

Pioneer trek trivia

By Amelia Nielson-Stowell, Deseret Morning News

The Ninth Handcart Company was one of hundreds of companies that took the Mormon Pioneer Trail to the Great Salt Lake Valley from 1847-1868. The trail was approximately 1,300 miles long from Nauvoo, Ill., where most of the companies left, and eventually led 70,000 pioneers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the Salt Lake Valley. How do you fare in a quiz about pioneer history? Find the answers at the end of the quiz, located upside down in the tinted area.

1 On Feb. 4, 1846, the Latter-day Saints were driven from their homes. The day was so cold that the Mississippi River froze over. The Saints were forced down a street known as what?

- a. The Mormon Trail
- b. Street of Tears
- c. Wells Street
- d. Sorrows Way

2 After leaving their homeland, thousands of Latter-day Saint immigrants from England and Wales couldn't afford wagons. So they pulled human-powered handcars. Fully loaded, a handcart could hold around how many pounds?

- a. 300 pounds
- b. 400 pounds
- c. 500 pounds
- d. 600 pounds

3 In 1849, the church formed the PEF, a fund to help poor emigrants on their trek to the Salt Lake Valley. More than 30,000 people were helped through PEF before it was dissolved in 1887. But in 2001, PEF was reinstated under the name Perpetual Education Fund, a fund to assist church members who do not have the money to attend school. What did PEF stand for in the 19th century?

- a. Perpetual Education Fund
- b. Pioneers Education Fund
- c. Perpetual Emigrating Fund
- d. Pioneers Emigrating Fund

4 Between 1856 and 1860, 10 companies of handcart pioneers walked to Salt Lake City. Of the total of 2,962 handcart emigrants, how many died along the way?

- a. 250
- b. 350
- c. 450
- d. 550

5 While on the trail, William Clayton heard his wife, Diantha, still in Nauvoo, had given birth to a healthy baby boy, so he wrote the words to the song "Come, Come, Ye Saints." But "Come, Come, Ye Saints" was not Clayton's original title. What was the first title to the song?

- a. "Our God Will Never Us Forsake"
- b. "A Pioneer Anthem"
- c. "All is Well"
- d. "With the Just We Shall Dwell"

6 At this Iowa location, the Latter-day Saints met the Pottawattamie Indians. The two refugee groups did not stay there long — the Pottawattamie remained in the area only in 1846, and the Latter-day Saints moved farther west but continued to travel across the area. What location was it?

- a. Mount Pisgah
- b. Grand Encampment
- c. Garden Grove
- d. Nishnabotna River Crossing

7 It was from Council Bluffs, Iowa, in July 1846 that 500 male volunteers of the Mormon Battalion began their march to San Diego. While the battalion never fought in the American-

Mexican War, they did make some significant accomplishments, some of which are (circle all that apply):

- a. Cleared the first wagon road across the southern desert to California
- b. Secured the Presidio at San Diego
- c. Established a U.S. presence in Tucson
- d. Contributed to the building of Fort Moore in Los Angeles
- e. Helped discover gold at Sutter's Mill
- f. Helped blaze a wagon road east from California to Salt Lake City

8 After Brigham Young and a number of companions turned back east from the Great Salt Lake Valley to help the other Saints, the area between Salt Lake and this famous Mormon Trail destination was inaugurated as the most prominent two-way road in 19th century western America. What was the destination?

- a. Nauvoo
- b. Council Bluffs
- c. Winter Quarters
- d. Iowa City

9 Who wrote the book "Latter-day Saints' Emigrants' Guide"?

- a. William Clayton, who also wrote the words to the song "Come, Come, Ye Saints."
- b. Heber C. Kimball, who attached the first "roadometer" to an LDS wagon to track how far the Saints traveled.
- c. Brigham Young, second president of the church, who led the migration west to Salt Lake.
- d. Orson Pratt, LDS apostle and editor of the weekly "The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star."

10 Along this river, the Latter-day Saints established what was believed to be the first commercial ferry. Brigham Young had nine men of the Vanguard Company remain behind and run the ferry, and each year the church sent men to help just before the beginning of the emigration season. Which river was it?

- a. Nishnabotna River Crossing, Iowa
- b. Chariton River Crossing, Iowa
- c. Elkhorn River, Nebraska
- d. North Platte River, Wyoming

11 The highest elevation of the Mormon Trail was at Big Mountain in Utah, a hill among the surrounding Wasatch Mountain peaks. How high was the elevation?

- a. 2,600 feet
- b. 4,500 feet
- c. 6,900 feet
- d. 8,400 feet

12 Wanting statehood, church leaders petitioned the U.S. government for the area in the proposed boundaries ranging from central Oregon to Mexico and from San Diego to southern Colorado. Leaders originally called Utah the State of _____?

- a. Zion
- b. Deseret
- c. Beehive
- d. God

ANSWERS

- 1. b. Street of Tears
- 2. c. 500 pounds
- 3. c. Perpetual Emigrating Fund
- 4. a. 250
- 5. c. "All is Well"
- 6. d. Nishnabotna River Crossing
- 7. All choices are correct
- 8. c. Winter Quarters
- 9. a. William Clayton
- 10. d. North Platte River, Wyoming
- 11. d. 8,400 feet
- 12. b. Deseret

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