

# OREGON TRAIL

## READING ESCAPE

**#1**

John O'Sullivan 'in a paper to encourage the idea of Manifest Destiny' in a paper to encourage the idea of Manifest Destiny. He believed it was the right of Americans to occupy the continent of North America. The idea was that Americans were destined to expand to the 'shining sea' on the Pacific coast. Indigenous people living on the land for thousands of years were displaced. The history of the Oregon Trail is a story for everyone. The impact on those who lived there was devastating. They were forced to abandon their villages and their way of life. English settlers

**DECODER**

A = 🍏 G = 🍌 M = 📄  
B = 📦 H = 🍷 N = 🍌  
C = 📖 I = 📄 O = 📄  
D = 📄 J = 📄  
E = 📄 K = 📄

**READING #2**

The Oregon Trail is a very important part of the history of the United States and the settlement of the American West. In the 1800's, hundreds of thousands of pioneers made their way in covered wagons on the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail. The trail crossed the middle of the country through the current states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and finally into Oregon. The first to head West in covered wagons were Christian missionaries wanting to spread their faith to Native Americans. Lewis and Clark had proved through their expedition (1804-1806) with the Corps of Discovery that people could make it from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. Those first missionaries, Marcus Whitman and his wife, proved that men and women could move their whole lives and families out West. Joel Walker was the first non-missionary settler to complete the trip along the Oregon Trail in 1840.

**DECODER**

1  
2  
3  
4 GHI  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

**THINK TANK**

as you're as small  
as you say you  
are, solve the  
and I will

**SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVEL 5  
LEAD DETECTIVE**

AGENT NAME:  
CODENAME:  
BADGE #:  
PRECINCT 5005

**SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVEL 5  
LEAD DETECTIVE**

AGENT NAME:  
CODENAME:  
BADGE #:  
PRECINCT 5005

**SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVEL 5  
LEAD DETECTIVE**

AGENT NAME:  
CODENAME:  
BADGE #:  
PRECINCT 5005

# 6 PASSAGES

**READING #1**

Named John O'Sullivan 'Manifest Destiny' in a phrase to encourage people to occupy the North America. The idea was that Americans from sea to shining sea"

On the Oregon Trail, Indigenous people had been living on the land for years. The history of the Oregon Trail is a two-sided story for everyone. The impact on those who traveled was devastating. They were forced to abandon their villages by disease, and English language, religion, and culture. English meant a great threat to their way of life. Many wrongly believe that the settlers came in peace.

**DECODER**

A = G =   
 B = H =   
 C = I =   
 D = J =   
 E = F =

**READING #2**

The Oregon Trail is a very important part of the history of the United States. In the 1800's, hundreds of thousands of people made their way in covered wagons along the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail. The trail crossed the middle of the country through the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Idaho, Wyoming, and finally to Oregon.

The first to head West were Christian missionaries. Their faith led them to Native Americans. Captain James W. Clark had proved through his expedition (1804-1806) with the Corps of Discovery that people could make it from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Those first explorers paved the way for Whitman and his wife, Eliza. They showed that women could move the same distance as men. The West was open.

**READING #3**

In 1843, the 'Great Migration' took place. Marcus Whitman left his new home in Oregon to seek more funding for his mission. He joined a wagon train on the return trip that successfully got 120 wagons and more than 1,000 people safely to Oregon.

The most difficult part of the journey was getting through the rugged terrain of the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. Many travelers carved their names in stones along the trail. A large granite stone in Wyoming, known as the Pioneer's Grave, is a signature of the pioneers. It was used to warn others not to get steep cliffs. The mountains were so high that they needed to be left behind.

**DECODER**

**READING #4**

Covered wagons or "Prairie Schooners" were often pulled by oxen and mules. Oxen were slow but had great strength. They could also be eaten in an emergency. Oxen were less expensive than horses.

**DECODER**

**READING #5**

Leaders of the wagon train were called Wagon Masters. Cowboys would ride along the side and help when needed. There were also scouts that rode ahead to see what the terrain was like.

Accidents happened while crossing rivers, lightning and hail were dangerous. The wagons often overturned and injuries were common. The wagons were so uncomfortable that many pioneers preferred to walk, which led to exhaustion. Some pioneers did not make it to their destination.

The greatest threat on the Oregon Trail was cholera, a bacterial infection that could cause death through dehydration. Other diseases included measles, mumps, and typhoid.

For those who suffered from an injury or disease, grave markers could be found along the trail to show where those who lost their lives were buried.

**DECODER**

A	B	C	J	K	L
D	E	F	M	N	O
G	H	I	P	Q	R
S			W		
T	U	V	W	X	Y

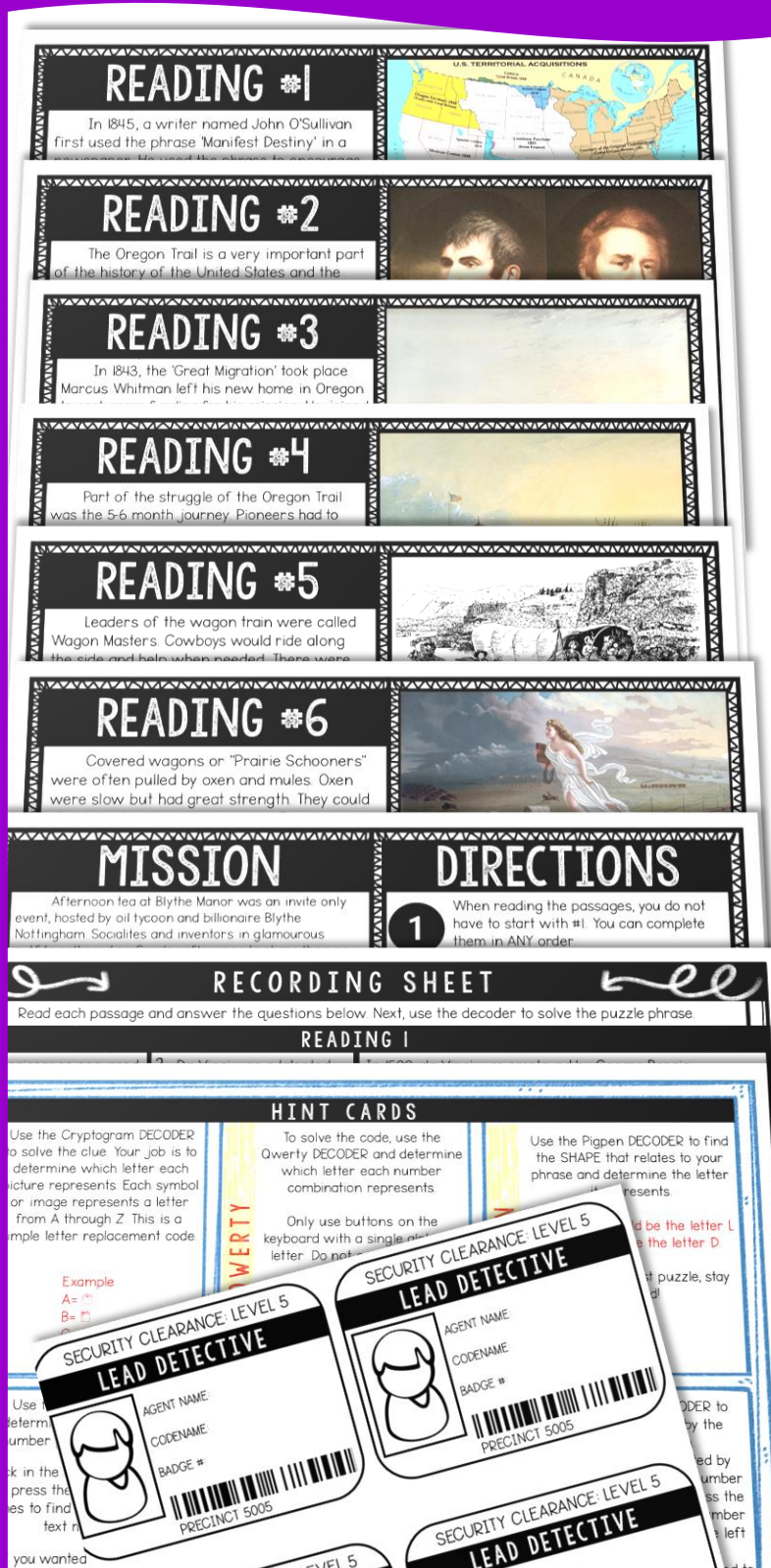
**READING #6**

Wagon wheels had to be made of iron. They were heavy and they would wear out. The needs of the wagon were different from the needs of a horse. Oxen were also used. Oxen were slow but had great strength. They could also be eaten in an emergency. Oxen were less expensive than horses.

**DECODER**

1	2	3
D	B	E
K		H
	P	N
T	R	Q
Z	X	V

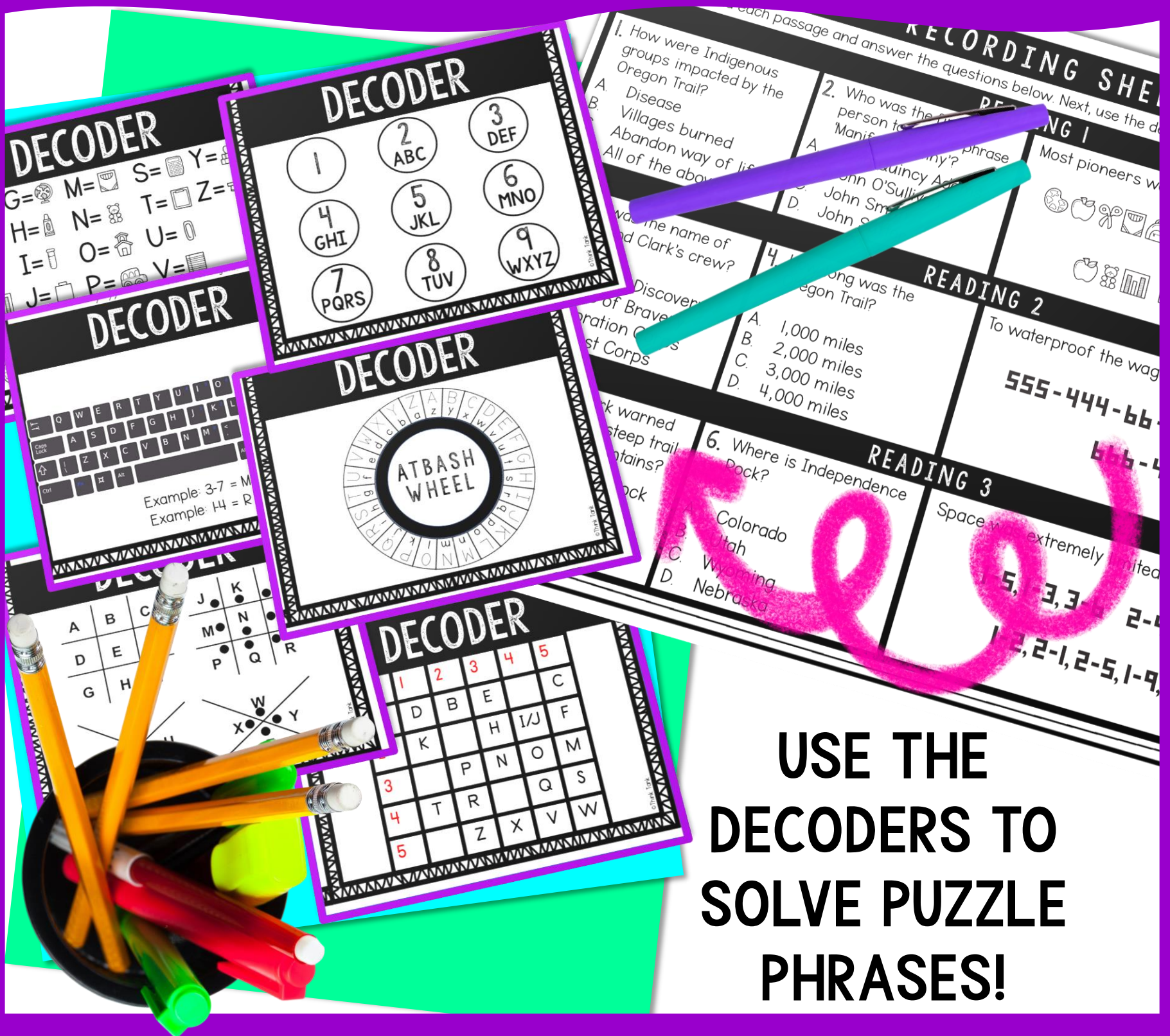
# WHAT'S INCLUDED?



- ✓ 6 Half page passages
- ✓ 6 Puzzle decoders
- ✓ 12 Multiple choice Q's
- ✓ Teacher guide
- ✓ Answer key
- ✓ Student directions
- ✓ Hint cards



# PUZZLE TYPES



**USE THE  
DECODERS TO  
SOLVE PUZZLE  
PHRASES!**

# NO PREP!

u're as smart  
ou say you  
s solve the  
les and I w  
urn your pri  
money!



# HOW IT WORKS

## ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

1

Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit SIX reading stations.

2

Students will answer the questions related to that passage on their recording sheet.

3

Students will use that specific “decoder” to reveal a “clue” about the topic.

**READING #1**

In 1845, a writer named John O'Sullivan first used the phrase 'Manifest Destiny' in a newspaper. He used the phrase to encourage people to move west. He believed it was the right of the American people to occupy the whole continent of North America. The idea behind Manifest Destiny was that Americans should spread "from sea to shining sea."

Before the Oregon Trail, Indigenous groups had already been living on the land for thousands of years. The history of the Oregon Trail is often one-sided. The real Oregon Trail wasn't a positive story for everyone. The arrival of settlers and the impact on those Indigenous groups was devastating. They were ravaged by disease. Villages were burned, they were forced to abandon their own language, religion, and culture. English expansion meant a great threat to their way of life. Many wrongly believed that the settlers and Indigenous people coexisted in peace.

**DECODER**

A = [apple] G = [globe] M = [mountain]  
B = [book] H = [house] N = [nose]  
C = [cup] I = [ice cream] O = [orange]  
D = [door] J = [jacket] P = [pig]  
E = [egg] K = [kiss] Q = [queen]  
F = [fish] L = [leaf] R = [rabbit]  
S = [sun] T = [train] U = [umbrella]  
V = [van] W = [wheel]

**RECORDING SHEET**

Read each passage and answer the questions below. Next, use the decoder to solve the mystery.

**READING 1**

1. How were Indigenous groups impacted by the Oregon Trail?  
A. Disease  
B. Villages burned  
C. Abandon way of life  
D. All of the above

2. Who was the first person to use the phrase 'Manifest Destiny'?  
A. John Quincy Adams  
B. John O'Sullivan  
C. John Smith  
D. John Sutter

**READING 2**

3. What was the name of Lewis and Clark's crew?  
A. Corps of Discovery  
B. Corps of Bravery  
C. Exploration Corps  
D. Manifest Corps

4. How long was the Oregon Trail?  
A. 1,000 miles  
B. 2,000 miles  
C. 3,000 miles  
D. 4,000 miles

**READING 3**

5. What landmark warned settlers of the steep trail to the Rocky Mountains?  
A. Independence Rock  
B. Chimney Rock  
C. Blarney Rock  
D. Manifest Rock

6. Where is Independence Rock?  
A. Colorado  
B. Utah  
C. Wyoming

Most pioneers were shopkeepers. They brought tools, food, and supplies. They also brought their families. They had to waterproof the wagons, the wagons were made of wood. They had to be careful of the weather. They had to be careful of the terrain. They had to be careful of the people. They had to be careful of the animals. They had to be careful of the plants. They had to be careful of the rocks. They had to be careful of the water. They had to be careful of the fire. They had to be careful of the sun. They had to be careful of the moon. They had to be careful of the stars. They had to be careful of the clouds. They had to be careful of the rain. They had to be careful of the snow. They had to be careful of the wind. They had to be careful of the dust. They had to be careful of the dirt. They had to be careful of the sand. They had to be careful of the gravel. They had to be careful of the stones. They had to be careful of the pebbles. They had to be careful of the boulders. They had to be careful of the mountains. They had to be careful of the hills. They had to be careful of the valleys. They had to be careful of the plains. They had to be careful of the deserts. They had to be careful of the forests. They had to be careful of the fields. They had to be careful of the farms. They had to be careful of the ranches. They had to be careful of the towns. They had to be careful of the cities. They had to be careful of the states. They had to be careful of the countries. They had to be careful of the world.

555-444-66-77  
666-444





1-5,1-3,3-6 2-4,

# BENEFITS & USE



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  UNIT REVIEW
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  NO PREP
-  PRINT AND GO
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING