



## Oregon Trail

*The Oregon Trail was one of the main overland migration routes in the United States of America, leading from locations on the Missouri River to the Oregon Territory. Between 1841 and 1869 the Oregon Trail was used by settlers, ranchers, farmers, miners and business men migrating to the Pacific Northwest. This patch is designed to help girls understand and appreciate the history of the Oregon Trail and the pioneers that travelled it.*

### **To complete this Try-it, complete *FOUR* of the following activities:**

1. Build a toy that may have been played with by a pioneer child.
2. Make some homemade bread and butter.
3. Find out about your community. When was it settled? Who, if anyone, lived there before the pioneers moved into the area? Visit a historic location in your community.
4. Try your hand at a skill the early settler women may have had to know about (i.e. spinning, weaving, quilting, soap making, making candles, hand sewing, etc.) or attend a presentation offered by a local guild in one of these areas. Check your local newspaper for these events. These could include a quilt show, Mission Mills' annual Sheep to Shawl event in Salem or a spinning or weaving guild display.
5. Visit a historical site or museum on the Oregon Trail, such as:
  - The end of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
  - Fort Vancouver
  - Oregon City
  - Whitman Mission
  - High Desert Museum
  - Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
6. Trace your family tree. With your parents help trace back your family 4 generations - you, your parents, your grandparents, and your great grandparents.
7. Find out about the Native Americans that inhabited the area before the pioneers settled. Were they nomads? What did their homes look like? What did they eat? Attend a Pow Wow and practice a Native American craft or game.
8. What kinds of work did the pioneers do before they came and after they got here? Was it the same or different? Can you identify what kind of work five of these people did?

Farrier	Copper	Mercantile	Seamstress	Wrangler
Blacksmith	Cobbler	Apothecary	Wagon Master	Midwife
Tin Smith	Haberdasher	Milliner	Tailor	Cow Poke

### Resources

National Park Service Oregon Trail website: <http://www.nps.gov/oreg/index.htm>

Bureau of Land Management – Oregon Trail Interpretive Center website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/>