectured, disadvantage, quaking, beacon, mishap, surged, torment, fared

Vocabulary Strategy: Using context

Comprehension Skill: Cause and effect—tell how events are related and how one event causes another

Comprehension Strategy: Analyze/evaluate—think carefully about the text and form an opinion about it

Writing Focus: Opinion writing—prewrite a response essay

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

You and your child can play the roles of two pioneer children keeping a travel journal on the Oregon Trail. Take turns coming up with short entries, using a **Target Vocabulary** word in each one.

Which Trail Did You Take Today?

Talk with your child about how travel is different from the days when wagons, oxen, and horses were used. Talk about what types of things you might write about in a journal if you would make such a trip today.

That's What I Think

Help your child do online or library research for information about problems faced by pioneer families going west. Read the materials your child finds together and explain any difficult concepts to your child. Then have your child select one of the readings and write a response paragraph, giving his or her opinion of the text.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.

Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. mislead | 22. mishap |
| 2. dismiss | 23. unfortunate |
| 3. insincere | 24. discourage |
| 4. unable | 25. unnecessary |
| 5. indirect | |
| 6. mistreat | |
| 7. disaster | |
| 8. dishonest | |
| 9. insecure | |
| 10. unknown | |
| 11. incomplete | |
| 12. unequal | |
| 13. unstable | |
| 14. misspell | |
| 15. disagree | |
| 16. informal | |
| 17. discover | |
| 18. unwise | |
| 19. mislaid | |
| 20. disgrace | |
| 21. invisible | |

Name _____ Date _____

**Rachel's Journal: The
Story of a Pioneer Girl**
Vocabulary Word Cards

rustling

beacon

balked

mishap

lectured

surged

disadvantage

torment

quaking

fared

Horses in North America
Target Vocabulary

Target Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks in the Column Chart below with your ideas about the Target Vocabulary words. Then complete the Column Chart with the remaining vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

rustling	balked	lectured
disadvantage	quaking	beacon
mishap	surged	torment
fared		

Word and Definitions	This word makes me think of...	This word might also be useful for talking about...
rustling: whispering sound	dry leaves blowing in the fall	shuffling through papers, _____
quaking: shaking	_____	a frightened animal, a nervous person's hands
beacon:	a lighthouse	a neon sign, a porch light

Using Context

**Rachel's Journal: The
Story of a Pioneer Girl****Vocabulary Strategies:**
Using Context

Read each sentence. Then use context to match each word in Column 1 to its definition in Column 2.

1. The principal **reprimanded** us for breaking the rules.
2. The little girl was **trembling** with fear when she saw the dog.
3. He had a **minor** accident on his way to school.
4. The **misery** was obvious on the injured man's face.
5. Missing the meeting put us in a bad **position**.

Column 1**Column 2****A.** reprimanded**1.** extreme discomfort**B.** trembling**2.** small or unimportant**C.** minor**3.** scolded**D.** misery**4.** place or situation**E.** position**5.** shaking

Name _____ Date _____

**Rachel's Journal: The
Story of a Pioneer Girl**

Vocabulary Strategies:
Using Context

Using Context

Look up each word below in a dictionary. Then write a sentence for each word, using it in its proper context.

1. reprimanded _____

2. forfeit _____

3. tumbled _____

4. blissful _____

5. performed _____

Using Context

**Rachel's Journal: The
Story of a Pioneer Girl****Vocabulary Strategies:**
Using Context

Read the sentences below. Use words from the box to fill in the blanks. Reread each sentence to be sure the word you have chosen makes sense in the sentence.

fluttering panicked trembling misfortune signal

1. Joseph was so scared he was _____.
2. The leaves were _____ in the wind.



3. The accident was only a bit of a _____.
4. Jorge _____ when Judy asked him to dance with her.
5. The flashing light was a _____ in the darkness.

