

Traveling Trunk Activity

After watching the pioneer women video, this is a fun activity to see how well children of today would do in preparing to travel west to establish a new home.

You will need each child to be able to see a copy of the general store supply list. If you have a large number of children it is most fun to put them into small family groups ranging in size from 2-6 children, but children can play as individuals as well. If in a group, they should work together to decide what they want to spend their money on. They should make a list of the items they choose to purchase and keep track of exactly how much they are spending. This will require a blank piece of paper and pencil.

Each family group receives \$95 to spend at the store. They do not have to spend all of it (that is a choice they have to make) but they can not spend a penny more.

Once all the children have made their purchases you can read from the provided historical journal entries. After each entry there is a short explanation of points they can accrue for making a wise purchase.

To really engage the students, have them read aloud the entries and take turns so many can read if you are teaching to a group.