

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Wagon Essentials Answer Key

Accept reasonable answers that show understanding of frontier survival needs. Examples might include:

- Food such as flour/beans is essential for eating along the journey.
- Warm blankets help settlers survive cold nights.
- Extra wheels prevent travel delays if the wagon breaks.
- First aid supplies help treat injuries on the trail.
- Water barrels are needed because clean water was not always available.
- Compass helps travelers stay on the correct path.
- Seeds are important for growing crops once families arrive.
- Fishing gear helps gather food from rivers and lakes.
- Fire starters help with cooking and warmth.
- Lanterns allow for light when it gets dark.

Items that are not essential might include pianos, jewelry, or heavy book collections. Check that students explain the usefulness of their chosen items clearly.

### Teacher's Guide

- Encourage students to justify their decisions with survival-focused reasoning.
- Pre-teach or review challenges pioneers faced (weather, food shortages, broken equipment).
- Allow discussion or small-group planning before independent writing to support idea development.
- Differentiation:
  - Provide sentence starters for emerging writers (e.g., "This item is important because...").
  - Challenge advanced students to rank items by importance and defend their ranking with evidence.
- Extension Ideas:
  - Students draw their wagon packed with the five chosen items.
  - Connect to geography by mapping part of the Oregon Trail and discussing where certain items might matter most.