

Load up your wagon!

Discover the extraordinary times of adventurous frontiersmen and brave pioneers as you travel cross-country on the Erie Canal and the Oregon Trail, and even "Remember the Alamo" in Westward Ho! Part I.

Westward Ho! Part I is broken up into five weeks:

Week 1 - Frontiersmen

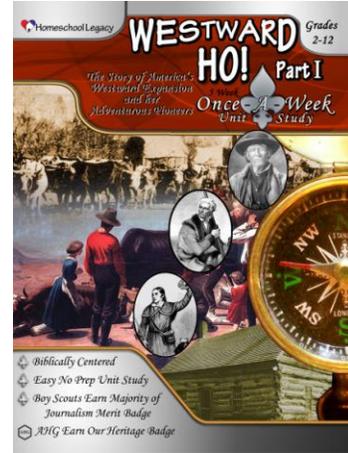
Week 2 - Pioneer Life

Week 3 - The Lone Star Republic

Week 4 - The Life and Times of James K. Polk

Week 5 - The Oregon Trail

The following is a sample of what you will be doing in Week 2 as you work through Westward Ho! Part I. Red lettering is added here for further explanation.



## **Week 2: Library Reading/Video Choices**

An \* denotes that it or an equivalent of same subject matter is necessary in order to complete an assignment.

+ Younger Reader

++ Mid-level Reader

+++ Older Reader

### **Focus: Pioneer Life**

JB FULTON Robert Fulton: Inventor and Steamboat Builder/  
James M. Flammang (++/+++)

J AME Kristen, an American Girl/ Janet Shaw (++)

J BRI Caddie Woodlawn/ Carol Ryrie Brink (NEWBERRY AWARD WINNER) (++)\*

J WIL Little House in the Big Woods/ Laura Ingalls Wilder (++)\*

J 386.48 D The Erie Canal/ Craig A. Doherty (++)

J 386.48 S The Erie Canal/ Andre Santella (+)

J 388.341 A Conestoga Wagons/ Richard Ammon (++)

J 391 K 19<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing/ Bobbie Kalman (++)

J 973 K Pioneer Life from A to Z/ Bobbie Kalman (+)

J 978 M Pioneers/ Leonard Matthews (++)

J 978 S Rivermen/ Gail Stewart (++)

J 978.02 B Pioneers/ Linda Burnett (+)

J 978.02 D Great Women of Pioneer America/ Sarah De Capua (+)

386.48 P Waterway West: The Story of the Erie Canal/ Mary Kay Phelan (++++)  
610.97 V Frontier Fever: The Scary, Superstitious, and Sometimes Sensible Medicine of  
the Pioneers/ Elizabeth Van Steenwyk (++++)

DVD 791.4372 L Love Comes Softly/ Based on a Janette Oke novel

*Each Once-a-Week Unit Study provides a weekly library list that includes a variety of books for that week's focus.*

*As you can see, I have alphabetically and numerically arranged each call letter in order for you to quickly and easily gather your library books.*

*I include books of different reading levels, have chosen books of superior quality, and have carefully screened books for objectionable material.*

*Your children are not meant to read all of the books listed. They pick and choose books to read throughout the week which most interest them. Reading is the only activity they will continue daily throughout the week.*

*Only books noted with an asterisk (or an equivalent of same subject matter) are necessary in order to complete a specific assignment.*

*What if you cannot find the exact book? No problem. Just pick another from that same library section and focus.*

*In addition to books, your list will also include documentaries/movies for you to pick up at the library or get from Netflix.*

*More recent Once-a-Week Unit Studies, such as Westward Ho, identify the reading selection's ability level by way of +, ++, and +++ icons.*

### **Supplies:**

A Bible Atlas

The local daily newspaper, daily national newspaper, and a news magazine

A sheet of poster board

Glue

Different-sized vegetable tin cans, empty, clean, labels removed

Reserved can labels

Permanent marker

Masking tape

Hammer

Different-sized nails, an awl, ice pick, or Phillip's head screwdriver

Bath towel

Spray paint

Pebbles

Tea lights  
Galvanized wire and wire cutters (optional)  
Ingredients for homemade butter (page 33)  
Ingredients for Pioneer Stew and Johnnycakes (page 34-35)

### **Daily Activities:**



Independent Reading: Week 2 Library Choices

Family Read-Aloud:

Option 1: Little House in the Big Woods (Book 2 of the Little House series)

Option 2: Caddie Woodlawn

*You have the option of reading through the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House series over the course of Westward Ho I and II. If you choose this option, you will have already read Farmer Boy in week 1. If you have previously read this amazing series, you have the option of reading another great classic, Caddie Woodlawn, this week.*

*Both are great options for peering into the window of late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century family life, whether you have boys or girls.*

### **Once-a-Week Activities:**



Family Devotional:

This week you will learn about a man named Horace Greeley whose four simple words turned settlers into pioneers overnight. Those words were “Go west young man.”



One man’s words and the power they wielded, in addition to the hopes and dreams they inspired, would help trigger the great migration. Horace Greeley’s powerful words caused people in America and around the world to pack their belongings and trade in everything they had ever known for the hope of a new and better life for themselves and generations to come.

From the beginning of time mankind has marched farther and farther westward. In fact, “go west” was essentially what the Lord said to Abram in Genesis 12:1 when He said, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” The Lord then inspired Abram with promises of blessings in the Scripture that follows.

- Read Genesis 12:1-5.

What was Abram's response to God's command? He seemingly did not argue or plead, beg, quibble, or refuse. He just went!

Like the pioneers who heeded the words of Horace Greeley, Abram packed up his family and belongings and traded in everything he had ever known in Haran for the promises of a new and better life in Canaan.

- Locate Haran and Canaan in a Bible atlas. What direction did Abram and his family travel in order to get to Canaan?

On the contrary, Jonah's response to God was quite the opposite.

"The word of the Lord came to Jonah... 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because its wickedness has come before me.'" Unlike Abram who immediately obeyed, Jonah made a different decision. He chose to run away.

Granted, Jonah's situation may have looked a bit bleaker than Abram's, but as Psalm 139 explains, there is nowhere we can go that God cannot find us. That is reassuring to those of us who trust Him to watch over and protect us, but disturbing to anyone like Jonah wishing to run from God.

- Read Jonah 1:1-3 and Psalm 139:1-16.

But God was not about to give up on Jonah or the people of Nineveh, for that matter. To find out what happened next, read Jonah 1:4 - 4:11.

God will ask us to do many things in this life; some will be more difficult than others. But the comparison between Abram and Jonah shows us that one way or another, God's plan will be accomplished. We just have to choose whether to immediately obey Him, as Abram did, or to be disciplined, as in Jonah's case, until we do.

- Discuss how this comparison relates to children and their willingness (or reluctance) to obey their parents. What are the consequences of each decision?
- Will you choose to be an Abram or a Jonah the next time your parents or the Lord tell you to "go" do something?



### **History/Geography:**

Once Daniel Boone had breached the barrier of the Appalachian Mountains, there would be no holding back the tidal wave of pioneers soon to follow. Boone's Wilderness Road would provide a thoroughfare for wagonloads of pioneers.

By 1780, there were already more than 50,000 pioneers living west of the Appalachians. (Shhh!...Don't tell King George! Remember, crossing the Appalachian Mountains was

against British law, and we were still officially under the king's rule until the Treaty of 1783.)

The Wilderness Road was just one of many paths the pioneers would follow. The Mohawk and Natchez Trace Trails, the Cumberland Road, and other old Indian footpaths were others.

Waterways would also play a significant role in America's westward expansion. The Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, as well as the 1825 engineering feat of the Erie Canal (TL), were all major waterways used by pioneers as they traveled west.

*Timelines are a great way for your children to "connect the dots" of history. A TL is to remind your children to add significant events and people to the timeline notebook they compiled in Week 1. They will continue to maintain it throughout the duration of this unit study and can continue to add to it as they go on to explore other exciting time periods.*

Another engineering achievement of the early 1800s (1807 to be exact) was Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont (TL). Steam power, as you will soon discover, played a major role in the settling of the west.

Whether by foot, horseback, wagon, stagecoach, raft, flatboat, keelboat, or steamboat, droves of early pioneers were packing up their few possessions and heading west.

- Trace the Mohawk and Natchez Trace Trails, the Cumberland Road, as well as the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, and the Erie Canal on your map using different colored markers for the trails and waterways.

*Your children begin mapping their way across America in Week 1 of Westward Ho! Part I and will continue through Westward Ho! Part II.*



### History/Vocabulary:

- Take the time this week to read about the achievements of Robert Fulton and New York's Governor Dewitt Clinton's Erie Canal. Choose books from this week's library list, or look them up in an encyclopedia.



- Look up the definitions of the word pioneer in a dictionary. Explain to your family how one of its definitions applies to the pioneers of the 1800s and how another applies to the landmark achievements of the steamboat and the Erie Canal. Explain how each achievement was significant to America's westward expansion.

The Erie Canal has changed a lot since 1825. Go to YouTube.com (with your parent's supervision) to learn more about today's Erie Canal and how its locks function.



## History/Vocabulary/Language/Current Events:



“Go west young man” was a popular saying on the lips of many Americans in the mid-1800s and it was Horace Greeley who had put it there. Horace Greeley stood on the threshold of the newspaper industry. He was a newspaper publisher, editor, and founder of two of America’s first penny papers: the New-York Weekly Tribune (1841-1866) and the New York Tribune, still in existence today.

Up until 1833, the cost of a newspaper was too expensive for the common man. Penny papers changed all that.

Freedom of the press (newspapers, news magazines, television, and internet news sources) gives Americans the freedom to voice their opinion, fairly critique, and print comments about events, people, and their activities. It is, in fact, one of your 1st Amendment rights. That freedom, however, does not allow you to commit libel, slander, malice, or to defame someone’s character.



**Horace Greeley  
(1811-1872)**

- Look up the words libel, slander, malice, and defamation in a dictionary. In your own words, write the definition of each one. Explain the difference between libel and slander.

Newspapers try to make it easy for readers to distinguish between fact-based news stories and opinion by printing those columns in separate sections of the paper. That does not mean that some journalists don’t try to occasionally insert their personal opinion into a hard news story, however.

- Read several newspaper stories throughout the week. Can you tell the difference between fact and opinion? Explain.  
(BSA Req. 1)

*Once-a-Week Unit Studies are written for ALL homeschool families to enjoy, but Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls receive the added benefit of earning merit badge requirements while completing the same unit study assignments as the rest of their non-scout siblings.*

*While completing Westward Ho! I & II with the rest of their family, Boy Scouts will earn the majority of their Journalism merit badge. American Heritage Girls will earn Our Heritage badge.*

*Boys Scouts will be able to easily identify those assignments by the above fleur-de-lis icon. American Heritage Girls will note theirs by this AHG icon.*



*The requirements fulfilled will be noted in parentheses at the end of the assignment.*



## Family Discussion/Current Events:

We have the Founding Fathers to thank for America's freedom of the press. The Founders had the foresight to include a Bill of Rights in our United States Constitution.

In fact, they believed freedom of the press to be so imperative to the security of a free nation that they included it in the very first amendment, along with freedom of religion, speech, the right to peacefully assemble, and to petition the government regarding unfair treatment.

For a more in-depth study of the Constitution and your Bill of Rights, you will enjoy: Homeschool Legacy's *We the People Once-a-Week Unit Study*.

Not all countries enjoy such freedom, however. We Americans often take our freedoms for granted, but many people around the world are only allowed to read in newspapers or see on television that which their governments say they can. Their governments recognize the power of words and the influence they can have on an entire populace.

Horace Greeley's words, "Go west young man" were so powerful that they not only influenced Americans, but immigrants from around the world, as you will discover throughout the course of this unit study.

As you travel west with the pioneers over the next few weeks, Horace Greeley will occasionally send you out "on assignment" to cover a story for his New York Tribune. You will be able to easily identify those assignments whenever you see the icon shown to the right. Be prepared to use the power of words to effectively report on the events and people of the day.



- To familiarize yourself with how news stories are written, read a story about the same event from four different news sources: today's local paper, a national paper, a news magazine, and (with your parent's supervision) an on-line news source.

- Clip out each of the articles and glue them to a sheet of poster board.

- Compare each of the stories:

1. How long is each story?
2. How accurate is each story?
3. Are they fair and balanced?  
(Do they fairly represent opposing points of view?)
4. How is each different from the other depending on its purpose and audience?

- Use your poster as a visual aid while presenting your findings to your family.

Boy Scouts will also want to present their findings to their counselor. – BSA Req. 2a



## Arts & Crafts:



It would be several years before Thomas Alva Edison (TL) would invent the first commercially practical light bulb (1879), and a few more years after that before it would illuminate the home of the common man. Until then, pioneers would have to make-do with candles and punched-tin lanterns.

- Make a punched-tin lantern. (AHG Req. 2T)

*Simple instructions for making a punched-tin lantern are included in your unit study.*



AHG – Teach this craft to your unit or a younger unit. (AHG Req. 6E)



## Life Skills:



- Make homemade butter.

Pioneers had to make everything from scratch.

There were no general stores out west yet. Those would come in time as communities sprang up across the frontier. There was an occasional fort where the pioneers could stock up on supplies, but for the most part, they had to use their own wits and ingenuity to survive.

Many pioneers took with them at least one cow on their journey west. The family cow provided milk, butter, and meat if necessary.

Old-fashioned butter churns, like the one shown here, were commonly used by settlers in the 19th century to churn cream into butter.



This butter churn was sometimes called an up and down churn named for the action used when making butter. Cream was poured into the tub, and the plunger or staff was moved up and down until butter was formed.

But the pioneers found an even easier way to make butter on the trail. They just hung a bucket of cream from the wagon! By the end of the day, after all the jostling of the bumpy trail, they had butter for their evening meal!

You can easily make your own delicious butter with the following recipe, even if you don't have an old-fashioned butter churn...or a wagon and a bumpy trail.

(AHG Req. 2T)

*Simple instructions for making homemade butter are included in your unit study.*



### **Field Trip:**



Horace Greeley has just learned of another newspaper opening a few doors down from the Tribune. He needs you to spy on the competition to see what they are up to...

- Arrange to tour the editorial, business, and printing divisions of a local newspaper or news magazine facility. (BSA Req. 2a)



### **Family Movie Night/Life Skills:**



- Prepare a pioneer meal of stew and johnnycakes (and your homemade butter!) for your family using the following recipes. Like true pioneers, turn out the lights and eat by lantern light, using your homemade lanterns. (AHG Req. 7E)

*The recipes for pioneer stew and johnnycakes are included in your unit study.*

- Spend the evening reading this week's family read-aloud by lantern light or watching the movie *Love Comes Softly*, based on a novel by Janette Oke.

If you enjoy the movie *Loves Comes Softly*, you might also like the rest of the series: *Love's Enduring Promise*, *Love's Long Journey*, *Love's Abiding Joy*, *Love's Unending Legacy*, *Love's Unfolding Dream*, *Love Takes Wing*, and *Love Finds a Home*.

*Field trips and family nights are designed to be enjoyed on a different day of the week from your unit study day.*

### **! Stump Your Dad Trivia:**

Q: Highways are often referred to as turnpikes. Where did the term *turnpike* originate?

A: As early as 1795, American roads were built by private companies who charged a toll to anyone wishing to travel on the road.

The companies blocked the entrance to the road with a gate that was made of long, sharp, wooden shafts called pikes. When the toll was paid, the gatekeeper *turned the pikes* which opened the gate and allowed travelers to pass.

*Kids just love to discover they know something Dad doesn't...because Dad knows everything, right? We include Stump Your Dad Trivia as a fun way to involve Dad and alert him to what your children are learning in their studies. It also makes for great dinner conversation...if the kids can wait that long to stump him, that is!*