

Connect the Great Wagon Road

Travel the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to Augusta! At each checkpoint, answer a question or find something nearby. Complete each challenge to connect the next section of the road.

How do you think travelers crossed rivers before bridges?

PA Philadelphia

MD

VA

broad-leaf tree
WV

small game animal

NC

calling bird

SC

Augusta

GA

Can you find a modern road that follows part of the Great Wagon Road?
Write its name below.

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The GREAT WAGON ROAD

Finding a Home



Long before paved roads or GPS, families packed their wagons and traveled hundreds of miles from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas along the Great Wagon Road. Following an ancient Indigenous trail, they explored new places and helped shape early America. Today, you can still explore parts of this historic route.

A Wild Highway

Traveling the Great Wagon Road wasn't easy. Families crossed rushing rivers, climbed rocky hills, and spent weeks or even months on the trail. To reach their destination, they had to depend on what they packed and what they knew.

Pioneer Pack

Families could only bring what fit inside their wagon. Covered with a canvas top and pulled by horses or oxen, these sturdy wagons carried everything a family needed for the long journey and a new life when they arrived. Food, tools, seeds, treasured keepsakes, and other important supplies all had to fit inside.

Circle the five items you would bring. Leave the rest behind.



Observation

There were no road signs or turn-by-turn directions on the Great Wagon Road. Awareness of the natural world was essential for navigating through the wilderness.

Do you notice any unique and recognizable natural features?
Draw some interesting ones you find.

1.
Trees with interesting shapes or size.
2.
Large rocks of unique color or shape.
3.
Human-made structures.

Why did you pick those items to bring?

Map your Journey

Observe the natural landmarks along your hike. Draw a map using those observations. Make your drawings easy to recognize.
Could a friend navigate using your map?

start here

X

