

CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

'Going West' in the 1840s

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

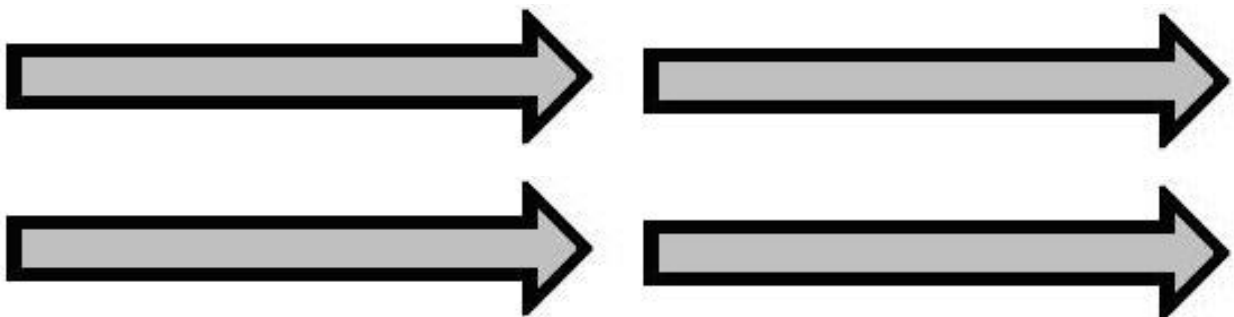
The bedrock of any answer to the question *HOW* something happened is understanding cause and consequence. This process can be represented like this:



with the causal link(s) shown by an arrow; the box on the left is the cause (an event that happened), and the boxes on the right are consequences (the event(s)/reaction(s) it provoked).

Below are boxes giving facts about the journey West. Cut the boxes up into cards and also cut out the arrows. Use your ingenuity and the arrows to make up as many 'action–reaction' flow diagrams as you can – you should be able to create hundreds of them.

Each time you make up a flow diagram, describe your reasoning, taking special care to explain *HOW* the links worked to create the result they did.



Mountain Men such as James Bridger worked as trail guides and wagon train captains	Fort Laramie was a trading post with extortionate prices	Catherine Sagar had her leg crushed under a wagon	Loss of wagons and equipment
The Donner Party resorted to cannibalism when they were stranded in the snow	Windlass Hill was so steep that pioneers dragged a tree behind them to slow down	In 1847 Marcus Whitman and his wife were killed by Cayuse warriors	California and Oregon had good soil and a good climate
"Our provisions ran out. Proceeded to kill and butcher the pony."	Adventurers such as Lansford W Hastings wanted power, wealth and/or excitement	Alcove Spring was a beautiful stopover, but with mosquitoes as big as turkeys	Edward Henry Lenox and his father heard Peter Hardeman Burnett advertising his wagon train
Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa set up a Mission on the Oregon Trail near Walla Walla	337 deaths on the Oregon Trail due attack by Indigenous warriors, 1845-60	Some groups (such as the Mormons and black former slaves) were persecuted	'Camp fever' spread though the Sagars' wagon train, killing the mother, Naomi
In 1843 Peter Hardeman Burnett, a broke Independence lawyer, organised a wagon train	In 1848, gold was discovered in California.	In 1837 the eastern US was hit by economic depression; banks collapsed, wages were cut	"We today passed seven graves."
The government printed 10,000 copies of the Oregon Trail	"Encamped in a circle as it is our custom. Put out guards and retired to rest."	Hunger, exhaustion,	Lewis Linn's Oregon Bill promised 1 sq. mile FREE land in Oregon to anybody who lived there 5 years
Dr Benjamin Wilson's wife wrote: "I am going with him, as there is no other alternative."	Some of the farmers in the Mississippi valley were beginning to feel 'crowded'	At Dalles Rapids migrants caulked their wagon to float them down the river	"The heat-dried wagon, striking on rocks or banks, would fall to pieces."
Henry Sagar died trying to protect his wagon during a buffalo stampede	The start of the Sagar's journey was hindered by heavy rain, mud and flooding rivers	There was government, laws and taxation in the eastern United States	Missionaries who wanted to convert the Indigenous peoples to Christianity
Emotional strain	In May 1843 Marcus Whitman, after a visit east, set off back west from Independence along the Oregon Trail	Women and children walked beside the wagon	"The hills are so steep rocky that Husband lightened the wagon as much as possible, leaving my trunk."
Land in the East was too expensive for younger sons who were not going to inherit a farm	Mountainous, rocky terrain	Mourning	Massacre Rocks was so-called because of a Shoshone attack in 1862