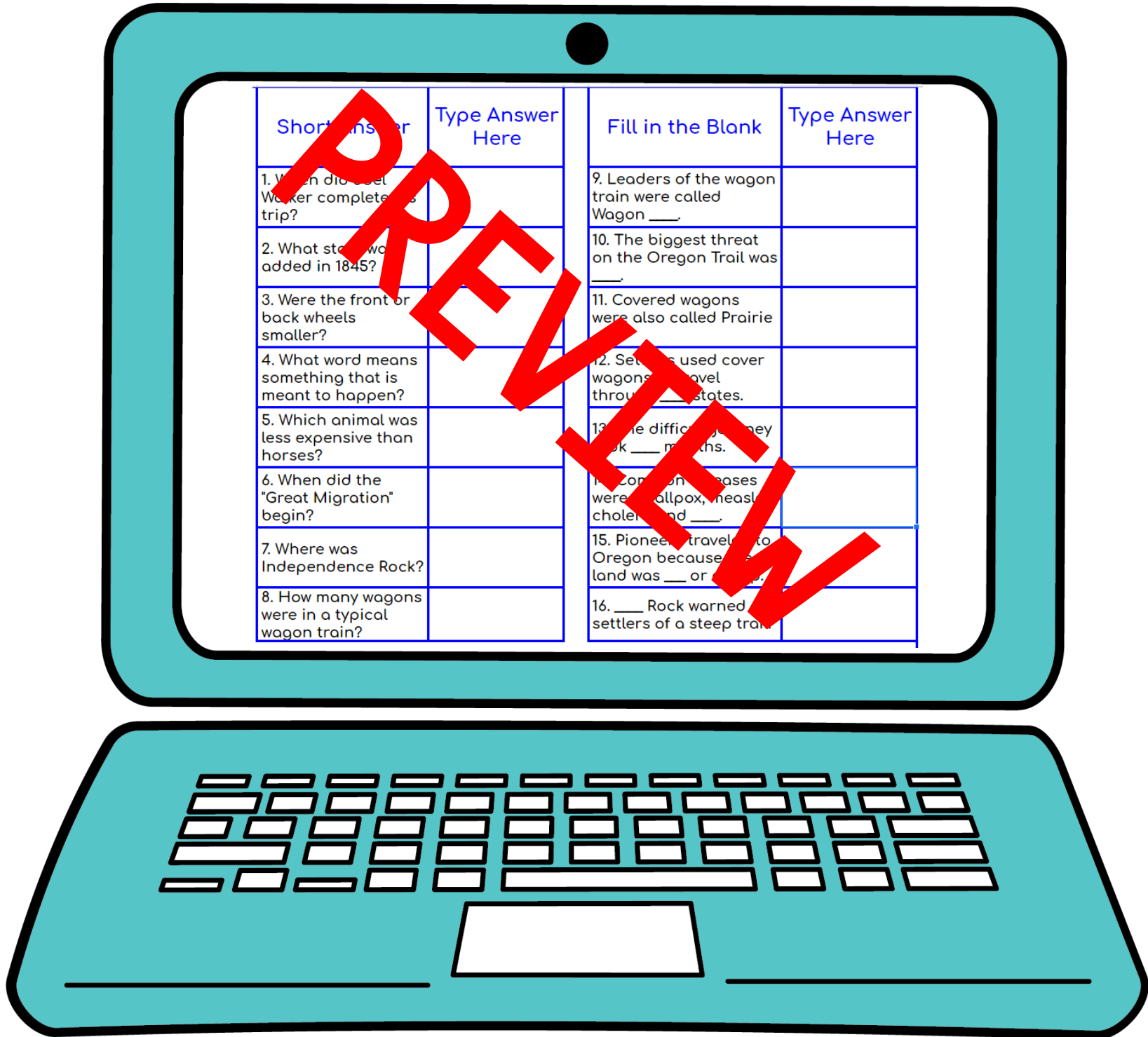


THE WAGONS
USUALLY MOVED
AHEAD AT
ABOUT 2 MILES
PER HOUR AND
TRAVELED

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. When did Joel Walker complete his trip?	
2. What state was added in 1845?	
3. Were the front or back wheels smaller?	
4. What word means something that is meant to happen?	
5. Which animal was less expensive than horses?	
6. When did the "Great Migration" begin?	
7. Where was Independence Rock?	
8. How many wagons were in a typical wagon train?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. When did the first wagon train complete the trip?		9. Leaders of the wagon train were called Wagon ____.	
2. What state was added in 1845?		10. The biggest threat on the Oregon Trail was ____.	
3. Were the front or back wheels smaller?		11. Covered wagons were also called Prairie ____.	
4. What word means something that is meant to happen?		12. Settlers used cover wagons to travel through ____ states.	
5. Which animal was less expensive than horses?		13. The difficulty they took ____ months.	
6. When did the "Great Migration" begin?		14. Common diseases were smallpox, measles, cholera, and ____.	
7. Where was Independence Rock?		15. Pioneers traveled to Oregon because the land was ____ or ____.	
8. How many wagons were in a typical wagon train?		16. ____ Rock warned settlers of a steep trail.	

OREGON TRAIL

The Oregon Trail was a major route used by settlers from the east who wanted to move west. Hundreds of thousands of people traveled westward between 1841 and 1869 during the "Great Migration."

The pioneers were farmers, doctors, blacksmiths, shop owners, and ministers. These pioneers traveled on the trail for free or very cheap. Before leaving, they had to make more than a year's trip. They would save the money to buy food, or sell their possessions. Settlers used covered wagons to carry their supplies across the rough terrain through six states.

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

The difficult journey west through the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains took up to six months. The Oregon Trail was originally cut by Native Americans but was later expanded by fur traders. Accidents happened while crossing rivers, lightning and hail were dangerous. The biggest threat on the Oregon Trail was cholera, a bacterial infection that could cause death and dehydration.

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. Due to the fact that the wagons weighed up to 2,000 pounds, many settlers walked alongside their wagons. The wagons often over-turned and injuries were common. Many pioneers did not make it to their final destination. Diseases, accidents and Native American raids took the lives of many who traveled. Most Native Americans were friendly and helpful.

Settlers usually traveled in a "wagon train" which consisted of 20-40 wagons carrying supplies, food and families. Typical food included bacon, beans, coffee and flour. A four-person family needed about 1,000 pounds of food to survive the trip. Supplies included buckets, skillets, tools, candles, and rifles. The wagons were made of iron-reinforced hardwoods. The front wheels were smaller than the back wheels to make turning easier. The wagons were covered with waterproofing linseed oil.

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Many travelers carved their names in stones along the trail. A large granite stone in Wyoming called Independence Rock had thousands of signatures.

The Oregon Trail was filled with dangerous obstacles. It is estimated that around 15,000 settlers died along the way. Crossing the deep, dangerous rivers led to the loss of life of the settlers, their animals and losing all of the supplies.

Food was supplied by hunting and fishing. Buffalo, deer, elk, rabbit and squirrel were often hunted to feed the pioneers. The wagons were so uncomfortable that many pioneers preferred to walk, which led to exhaustion. There was very little medical help available for those who suffered from an injury or disease. Common diseases were small pox, measles, cholera and mumps. Grave markers could be found along the trail to show where those who lost their lives were buried.

Joel Walker was the first settler to complete the trip along the Oregon Trail in 1840.

Chimney Rock was a landmark used to warn the settlers that the trail would be steep as they headed to the Rocky Mountains. Fort Laramie in Wyoming gave the pioneers the opportunity to refill their food and supplies. Trading post store owners convinced travelers to buy more supplies than they needed. Therefore, many supplies were left behind on the trail.

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

Manifest Destiny was the mind-set attitude of many people as America began to expand west. Manifest Destiny meant something that is meant to happen. Many people thought it was destiny for the United States to stretch from the East Coast to the West Coast. Though Manifest Destiny was a good idea, the rapid territorial expansion resulted in war with Mexico.

James K. Polk was elected President in 1845. Polk believed in the idea of Manifest Destiny. In 1845, Polk's administration added Texas to the United States military and fought the war with Mexico.

Mexico surrendered to the United States. General Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war. A belief in Manifest Destiny helped convince Americans to support the war.

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A stylized illustration of a teal laptop. The screen is white and contains the text "PLEASE VIEW THE VIDEO TO SEE HOW THIS PRODUCT WORKS" in bold, black, uppercase letters. The laptop has a black outline and a small black dot at the top center of the screen bezel. The keyboard is represented by a grid of white rectangles on a teal background, and there is a white rectangular touchpad below it.

**PLEASE VIEW
THE VIDEO TO
SEE HOW THIS
PRODUCT WORKS**