

PAINT THE OREGON TRAIL

In the nineteenth century, many artists used the American West as a canvas for artistic expression—George Catlin, Frederick Remington, and Charles Marion Russell are some of the most well known. Art of the American West presented the artist's perspective of specific events and or locations. Whether the subject was a cowboy, Native American, or a landscape, the paintings often conveyed deep emotion.

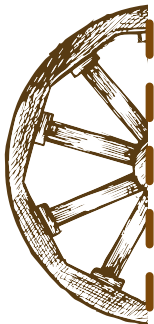
Visit the Simplot Art Collection of the Oregon Trail at the National Oregon/California Trail Center in Montpelier, Idaho. This exhibit shows some of the work of artist Gary Stone, who created a panorama of the trail based on the diaries of immigrants. You can see some of these paintings at the website.



Oregon Trail Simplot Art 

Search the Internet or go to a favorite museum and look at more examples of Western art. What do you think of as you study the paintings? What emotions do you feel? How does the artist convey those emotions without using words?

Using art supplies you have on hand, create your own work of art that illustrates what the Oregon Trail means to you.



DID YOU KNOW?

Adolescent boys take between 12,000 and 16,000 steps a day and girls between 10,000 and 13,000 steps a day. The average number of steps in a mile are 2,000, so teens walk an average of five to eight miles a day. The Oregon Trail is approximately 2,170 miles. How long do you think it would take for you to walk it?