



*Image from the Loveland Museum Collection*

# westward expansion

**A HISTORY LESSON IN 10 PAGES OR LESS**

# and loveland



## A HISTORY LESSON IN 10 PAGES OR LESS

The City of Loveland Cultural Services Department strives to enrich lives and connect our community through diverse arts and history experiences.

The Loveland Museum has created a series of quick lessons designed to provide basics on a topic important to our local history. These lessons have been compiled by staff and volunteers at the Loveland Museum. Suggested activities give ideas for hands-on learning and are not intended to be all-inclusive. Other resource links may also be provided in some sections for additional online learning.

## Introduction

In 1803, the United States purchased 500 million acres of land owned by France that was between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. This was called the Louisiana Purchase. President Thomas Jefferson sent two soldiers named Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an expedition to survey the new land. They explored from 1804-1806 and reported back on the people they met and the natural resources they found.

### Louisiana Purchase 1803



Other expeditions (groups of people who take a long journey to explore unknown places) followed. These explorers traveled on foot or horseback and had to carry all their supplies with them. There weren't grocery stores on the way. They had to bring all of their food, or hunt and gather for food during the expedition. They slept on the ground or in tents.

In 1805, Zebulon Pike led an expedition to explore part of the area we now know as Colorado. He drew maps and wrote about his journey. His report and maps were published, and helped other American explorers who came after him. One of those explorers was Major Stephen H. Long, who wrote a report that said this area was a "Great American Desert" that would be too dry and hard to farm. Many people stayed away from the region for years, because of this report.

# Westward Expansion

## Learn More

For a long time, very few pioneers settled in this area. There were many more government-sponsored expeditions, but the Native Americans still dominated the area, and trappers (or mountain men) established themselves in the Rocky Mountains where beavers were abundant. They'd spend the winter in the mountains hunting beaver and summers on the plains trading their furs. Like explorers, they traveled on foot or horseback and had to carry all their supplies. These hardy men learned a lot from the local tribes and helped map much of the geography. Many wagon trails and stagecoach lines followed these mapped trails.

The Native American tribes already living in the area of exploration were sometimes helpful to the newcomers, but not always. Native Americans knew the land very well and had learned to adapt to the harsh environment. But the new people in the area didn't treat the land the same— they would build things on it, leave things behind, or damage sacred grounds. Native Americans and new settlers had different definitions of owning land. Native Americans thought land belonged to everyone. New settlers thought if they built a fence, they owned everything inside that fence and no one else was allowed to use it. Tensions grew and while some treaties were formed to ease issues, many disagreements ended in war and removal of the Native Americans from their home lands.

By the 1840s, pioneers (people who do things for the first time) were traveling to the new territory. The Oregon Trail was established as a 2,000 mile route used by these pioneers, who were moving west to start a new life. From 1846-1848 the Mexican-American War had the two sides fighting over the rights to Texas and new land was added to the US territory. After the war, the US paid Mexico \$15 million for land that would become California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and parts of other states like Colorado.

Gold was found in California in 1849 and ten years later in the Rockies. A dramatic influx of people flooded the region to find gold and try to strike it rich.

In 1862, the Homestead Act was signed by President Abraham Lincoln, allowing people to move and build a home on land for a very small fee or no fee at all. Families who wanted to own and operate farms and ranches would pack up all of their belongings and follow the trails in their covered wagons. These pioneers were also known as homesteaders.

All of these events and many others allowed the country to expand west. Many people took the hard and dangerous journey, and each brought their own interests driven by their hope for new opportunities.



# ACTIVITY ONE

## The Move West

Pioneers traveled in covered wagons pulled by oxen. The wagons were made of wood with several hoops making a frame. A canvas cover would be pulled over the hoops to keep out the rain, wind, and sun. The front wheels were smaller than the back wheels to help the wagon turn. The inside of the wagon was filled with all the things a pioneer would need, so there wasn't much room to sit and the ride was bumpy. Usually, adults would walk beside the oxen to guide them and the children would walk behind the wagon. Sometimes groups of wagons would travel together in caravans or wagon trains. Pioneers walked many miles a day without much rest. Many things could go wrong on the trip... broken wheels, stuck wagons, running out of food, illness, or bad weather. On a good day, a wagon could travel 10 to 15 miles, but if there was bad weather, a wagon could travel as little as 1 mile per day. Because they were traveling to an unsettled and undeveloped land, the pioneers had to take every thing they would need with them. They needed to carry food, water, tools, and sleeping linens.

**Activity:** It is time to pack your wagon and move west. But you can't take everything you own. Your wagon can only hold a certain amount of weight. Look at both lists and choose the items you would bring, then add up the weight or have an adult help you add up the weight. If you took everything on this list, it would be 3,015 pounds. You need to limit what you take to 2,000 pounds.



### Tools and Supplies

Item	Weight in pounds	Packed
Rope	100 lbs.	_____
Soap	25 lbs.	_____
Bedrolls	15 lbs.	_____
Tools	200 lbs.	_____
Books	75 lbs.	_____
Medicine	10 lbs.	_____
Candles	40 lbs.	_____
Forks, Plates, Cups	75 lbs.	_____
Cast Iron Stove	300 lbs.	_____
Chair	20 lbs.	_____
Lantern	5 lbs.	_____
Water buckets	10 lbs.	_____
Keepsakes	40 lbs.	_____
Toys	15 lbs.	_____

### Food (to feed a family of 4)

Item	Weight in pounds	Packed
Vinegar	25 lbs.	_____
Meat/Bacon	400 lbs.	_____
Beans	200 lbs.	_____
Coffee	80 lbs.	_____
Dried Fruit	80 lbs.	_____
Flour	500 lbs.	_____
Biscuits	200 lbs.	_____
Lard	200 lbs.	_____
Salt	50 lbs.	_____
Sugar	40 lbs.	_____
Tea	10 lbs.	_____
Rice	200 lbs.	_____
Water	100 lbs.	_____

**TOTAL POUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY TWO

Sad Iron



Washboard



Wooden Mallet



Candle



Slate



Wooden Spout



Faucet



Notebook Paper



Iron



Hammer



Washing Machine



Light



## Homesteaders

Can you match the homesteader's item to the item they resemble in our households? Draw a line from the item of the homesteader to the one we use now in the same way.

## ACTIVITY THREE

### A Hard and Dangerous Journey

You and your family have taken the long journey west. Write about your trip using the journal on page five or on a piece of notebook paper. Be sure to draw a picture for your story.

**Think about the following for your story:**

- Discuss what the journey in a wagon would have been like. Was it hard or easy?
- What chores did you have to do on this journey?
- What problems did you have to face?
  - What did you see along the way?
- Where did your family settle?



## ACTIVITY FOUR

# Homesteaders in Loveland

In 1858, Mariano Medina settled in the area now known as Loveland. He saw an opportunity with the many settlers making their way to mining camps in the south via the Overland Trail. He built his own store and saloon, cabins to rent, and stables to provide services to these weary travelers. This small settlement soon became known as Namaqua.



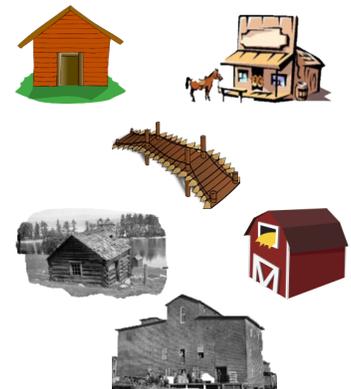
In 1860, a man named William Baskin Osborn bought 160 acres of land near the Big Thompson River, and he and his wife Margaret settled on the land. They built a log cabin and a farm on their property. In 1862, near the Osborn farm, a small settlement named Big Thompson was established. In 1867 Douty's flour mill was built. The wheat that was milled there was known as St. Louis flour. In time the town became known as St. Louis, after the brand of flour.

By 1874 the growing community contained several shops, stores, and public buildings in addition to the flour mill. The town again changed its name to Winona, after the judge's daughter.

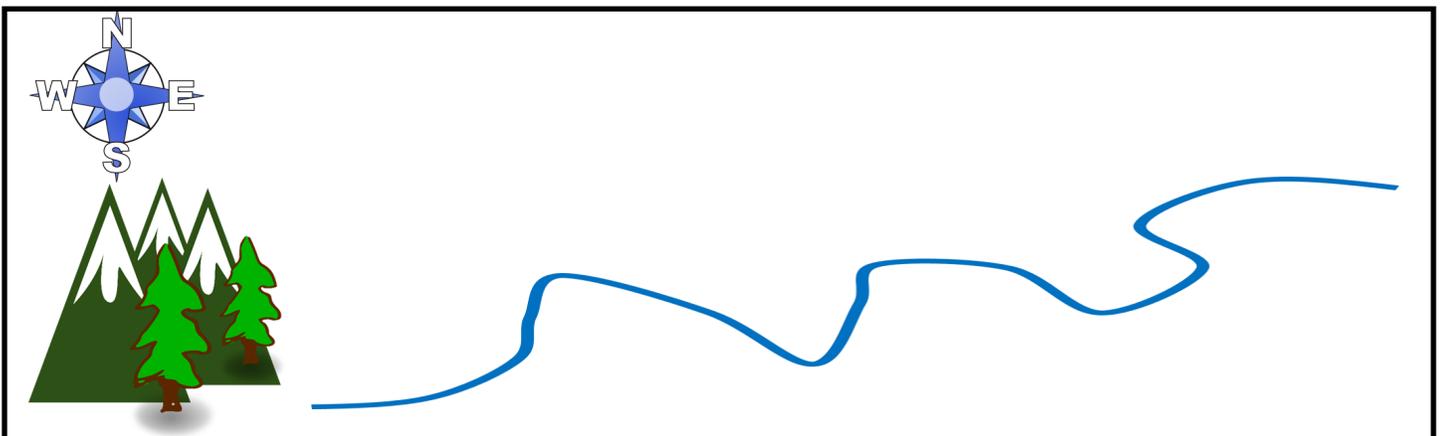


**Mapping Activity:** Let's see if you can place the two homesteads where they were located by using the Compass Rose. On the map below, you will see the mountains to the west and the river flowing to the east. Follow the directions and use the key to put the items where they belong on the map. You can use a blank piece of paper to make your map if you can't print this page, just be sure to start by making a compass rose.

1. **Marino Medina built a trading post and his homestead at the base of the east side of the mountains. Draw his trading post and cabin.**
2. **Medina also built a bridge over the Big Thompson River and charged people a fee to cross. Draw his bridge.**
3. **At the east end of this map, near the last bend in the river, the Osborn homestead was located north of the river. Draw their homestead.**
4. **To the north west of their homestead, a small town was forming because of the Douty flour mill. Draw the flour mill.**



**Did you know?** The town of Loveland was eventually established between the two homesteads.



## ACTIVITY FIVE

### Pioneer Children

While on the trip, and once the pioneers found a spot to settle down and build their homes, there were a lot of work and chores for pioneer children. They did not have much time to play. They had to take care of the animals, fetch water, and help with the homestead.

**Part One: Pioneer Chores-** Pioneers had very little time for entertainment. Most of their time was spent performing chores. Modern items make our chores much easier now. Below is a detailed explanation of what pioneer children had to do to wash dishes and the clothing of their families. Read and think about how much time it took children to perform these chores. Then, compare how you help with or perform these same chores now. What do we have that makes these chores easier?

#### Washing Dishes

Gather a pail and walk to the creek for water

Haul the water back

Heat water on the wood-burning stove in a pan

Put soap in the water

Use a cloth to scrub the dishes

Dry each dish with a towel

Put the dishes away

Dump water, hang towel to dry

#### Washing Clothes

Load dirty laundry into the basket

Take the basket outside to the wash tub

Gather a pail and walk to the creek for water

Haul the water back and heat it on the stove

Dump clothes in the wash tub

Pull items out one at a time to scrub on the wash board with lye soap

Rinse each item in the wash tub

Hang each item on a line to dry

Put clothes away

**Part Two: Pioneer Games-** Pioneer children

didn't have much time to play, but when they did, they needed to be creative about what to do. They didn't have very many toys as there wasn't room in the wagon, but some home-made items included corn husk dolls or carved wooden toys. They played a variety of different games including skipping rope, chasing hoops, and tag. One very popular game was stick and hoop chasing. You can find a video here for this game: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUMU5ykCwgFg>.

***If you have a hula hoop at home, you can try this game. If you don't, be creative and come up with a new game with one or two items from home.***



# Word Search

## ACTIVITY SIX

### Westward Expansion Word Search

H	A	P	I	O	N	E	E	R	S
O	N	W	E	S	T	W	A	R	D
W	S	A	C	O	B	I	D	C	I
A	G	B	M	M	E	D	I	N	A
G	O	S	O	A	G	O	H	H	C
O	L	K	V	R	Q	H	X	G	V
N	D	X	F	A	N	U	Q	E	I
H	O	M	E	S	T	E	A	D	N
G	O	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
I	F	R	O	N	T	I	E	R	Q

#### *Words to find:*

- Oxen*
- Pioneer*
- Wagon*
- Medina*
- Westward*
- Gold*
- Frontier*
- Mountain*
- Osborn*
- Homestead*
- Namaqua*

