Tech Workshop – Oregon Trail Adventure

The Game


The Facts

- Began in Independence, Missouri and ended in the Willamette Valley in Northwest Oregon
- Would travel about 15 to 20 miles per day
- Journey took 4 to 6 months and covered over 2,000 miles
- There wasn’t a single set route
- More than 400,000 people used the trail between the 1840s and 1860s
- The destination was not always Oregon
  - Only 80,000 travelers ended in Oregon
  - 250,000 travelers branched off to California
  - 70,000 Mormons went to Utah
- The prairie schooner was the wagon of choice because it was much smaller than the iconic Conestoga wagon (which was used for moving freight over shorter distances)
  - 4 feet wide, 9 to 11 feet long, 2 to 3 feet deep
  - 50 inch back wheels and 44 inch front wheels
  - 1,300 lbs. when empty and tried to keep cargo under 2,000 lbs.
- Estimated 20,000 deaths overall, only 400 due to Indian attacks
- About 300 miles of trail ruts still remain
- More than 125 historic sites and markers along the way

The Sources

Bureau of Land Management: https://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/history-basics.php


Britannica.com: https://www.britannica.com/technology/prairie-schooner