

Long ago, the United States was a land of pioneers. They were families who traveled west. They came in covered wagons. The wagons carried all their belongings. They packed what they needed to make the trip. They packed what they needed to make a home. When they went to their new land, they would need tools.

The trip was hard. Their wagons had big wheels. Sometimes the wheels would fall off. Then they would have to stop to fix them. There were no shops to buy a new wheel.

Families would travel together. It was called a wagon train. They would follow one wagon. The leader would drive that wagon. He would decide when to stop to rest. He would decide whether they should camp somewhere and hunt for food.

The families would travel for miles. Many times they had to walk next to their wagon. It was too full for them to fit inside. They were taking all their food and clothes.

Sometimes a family would have a problem. Someone would be sick. Or they would run out of food. Other families would help them. They knew that they had to work together to get to their new homes.

When they got to the West, they would stay there. They would build a community. They would stay friends. They would help each other. They might choose the leader as their mayor.

Sometimes they would work together to build a barn. Often they would help each other harvest crops. They had learned to work together on that hard trip to the west.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

1. What is the leader's job?

- a. to fix wheels
- b. to make decisions
- c. to stop the trip
- d. to drive the last wagon

2. How do families feel about each other?

- a. They like other families.
- b. They do not like some families.
- c. They do not know them well.
- d. They want to leave.

3. Why did the families build a barn together?

- a. They had to.
- b. They needed the money.
- c. They were friends.
- d. They wanted to start a farm.

4. Why would they choose the leader to be mayor?

- a. They trusted him.
- b. They knew him.
- c. They had to.
- d. They were friends.

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

Why would the wagon train travelers want to build a community together?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	c	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. They had become friends. They liked each other. They trusted each other.

Skill: Identify, analyze, and infer relationships **5th Grade Assessment**

FICTION

Text: Pioneer Diary

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It has been a long, hard day. I'm tired of being a pioneer. We walked for miles. The wagon was so full that only one could ride in it. My wife is having a baby soon. We have a long trip to make. So I tell her she should ride in the wagon. On days when the trip is hard, I am sorry we started. But she says, "Keep going. We will be glad to get to our new home." She is very brave. I know she will be a good mother.

Then, just when we got to the place to camp, we got a scare. There was a big bear. It came out of the woods. It was hungry. I was afraid. The wagon leader threw a loaf of bread near it. The bear turned. Then he shot at it. He missed, but it ran away.

We were glad the danger was over. But the leader said, "No, we have to keep moving. Another bear will be behind this one."

So we got back on the trail. We were so tired. Mrs. Jackson said to me, "I think the leader is not good. My husband would be a better leader. We should change leaders."

Everyone was tired. But they knew the leader would take us to safety. Then we got to the bottom of the hill. There was an open space. There was a river. The wagon leader said, "This is it, let's stop here."

We were fine until one of the Jackson children jumped in the river. He started to be carried downstream. I rushed in to get him. He was crying when I brought him out. But then he smiled and thanked me.

We were worried about the river, so we told children to stay out of it. "It is dangerous," I said. You can get water in a bucket. But do not go in the water. We want you to stay safe.

Mrs. Jackson came by to talk more. I thought she would come to thank me. But, no. She said, "My husband should be leader."

My wife said, "That's just envy. We have a good leader. We are safe. He had done this trip five times before. He knows what to do. You should mind your children." My wife is wise. Mrs. Jackson should listen to her.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

6. How did the pioneer feel about his wife?

- a. sorry
- b. proud
- c. worried
- d. tired

7. How did Mrs. Jackson feel about the leader?

- a. grateful
- b. sorry
- c. angry
- d. jealous

8. How do most people feel about the leader?

- a. trusting
- b. angry
- c. not sure
- d. worried

9. How does the pioneer feel about children?

- a. angry
- b. caring
- c. proud
- d. thankful

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How do you think the pioneer feels about Mrs. Jackson? Why?

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	a	d	a	b

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. Angry because she does not thank him and is always complaining.