

Inquiry Lesson
Encounters Between
Native Americans and Oregon-California Trail Pioneers
by Cathy Sato [for non-profit use only © Oregon-California Trails Association]

Many sources show Indians as a constant danger to the early Trail pioneers and emphasize violence and thievery by the Indians. Other sources say that the majority of encounters between Indians and Trail pioneers were friendly and mostly involved trading. What is the truth and how can we find out what the truth is?

Answer the following questions based on logic and what you know now. Also write down where and how you could find more information and what sources you think would be most likely to help you know what really happened. Discuss and share ideas with other people and write down everything that you think would help you answer the questions.

1. If you want to know what really happened long ago, how can you find out?

2. Which tribes did Oregon-California Trail pioneers encounter? How will you find out the answer?

fiction and non-fiction books and on-line sources. You should have at least 10 samples. Be sure to note the year that a particular portrayal was created.

Portrayal #1

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #2

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #3

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #4

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #5

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #6

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #7

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #8

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #9

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Portrayal #10

Year Created: _____ **Fiction or Non-Fiction?:** _____

Type of media (TV, movie, web site, book, etc.): _____

Describe how Indians are portrayed.

Describe how Trail pioneers are portrayed.

Bibliography Format

Meaning of Bibliography: *A list of resource materials that were used or consulted in the preparation of a work or that are referred to in the work.*

Book

Author (Last Name, First Name). *Name of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher's Name, Copyright Date.

Example: Greenfield, Eloise. *Rosa Parks*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1973.

Encyclopedia (print)

"Article Title". *Name of Encyclopedia*. Copyright Date.

Example: "Ants". *World Book Encyclopedia*. 1990.

World Wide Web

Author. "Title". Group Title. Institution. Date created or revised. Viewed (Date you saw it). <URL>

Example: "Bones". Newton's Apple. National Science Teacher's Association. 10 March 2000. Viewed 11 Feb. 2011. <<http://ericir.syr.edu/Projects/Newton/14/bones12.htm>>

Images or Video Clips

Title of image, Title of source, Date Created, digital image. Holder of image. Downloaded (date downloaded). <URL>

Example: Alexander Township, Athens Atlas, 1905, digital image. Perry County Historical Society. Downloaded 10 May 2010.
<<http://www.perrycountyohio.us/AthensAtlas/>>

Films

Name of film, producer. Release date. Where available.

In Pursuit of a Dream, Oregon-California Trails Association in cooperation with Boston Productions, Inc. 2011. Landmark Media Inc., 3450 Slade Run Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042, 1-800-342-4336, www.landmarkmedia.com.

Resources

within a web page use "find" to highlight "Indians" or "Native Americans"

- *In Pursuit of a Dream*, produced by the Oregon-California Trail Association, available from Landmark Media Inc.
http://www.landmarkmedia.com/videos_detail.asp?videokey=1557-see also bonus materials disk re Shoshone tribe
- Oregon-California Trails Association web site at <http://www.octa-trails.org> - in the search box top left of main page enter "Indians" to find many resources; also enter "Native Americans"
- National Oregon/California Trail Center Center at Montpelier, Idaho web site - <http://www.oregontrailcenter.org/HistoricalTrails/Indians.htm>
- Frontier Trails of the Old West
<http://www.frontiertrails.com/oldwest/oregontrail.htm>
- The Oregon Trail <http://www.america101.us/trail/Native.html>
- Fold3*, a historical web site with many original documents has information about "Native & African Americans on the Oregon Trail" at http://www.fold3.com/page/1221_native_african_americans_on_the/ *pay site, check availability at a library or genealogical society
- <http://thehistoryprofessor.us/bin/history/oregontrail.html>
- http://gypsyjournal.net/oregon_trail_museum.htm
- <http://applejack2.hubpages.com/hub/Eating-with-the-Indians-on-the-California-Oregon-trail>
- Bureau of Land Management FAQs <http://www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/history-faqs.php#question9>
- The Oregon Historic Trails Fund "Klamath Trail, 19th Century"
<http://www.oregonhistorictrailsfund.org/trails/showtrail.php?id=10>
- <http://www.oregonhistorictrailsfund.org/trails/showtrail.php?id=7>
- See this for how to find out which Indian tribes were encountered on the Oregon-California Trail routes
<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080410175230AAcX5FP>
- Resources for "Wagons Out West: Oregon Trail / Native American" Kathy Sanderson, Yujin Gakuen, Eugene School District at http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/CSD/ushistory/teacher_materials/Sanderson/
- http://www.octa-trails.org/learn/virtual_trail/virtual_tour/iowa_sac_fox/index.php
- http://www.3rd1000.com/history3/events/indian_encounters.htm
- <https://sites.google.com/site/oregontrailcnc/indian-encounters>
- http://www.historycooperative.org/cgi-bin/justtop.cgi?act=justtop&url=http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/11.5/br_49.html *The American Historical Review*, Vol. III No. 5 December 2006
Book Review of Michael L. Tate. *Indians and Emigrants: Encounters on the Overland Trails*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 2006 "Tate uses a topical approach to examine various "encounters" between Indians and emigrants. Each chapter draws on examples from the 1840s through the 1860s. Based on extensive research in published trail guides, newspaper accounts, novels, word-of-mouth trail stories, and other

sources of contemporary information..." See another review at <http://www.prairiefirenewspaper.com/2007/09/book-review-indians-and-emigrants>

- <http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu/> *Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1846–1869* - put "Indians" in the search box, then click on the resulting diaries
- <http://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/bitstream/2097/1803/1/PatrickAbbott2009.pdf>
"Representations of Plains Indians Along the Oregon Trail" Masters Thesis by Patrick Kane Abbot, Kansas State University, 2009
- Tribal Websites - contact for information-scroll to find contact information - *Send your question by mail or e-mail or phone to find out if someone can answer the question*
"What did Indians think about the Trail pioneers before and after they met any?"
 1. <http://www.meskwaki.org/> at bottom of page click "Historical Preservation"
 2. <http://www.shawnee-tribe.com/history.htm>
 3. <http://www.potawatomi.org/>
 4. <http://www.omtribe.org/> Otoe Missouri Tribe
 5. <http://www.winnebago-tribe.com/>
 6. <http://www.omaha-nsn.gov/> Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
 7. <http://www.quapawtribe.com/>
 8. <http://www.osage-tribe.com/>
 9. <http://kawnation.com/> (Kanza)
 10. <http://www.ponca.com/> Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
 11. <http://www.ponca-tribe-ne.org/start.php> Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
 12. <http://www.pawneenation.org/>
 13. <http://www.northernarapaho.com/>
 14. <http://www.cheyennation.com/>
 15. <http://www.shoshoneindian.com/> ("Snake Indians")
 16. <http://www.easternshoshone-tribe.com/>
 17. <http://www.fpst.org/> Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
 18. <http://www.timbisha.org/> Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
 19. <http://www.lemhi-shoshone.com/>
 20. <http://www.utetribe.com/>
 21. <http://www.sioux.org/index.php/main/flash>
 22. <http://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/>
 23. <http://www.standingrock.org/visit/>
 24. <http://www.fsst.org/> Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
 25. <http://www.fortpecktribes.org/> Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
 26. <http://www.kiowatribe.org/>
 27. <http://utahpaiutes.org/>
 28. <http://www.bishoppaiutetribe.com/>
 29. <http://www.kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov/>
 30. <http://www.burnspaiute-nsn.gov/>
 31. <http://www.shoshonebannocktribes.com/index.cfm> - at top click "home" in drop down box click "contact us"
 32. <http://www.nezperce.org/>
 33. <http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/hist1.html> Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla)
 34. <http://www.warmsprings.com/> The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Wasco and Paiute)
 35. <http://www.chinooktribe.org/> (Lower Chinook, Clatsop, Willapa, Wahkiakum and Kathlamet)