

# Pioneer Day Meet the Pioneers

Learn about the pioneers by sharing stories from the pioneers themselves! Read these sweet journal entries to bring Pioneer Day to life for your primary children!

Find the full lesson plan, extension ideas, and song suggestions in the blog post here:

<https://www.primarysinging.com/pioneer-day-meet-the-pioneers/>

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# Pioneer Day Meet the Pioneers

## Activity Instructions:

1. Before primary, read through some pioneer stories through journal entries, General Conference talks, or from your own family's accounts.
2. Print out the pioneer posters that include journal entries from 4 different pioneers. You may also bring in your own stories and pictures. You may find some additional pioneer photographs on the Church's website.
3. If you choose to teach/review a song about pioneers, start by singing through the song. If you are reviewing a mix of songs, choose one to start with.
4. Explain to the children that you'll be learning about early pioneers. Invite the children to be reverent as they listen to real-life accounts of pioneers.
5. Once you have sung through the song, post one of the journal entries on the board and have one of the children come up and read the story to the class.
6. You might ask some follow-up questions after each story or invite the children to share how they might have felt if they were an early pioneer.
7. Continue reviewing and sharing stories from pioneers. Invite the children to share any pioneer stories they can recall. Share your testimony about the pioneers and how they were guided by Heavenly Father.

## Extension Activities:

- A few weeks before primary, ask your primary teachers if they would be willing to share about any pioneer heritage. Ask them to come prepared to share a pioneer story for 2-3 minutes. Pictures are always awesome!
- Assign a pioneer to each class. Give them the information sheet along with any pictures. Have them read about their pioneer and share what they learned with the class!
- Read this article from the July 2010 New Era about Pioneer Day. This will help provide a little bit more information about why we celebrate Pioneer Day!

# MEET LEVI SAVAGE

"Brothers and sisters, wait until spring to make this journey. Some of the strong may get through in case of bad weather, but the bones of the weak and old will strew the way. . .

"What I have said I know to be true; but seeing you are to go forward, I will go with you, will help you all I can, will work with you, will rest with you, will suffer with you, and, if necessary, I will die with you. May God in his mercy bless and preserve us."

# MEET EMMA JAMES

“We were called together in a meeting one evening and there was quite a bit of guessing as to the reason for it. It was a large group that gathered, circling the leader. The meeting was called to order, one of the brethren offered prayer, then we were told for the reason for the counseling. We were told it was 300 miles to Council Bluff which was the actual place for starting the trek and that was just a mile to what we had to go to reach the valley. We would have carts, such as they were, but the season was late and bad weather could prove dangerous to us if we were in the mountains. Even if we had no trouble, we would be late getting to Utah.”

# MEET ZADOK JUDD

“This was quite a hard pill to swallow—to leave wives and children on the wild prairie, destitute and almost helpless, having nothing to rely on only the kindness of neighbors, and go to fight the battles of a government that had allowed some of its citizens to drive us from our homes, but the word came from the right source and seemed to bring the spirit of conviction of its truth with it and there was quite a number of our company volunteered, myself and brother among them.”

# MEET C.C.A CHRISTENSEN

"At the campground we encountered our first trials, in that we had to give up books. . . . We were only allowed to take fifteen pounds in weight for each person who was to travel with the handcarts, and that included our tinware for eating, bedding, and any clothing we did not wish to carry ourselves. . . ."

"Our train consisted of between thirty and forty handcarts. Each of these had an average of five person. . . . It was usually necessary for small children to ride in the handcart which the father, mother, and older brothers and sisters of the family pulled. . . ."

"The sick and the blind women [in the group] were allowed to ride in one of our freight wagons, for we had three wagons drawn by mules, which carried our tents."

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