

**IF
YOU**

Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

BY ELLEN LEVINE • ILLUSTRATED BY ELROY FREEM

**NEW and
UPDATED!**



 **SCHOLASTIC**

Introduction

One hundred and fifty years ago there was no railroad that went all across the country. There were no cars or buses or airplanes. The only way to travel across the country was to ride a horse, or if you went with your family, to travel in a covered wagon.

In the 1840s and 1850s, thousands of people traveled West. So if you lived at that time, there was a chance you might have traveled in a covered wagon.

This book is about traveling and living in a covered wagon. It tells what it was like to be one of the early pioneers to travel to Oregon.



What was the Oregon Territory?

In the 1840s the Oregon Territory was made up of the land that is now the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming.

Back then nobody knew if the Oregon Territory was going to be part of America or if it was going to be part of England. Both countries had built forts in the territory. At the forts, trappers and Indians sold animal furs and skins, such as beaver, marten, and muskrat, and bought tools and supplies.

America and England agreed that Oregon would belong to the country that could get more of its people living in the new land. So to make Oregon part of America, many Americans had to go there to live. Oregon finally became a state in 1859.

Why did some people want to travel all the way to Oregon?

Back in the 1840s you heard about faraway places by reading newspapers or hearing stories told by visitors who came from the distant places. This is how people learned of a land on the other side — the west side — of the Rocky Mountains. That land was called Oregon.

Stories told about Oregon made it sound like a magical place. Flowers bloomed all year. The land was good for farming. And there was plenty of land that you could get for free. There were tall trees and big forests, and rivers and streams filled with fish.

So the very name *Oregon* made people think of starting new adventures.

\$6.99 US
\$7.99 CAN

A different time ... a different place ... What if you were there?

If you traveled west in a covered wagon

- Would you ride in the wagon for the whole trip?
- How would you cross rivers when there were no bridges?
- Without road signs, how would you know where you were?

This book tells you what it was like to be a pioneer and travel west to Oregon in the 1840s.

Look for other books in this unique series that take you to important times in history.

RL3 007-010

 SCHOLASTIC

www.scholastic.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-590-45158-1

ISBN-10: 0-590-45158-8

