

# HOMESTEADING

8

*Teacher's  
Guide  
Outline*

**CONCEPT** Most trails into Idaho led out of Idaho. But eventually, people began to settle here. **Homesteading** looks at the lifestyle of ten-year-olds as Idaho moved from territory to statehood. **Homesteading** also looks at modern developments and their links to transportation and tourism.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES** After viewing **Homesteading**, students will be able to:

1. Describe the way early Idaho settlers traveled here and the difficulties they faced, both along the trail and once they settled.
2. Explain why people decided to stay in Idaho.
3. Describe what early settlers' lifestyles were like and how these changed as Idaho became a state.
4. Recognize that people continue to move to Idaho to improve their lifestyle, the same reason many of the first homesteaders came here.

**SUMMARY** **Homesteading** takes students from the 1860s to statehood and beyond. It also looks at the development of tourism and improvements in transportation links used by today's "homesteaders." It begins with the host, Phyllis Edmundson, at Register Rock in the City of Rocks.

The program starts with a review of the lifestyle of ten-year-olds in the 1860s and 1870s. It discusses the Homestead Act and the hardships faced by the first settlers.

Attitudes changed and the educational system developed as Idaho moved toward statehood. The tape examines this evolution as well as what impact the coming of electricity and other technological advances had on the life of residents.

The last section of the tape discusses newer "homesteaders" and improvements in transportation. The state's economy grew and new industries like tourism developed. That discussion is highlighted by a look at Sun Valley, Idaho's first tourist resort. The tape concludes with Phyllis at the City of Rocks.

**PREPARATION  
EXERCISES**

1. Have students do a comparison chart showing how their life is both similar to and different from the lives of pioneer children.
2. Review a map of the Oregon Trail in relation to the students' home. Discuss how pioneers would have come to the students' area, and how long it would have taken them to get there from St. Louis.
3. Discuss the Homestead Act.
4. Have students list the ways people traveled around Idaho and some of the problems they would have faced.

**QUESTIONS  
FROM TAPE**

1. Why do you think so many people moved West?
2. Is there a wagon trail near where you live?
3. What do you think those first schools were like?
4. When did your parents or grandparents first come to Idaho?
5. Do you know why they came here?

**VOCABULARY**

**Census**—A survey conducted every ten years to count the population

**Homestead Act**—A law passed by Congress that allowed people to acquire land in the West by living on it and improving it

**FOLLOW-UP  
DISCUSSION  
AND  
QUESTIONS**

1. How is your life different from that of children in the late 1800s?
2. How would improvements in transportation change the course of history? How would it change people's lives?
3. Why did homesteaders first come to Idaho? Why do people come to Idaho today?

**EXTENSION  
ACTIVITIES**

1. Have students write a story in which their families travel from Independence, Mo. to their home town. Select some interesting points along the way that they must include in their story. Stress the importance of solving the problems they would have faced in such a journey.
2. Have students pick a resource-based product, i.e., gold, timber, food, and list all the jobs that are created in getting that product from beginning to end.
3. Select one town in Idaho. Have the class research how that town has changed since it was founded.

**SPECIAL PROJECT** *Pack Your Wagon*

Give each student a copy of the wagon supply list (on the back of this page) and have them select what items they would pack for a four-month trip along the Oregon Trail to Idaho. There is room on the sheet for two of the student's own possessions. Have them estimate the BWU (Bulk Weight Units) of their own possessions.

or

Mark off an area on the floor with tape. This will be the class' covered wagon. Have the class work together to decide what will go in the wagon. Cut out squares, circles and other shapes to represent each item. Each student may bring one personal possession. Then, pack the wagon.

Once the students have filled out their wagon supply lists or once the class has "packed" its wagon, ask questions like:

**"Do you have enough candles for the trip?"**

**"How much food do you think it will take to get you to Idaho? Don't forget you'll need food while you're getting settled in your new home."**

Have the students evaluate their selections.

Next, pose different problems to the students and see how they would change their selections. Ask questions like,

**"You have to go over a mountain and must give up 100 lbs. of weight. What will you leave behind?"**

or

**"Thieves stole half your food supply. What are you going to do?"**

If students are using shapes to represent goods, take them off the "wagon." If the students are using the work sheet, cross the goods off their list.

Have students calculate what would remain on their wagon by the time they arrived in Idaho.



The supply list on the following page was taken from the game "Pioneers." The "Pioneer simulation kit" is available from INTERACT, P.O. Box 997, Lakeside, CA 92040. It is reprinted with their permission.

## WAGON SUPPLY LIST

**DIRECTIONS:** The following items represented 92 popular and often vital supplies that were carried by pioneers heading West. Since you cannot take everything, you will have to select those items you believe would be most important to you on the trail and at your homestead in Idaho. You can elect to take as many of each item as you believe necessary for you and your family. The number in parenthesis after each supply is its BULK WEIGHT UNITS (BWU). These BWUs represent a combination of the size and weight of each item. **Remember that your wagon holds only 1000 BWUs.** Notice that as you begin to select supplies, those that are heavy or large soon fill your wagon, while those that are small and light take less room. Select your supplies carefully, considering the uses and importance of each item both on the trail and once you get to Idaho. Very possibly your fate will depend on how wisely you select these supplies.

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- |                               |                                  |                             |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -pair of candle sticks (2)    | -bed pan (2)                     | -stool (8)                  |
| -spinning wheel (25)          | -bed (30)                        | -wooden bucket (5)          |
| -coffee grinder (6)           | -chest for clothing (35)         | -piano or small organ (100) |
| -bedding for one bed (12)     | -cooking utensils for family (4) | -5 candles (1)              |
| -mirror (10)                  | -blanket (7)                     | -coffee pot (3)             |
| -loom (35)                    | -family heirlooms (20)           | -1 gallon coal oil (12)     |
| -15 yards of material (12)    | -lantern (3)                     | -set of dishes (20)         |
| -match bottle and matches (2) | -family Bible (5)                | -butter churn (10)          |
| -rocking chair (15)           | -rug (25)                        | -needle and thread (1)      |
| -baby cradle (15)             | -clock (5)                       | -woven basket (5)           |
| -cooking pan (6)              | -Dutch oven (6)                  |                             |
| -pitcher and bowl (10)        | -table and 4 chairs (50)         |                             |

### FOOD

- |                           |                            |                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| -50 lbs. of flour (50)    | -15lbs. of salt pork (20)  | -25lbs. of salt (30)   |
| -25lbs. of dried beef(25) | -assorted spices (5)       | -5lb. tin of fruit (8) |
| -5 gal of vinegar (25)    | -25lbs. vegetables (30)    | -20 lbs. of sugar (20) |
| -25lbs. bacon (30)        | -25lbs. of Pinto beans(25) |                        |

### PERSONAL ITEMS

- |                                   |                                    |                          |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| -hunting knife (3)                | -snow shoes (6)                    | -guitar (6)              |
| -fiddle (5)                       | -bag of clothing for 1 person (20) | -rifle (6)               |
| -chaps (8)                        | -family first aid kit (10)         | -extra pair of boots (7) |
| -powder horn (4)                  | -children's toys (8)               | - _____ ( )              |
| -eating utensils for 1 person (2) | -pistol (4)                        | - _____ ( )              |
|                                   |                                    | - _____ ( )              |