

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Oregon Trail Coordinate Grid Game (Grades 4-6)

Standards Addressed:
Social Studies - SS.5.5.3, Math - 5.G.1

Description: Pioneers who made the decision to travel West to Oregon had a long and difficult journey ahead of them. In this simulation game, students will practice ordered pairs on a coordinate plane and play a game of chance to see if their family will survive the trek.

Preparation: Print out the game on heavy cardstock. Trim the middle of one side and tape the board together in the middle. Cut out the cards. (*Laminate if you want added stability*).

How to Play

Game Requirements:

This game can be played as a single player solitaire game or played by more than one player as a cooperative game.

Prepare the Game Board:

Before the start of each game, place the animal and sun cards on the game board. To place, roll two dice to create an ordered pair and place the animal on the corresponding spot. Record the ordered pairs on the Score Sheet. If the spot rolled is mostly river, roll again.

For example: if you roll a 4 and a 6 for the bear, place the card over 4 and up 6.

Object of the Game:

The goal of the game is to successfully create a trail to travel from the start to Oregon. In order to successfully reach Oregon Country, you must:

- Collect at least 10 food points
- Get to the end before winter overtakes you
- Have at least one member of your wagon family survive
-

Game Play:

Shuffle together the Winter, Danger, and Trail cards. Place face down. Draw one card at a time

Materials Needed:

Game Board
Trail, Danger, Winter, Animal and Sun Cards
2 Dice
Score Sheet

and place the path on the board at the start. The path may go any direction you choose. For each turn, draw a card matching the ends to the trail already placed.

If you draw a Winter card, place it on the board in the blue column on the right. If you fill up all six winter tiles before you reach Oregon, you've lost the game. If your path takes you through a Sun card, you may remove one of the winter cards.

If your path passes through an animal, take the animal off the board and record on your score sheet. Remember, you need at least 10 points to survive the journey.

When you reach the river, you must roll the dice to see if your crossing was successful.

If you draw a Danger card, roll the dice to determine your fate. If a member does not survive, place the card on the yellow box on the game board.



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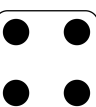





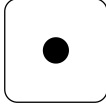
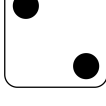
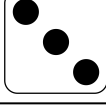
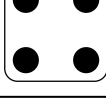

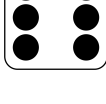


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Game Play Helpful Hints

1. Your trail can branch off in as many directions as you choose.
2. If you reach the end before collecting 10 food points, you have lost.
3. If winter overtakes you before reaching the end, you have lost.
4. If all members of your wagon family have died before reaching the end, you have lost. If a member of your family dies due to the DANGER card, place the card on the gameboard and mark on your score sheet.
5. Occasionally, you may draw a TRAIL card and not be able to place it without ruining your chances to win. You may put the card aside and draw again. All DANGER and WINTER cards must be played as drawn.

	Danger Card Fates
	A member of your family fell and broke their leg. You have a medicine kit to care for the injury. Remove a trail card.
	A member of your family drank some contaminated water and contracted Cholera and died.
	It's hot. One of your oxen has died. Remove the last trail card from your path.
	A member of your family has caught yellow fever. Roll the dice. If the number is even, they survived. If it is odd, the member has died.
	The youngest child got bitten by a rattlesnake and died.
	One member of your family caught dysentery. You have a medicine kit to treat the illness. Remove a trail card for time taken to heal.

	River Crossing
	You found a shallow place to cross the river and successfully drove the team across.
	Your wagon tipped and you lost some supplies. Subtract one of your food tokens.
	Congratulations! Your wagon made it across the river safely.
	You reached the Mormon Ferry and were able to cross safely.
	You broke a wagon wheel crossing the river. Remove the last trail card from your path and draw again.
	DISASTER. Your wagon flipped over completely and a family member was injured. Remove the last trail card and an animal card.



Family Members



6

5

4

3

2

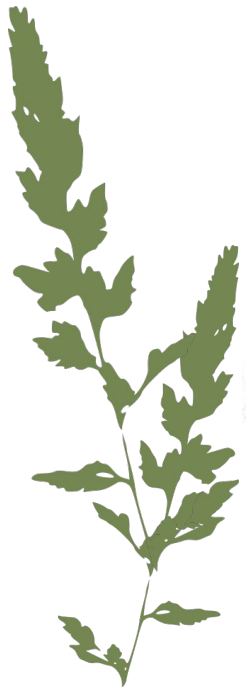
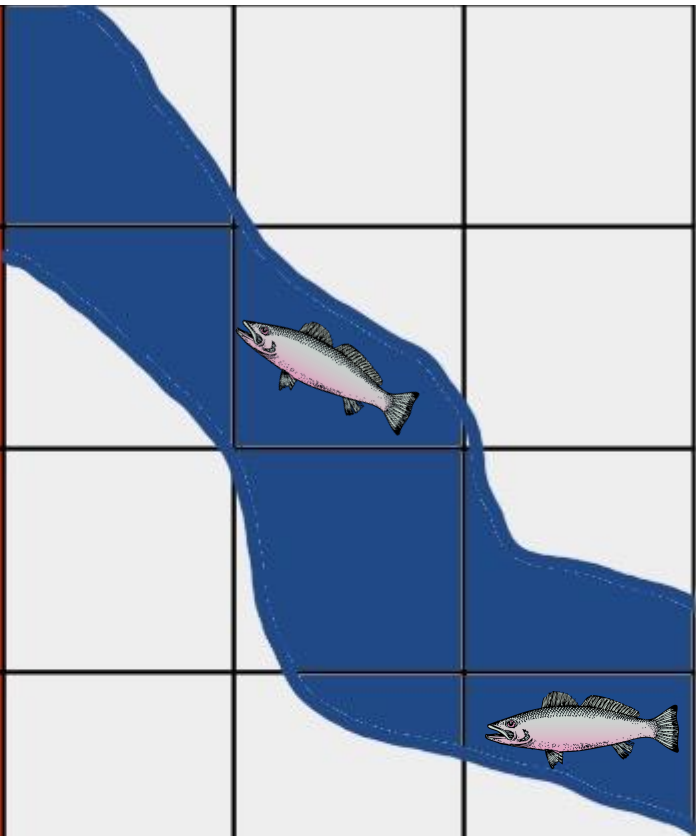
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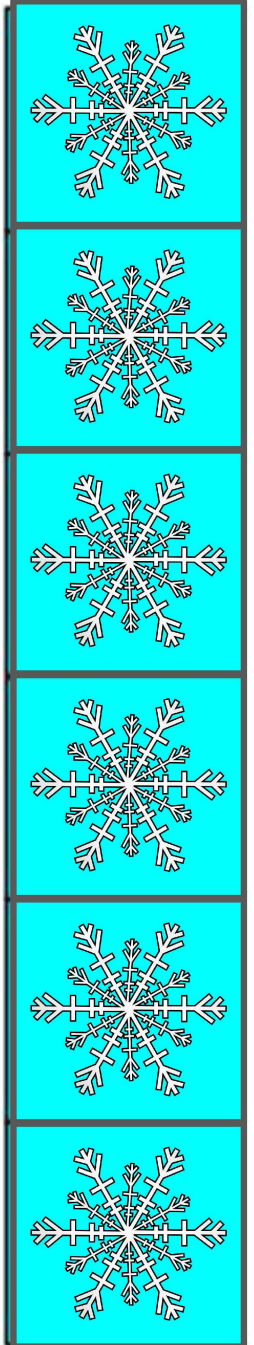
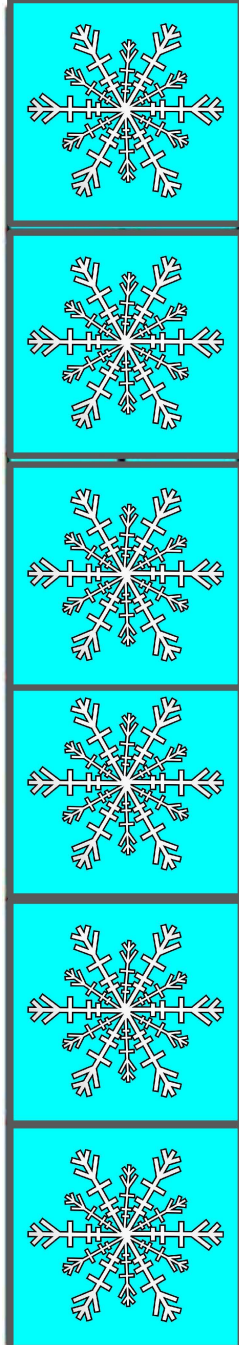
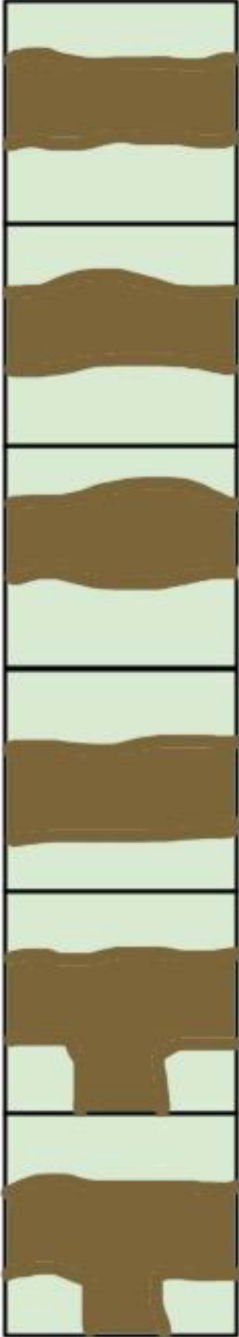
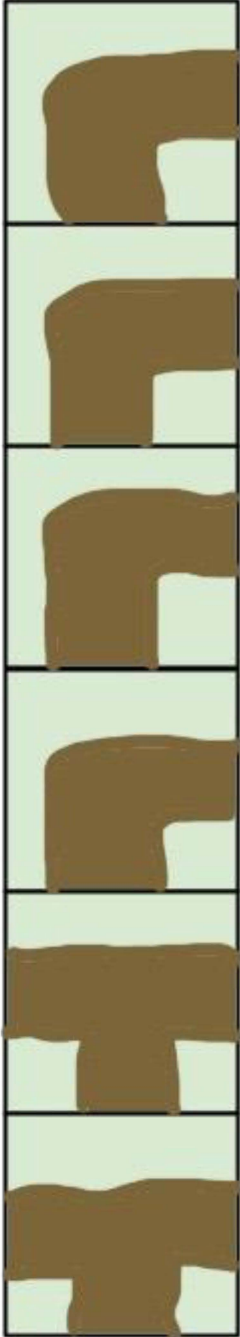
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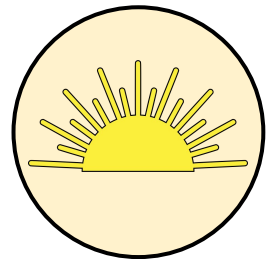
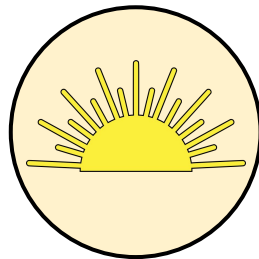
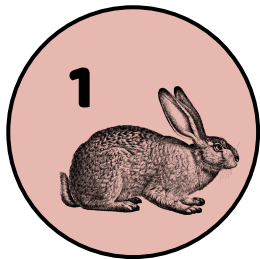
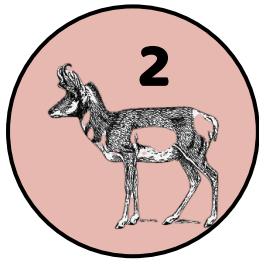
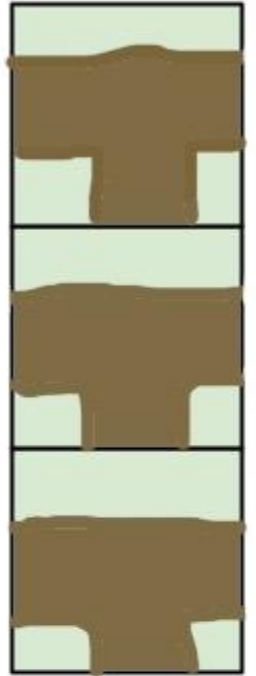
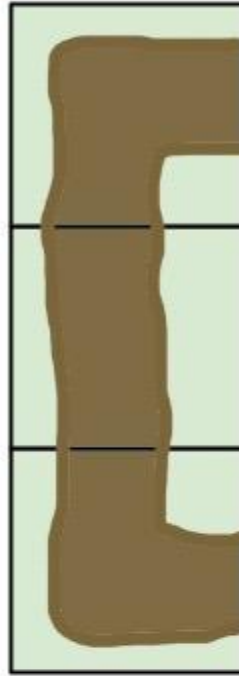
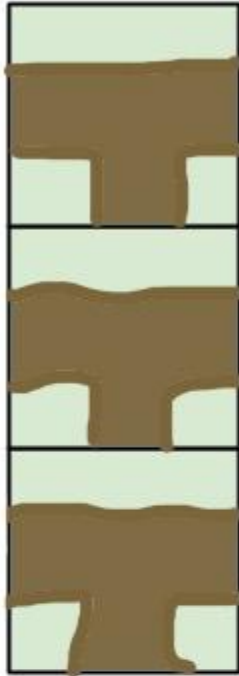
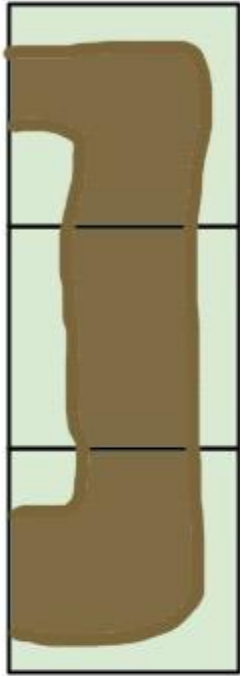
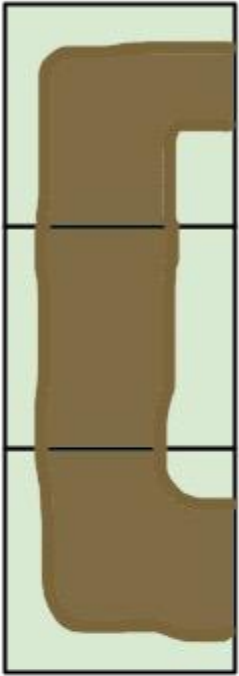
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Oregon Trail Coordinate Grid Game - Score Sheet

Directions: Roll two dice to determine the coordinate grid locations of the animals and sun cards. Record the coordinates below. If the square you roll is mostly river, roll again.

	x	y
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

Family Members: If one (or more) of your family members dies from disease or accident, cross them out below.



Hunting: As you travel the trail, collect the food points for each animal you cross. Record them in the chart below. You must collect at least 10 food points to survive. If you cross the river on a fish square, add 1 point.

Animal	Points
TOTAL:	

Final Fate:

_____ We made it to Oregon!
 _____ We didn't survive the journey.



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