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](https://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/history-basics.php)  
**Britannica.com:** [https://www.britannica.com/technology/prairie-schooner](https://www.britannica.com/technology/prairie-schooner)