

Long ago, the United States was a land of pioneers. They were families who traveled west. They came in covered wagons. The wagons carried all their belongings. They packed what they needed to make the trip. They packed what they needed to make a home. When they went to their new land, they would need tools.

The trip was hard. Their wagons had big wheels. Sometimes the wheels would fall off. Then they would have to stop to fix them. There were no shops to buy a new wheel.

Families would travel together. It was called a wagon train. They would follow one wagon. The leader would drive that wagon. He would decide when to stop to rest. He would decide whether they should camp somewhere and hunt for food.

The families would travel for miles. Many times they had to walk next to their wagon. It was too full for them to fit inside. They were taking all their food and clothes.

Sometimes a family would have a problem. Someone would be sick. Or they would run out of food. Other families would help them. They knew that they had to work together to get to their new homes.

When they got to the West, they would stay there. They would build a community. They would stay friends. They would help each other. They might choose the leader as their mayor.

Sometimes they would work together to build a barn. Often they would help each other harvest crops. They had learned to work together on that hard trip to the west.