



## EXPLORATION STATION: WAGON STATION WORK & PLAY

**Emigrant:** someone moving to a new place to live, usually far away from their first home. Emigrants came to farm, to ranch, to build, to live!

**Ox:** a bovine (cow) with a job! Usually a few years old, and often a steer (castrated male) or cow (female), an ox is trained to pull things—a wagon, a plow, or a sled of wood. Emigrants relied on their oxen for travel and for some, as beloved working pets.

### To Do at the Park

#### **Ox Train**

Oxen obey human commands through words and touch. Take turns being the Ox Driver. Everyone else is part of the ox team. Line up two-by-two and link your inside arms (or line up single file, and put your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you). (For no-touch fun, use verbal commands only.) The Driver stands at the very back, with hands on the back Ox's shoulders. Use commands and hand pressure to move the team around the Wagon Station or another open area. Each Ox should be sure to pass the pressure forward!

- Haw (put pressure on the right shoulder): turn LEFT
- Gee (put pressure on the left shoulder): Turn RIGHT
- Come up (push gently forward): go forward
- Whoa (pull gently back): come to a stop

### Keep Exploring at Home

#### **Make Some Music**

Emigrants might be able to bring along a fiddle, guitar, harmonica, or trumpet, but most of the time, music was made with the voice and body. Use your hands and feet to clap, slap, stomp, and shuffle in time while you sing some pioneer-era nonsense songs like "Oh My Darling Clementine" or "Oh, Susannah." Some tunes had lots of different lyrics, like the song "Idaho Boys"—there's a set of words for nearly every state, all poking fun at the men and boys of that region! Here's a playlist to explore: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ll6uer>

#### **Throw a Prairie Dance Party**

All you need is someone to sing a song, and at least one person to hop, spin, and dance about! Join hands and make up your own circle dance; line up facing one another and create a line dance; stand apart and come up with your own individual prairie dance inspired by animals and trees.

### **Learn More About It:**

- ⇒ Listen to over 4 hours of real-life work and play and adventure traveling by ox-team along the Oregon Trail: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=43wL1qmmAfw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43wL1qmmAfw)
- ⇒ Watch an ox team in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc5UfHwNgxA>
- ⇒ Do you know some historical songs? Check out NBC Historical Park on-line and sing along.

### CONSIDERATE EXPLORERS

- Are mindful of others waiting to use the station
- Are friendly with other explorers, from a responsible distance
- Leave a space tidy—no trash, no debris, ready for others to enjoy



## EXPLORATION STATION: WAGON STATION SONG-ALONG

One fun fact about songs in the wagon-emigration era: some songs had different sets of lyrics set to them, so you could use one tune for multiple hymns, sentimental songs, or silly songs! One of the songs we share at the Park, "Idaho Boys", has sets of words making fun of boys all across the country, from Maine to Oregon, starting all the way in 1841!

### Come Along Girls (Don't Marry the Idaho Boys)

Come a-long girls and lis-ten to my noise: don't you mar-ry the I-da-ho boys!

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If you do, your for-tune it will be: John-ny cakes and ba-bies are all you'll see!

#### CHORUS:

Come along girls and listen to my noise (*gesture come along, cup ear to listen*)

Don't you marry the Idaho boys! (*finger shake in time*)

If you do, your fortune it will be: (*nod head in time*)

Johnny cakes and babies is all you'll see. (*cradle/rock baby*)

When they go a-courtin' let me tell you what they wear:

And old frock coat all patched and bare,

And old top hat more brim than crown,

A pair of dirty socks they wore the winter round.

When they go a milking, they milk it in a gourd

Hide it in the corner and cover it with a board.

Some gets little and some gets none,

And that's the way things in Idaho run!