



# Pioneer Life Explored: Packing Your Wagon

Pioneers traveling by covered wagon had to be very careful of their wagon's weight. Even a few pounds heavier could mean the trip would be much more difficult for the oxen or horses. This is why the men and women would walk beside the wagon instead of inside it.

The typical journey by covered wagon was five months long, and they would need to pack enough supplies and equipment for the entire five months.

Below are the supplies that a typical Pioneer family traveling west across the United States might take on their covered wagon journey. Pretend you are a pioneer planning your long journey to the frontier. Make a list of what you would take in your covered wagon, keeping in mind that the wagon will carry only 2,000 pounds before the weight becomes too much.

Be sure to pack enough food for each person in your family; then see how much weight you have left for everything else!

This is the amount of food that was recommended for each person travelling West in a covered wagon.

- 150 pounds of flour
- 30 pounds of pilot bread (hardtack)
- 75 pounds of bacon
- 10 pounds of rice
- 5 pounds of coffee (adults)
- 2 pounds of tea (adults)
- 25 pounds of sugar
- 10 pounds of dried beans
- 10 pounds of dried fruit
- 2 pounds of saleratus (baking soda)
- 10 pounds of salt
- 10 pounds of corn meal
- 15 pounds of corn, parched and ground
- 5 pounds of vinegar

<b>Personal Items</b>	<b>Weight in Pounds</b>
doll	2
jump rope	1
marbles	1
family Bible	2
books	2
hunting knife	1
bag of clothes	40
fiddle	2
snowshoes	8
rifle	10
pistol	7
first aid kit	3

<b>Food</b>	<b>Weight in Pounds</b>
flour	150
tea	10
salt	50
sugar	50
coffee	100
bacon	40
dried fruit	100
dried beans	100
cornmeal	10
split peas	100
oatmeal	8
vinegar	25
pickles	50
dried beef	25
salt pork	5
assorted spices	5
barrel of water	350
vegetables	5

<b>Tools</b>	<b>Weight in Pounds</b>
ax	15
shovel	12
hatchet	9
hammer	7
hoe	3
anvil	150
grinding stone	75
animal trap	15
rope	4
<b>Household Goods</b>	<b>Weight in Pounds</b>
coffee grinder	5
rug	40
bedding	20
mirror	40
Dutch oven	70
butter churn	40
table and 4 chairs	200
piano	900
organ	2000
baby cradle	75
wooden bucket	10
bedpan	2
butter mold	1
rocking chair	50
pitcher and bowl	5
cooking stove	700
cooking utensils	2
stool	10
spinning wheel	80
lantern	4
clock	1
10 candles	1
set of dishes	40

**Total Weight Being Carried:**