



Name _____ Date _____

TRADING POSTS ON THE OREGON TRAIL

Have you ever wondered how the pioneers lived without grocery stores? Trading posts helped families survive. Forts were built along the Oregon Trail. Each fort had a trading post. It was like a grocery store and department store put together.

The trading post was a place for the weary travelers to stop and rest. Trading posts stocked things the settlers needed. It was also a place to meet new people and hear any news.

The pioneers could buy rifles and bullets at the trading post. Food, such as dried meat, beans, eggs, and coffee could be bought at a trading post.

To travel safely, wagons were kept in good repair. Wagon parts, wood, hammers, saws, ropes, and chains were sold at the trading post.

Prices at the trading posts were high. Pioneers were willing to pay for things they needed. Without trading posts, many travelers would never have made it to the end of the trail.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In the passage, *weary* means . . .
 - a. excited, joyful, and nervous.
 - b. happy, joyful, and angry.
 - c. worn out, fatigued, and tired.
 - d. mad, upset, and furious.
2. The main idea of the last paragraph is . . .
 - a. to show the importance of trading posts for survival on the Oregon Trail.
 - b. to show what food items a pioneer could purchase.
 - c. to discuss needed equipment for a wagon.
 - d. to give a list of things that people didn't want to buy at trading posts.
3. This passage was written to . . .
 - a. entertain the reader with events which occurred at a trading post.
 - b. inform the reader about the prices of items at the trading posts.
 - c. persuade the reader to buy from a trading post.
 - d. give the reader some information about trading posts.
4. According to this article, the travelers of the Oregon trail were called . . .
 - a. kings.
 - b. pioneers.
 - c. hunters.
 - d. outlaws.